

### SOLNECHNOGORSK (Solnechnogorskaya)

A breed group produced on Beriozki state farm in Moscow region by crossing Toulouse geese with the Kholmogory breed and mating the crossbreeds with Chinese geese. Selection was aimed at obtaining a higher live weight and better egg production, fertility and hatchability. Geese of this breed group are raised chiefly in the Moscow region. Small flocks are kept in Solnechnogorsk and other districts mainly on private plots and individual farms.

