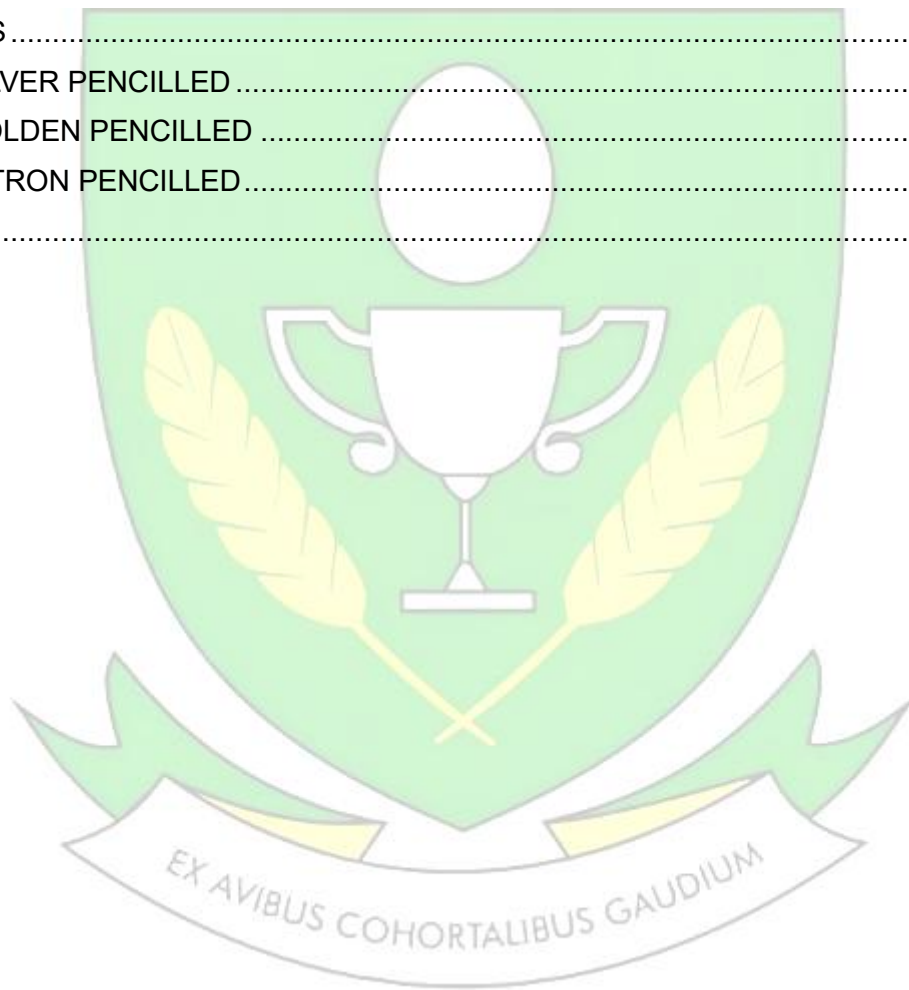

GRONINGER MEEUW

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COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN:	Netherlands / Germany
CLASSIFICATION:	Light breed: Soft feather.
EGG COLOUR:	White, Non-sitter.
MASSSES:	
LARGE	
Cock	2.5 - 3.0 kg
Hen	1.7 - 2.5 kg
BANTAM	
Cock	700 - 900g
Hen	600 - 800g

The Groninger Meeuw (plural = Meeuwen) originated from brown eyed pencilled Dutch poultry and the German Ostfriesische Möwe, at the end of the 18th century. These were found in the northern coastal areas of Holland in the province of Groningen.

The silver pencilled Groninger Meeuw was first described in 1888 by R. Houwink. At a livestock market in the city of Groningen, he came across significantly taller hens than the Northern Dutch breeds of the Fries hoen (Friesian chickens) and Drents hoen (Drenthe chickens).

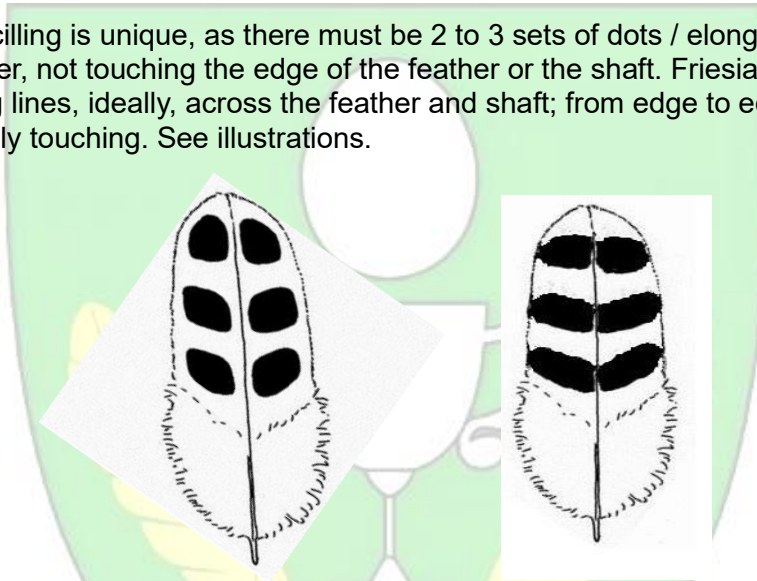
The breed, locally known as 'Maifies', were almost suppressed by modern laying poultry breeds such as the Leghorn. In 1913, the first advertisement of Groninger Meeuw eggs was reported. Some years later, both the Groninger Meeuwen and Friesians were shown in the same class on a show. To the contrary, Van Gink writes in 1918 that all that is said about the Groninger Meeuw also counts for the silver and gold pencilled Ostfriesische Möwe.

Although they were admitted in 1919 to the official poultry standards of the Dutch Poultry Federation (KLN), the Groninger Meeuw remains a rare breed. The gold pencilled variety originated in the late 1950's. The silver and gold pencilled bantams entered the Dutch poultry standards in 1968, the citron pencilled variety in 1995, followed by the citron pencilled large breed in 2008. Their outstanding qualities such as fast growth, high egg production and good body size have always been cherished. The breed is adaptable to bad weather conditions, is hardy and excellent foragers.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Although Groninger Meeuwen look remarkably like Friesians, there are differences that make them unique.

- a.) The bird is a bigger breed; the large fowl being about 1 kg heavier than the large Friesian.
- b.) The tail angle is about 45 degrees, while Friesians carry their tail at about a 90 degree angle.
- c.) The cockerel/cock has a characteristic black wing bar.
- d.) The eye colour is dark brown while the eye colour of the Friesian is orange.
- e.) The pencilling is unique, as there must be 2 to 3 sets of dots / elongated dots, across the feather, not touching the edge of the feather or the shaft. Friesians have 3 to 5 pencilling lines, ideally, across the feather and shaft; from edge to edge, but not completely touching. See illustrations.



THE MALE

- Carriage:** An agile rural fowl of moderate height. Feathers: full and carried close to the body. Active and alert.
- Body:** Strong, rather long, tapering to the back and well-balanced. Back as horizontal as possible. Breast full and carried forward, deep keel-bone. Wings, fitting close to the body and with a definite wing bar. Abdomen: rather deep and full.
- Head:** Moderate size and narrow. Face: red. Comb, single, bright red, moderate size, evenly serrated. The comb should not follow the line of the neck, but be carried horizontally. Eyes: dark brown and rather large. Beak: stout, slightly curved. Ear-lobes: white and rather small. Wattles red, of moderate length and well rounded.
- Neck:** Well developed, medium length with full hackle feathers.
- Legs and Feet:** Thighs, prominent. Shanks: wide apart. Legs: moderately long with no tendency to coarse bone structure. Four toes well spread.
- Tail:** Broad, carried relatively high (45 degrees). Sickle feathers: broad, long and flowing. No edging on the sickle feathers is allowed. Coverts well developed.

THE FEMALE

Allowing for the natural sexual differences the characteristics of the female are the same as for the male, with the following exceptions: The breast and abdomen are bigger and fuller

without being clumsy. The small, evenly serrated comb may be carried slightly over to one side, but only at the back. Tail carried slightly lower.

SERIOUS DEFECTS

Markings in neck feathers. Brassiness in hackles, wings or saddles. Faded or blurred markings. Pencilling on the middle breast of the female. Orange or red eye colour. More than 20% red in the ear-lobes. Tail carried too high (more than 60 degrees). Cock has no wing bar. Edging on sickle feathers of cock.

GENERAL IN ALL COLOURS

Beak:	Blue to horn.
Face, comb and wattles:	Red.
Ear-lobes:	White or bluish-white.
Eyes:	Brown to dark brown.
Legs and toes:	Slate.

COLOURS

THE SILVER PENCILLED

Plumage of the Male: Surface colour: silvery white, under-colour: grey. Hackles: white. The upper back shows some black pencilling underneath the hackles. Black pencilling also under the abdomen. The wings show a white surface when the wing is folded with the black wing bar visible on the end of the wing feathers. Inner web: greyish-black with slight black pencilling. Main tail feathers: black, no white edging. Lesser sickles: black, white edging is permissible.

Plumage of the Female: Head, neck and upper to middle part of the breast white. The remainder a white base, marked with black pencilling with a green sheen (not grey or brown). The pencilling extends from the lower breast over the entire body. The markings to be distinct at the rump and tail. Under-colour grey.

THE GOLDEN PENCILLED

Marked exactly the same as the silver variety, except that the silver is exchanged for gold. Pencilling is black.

THE CITRON PENCILLED

Marked exactly the same as the silver variety, except that the silver is exchanged for a citron (lemon) colour. Pencilling is black.

BANTAMS

The same standard as for the large fowl applies.

SCALE OF POINTS	
Type	30
Colour and markings	30
Condition	10
Size	10
Comb and head	10
Legs and feet	10
TOTAL	100

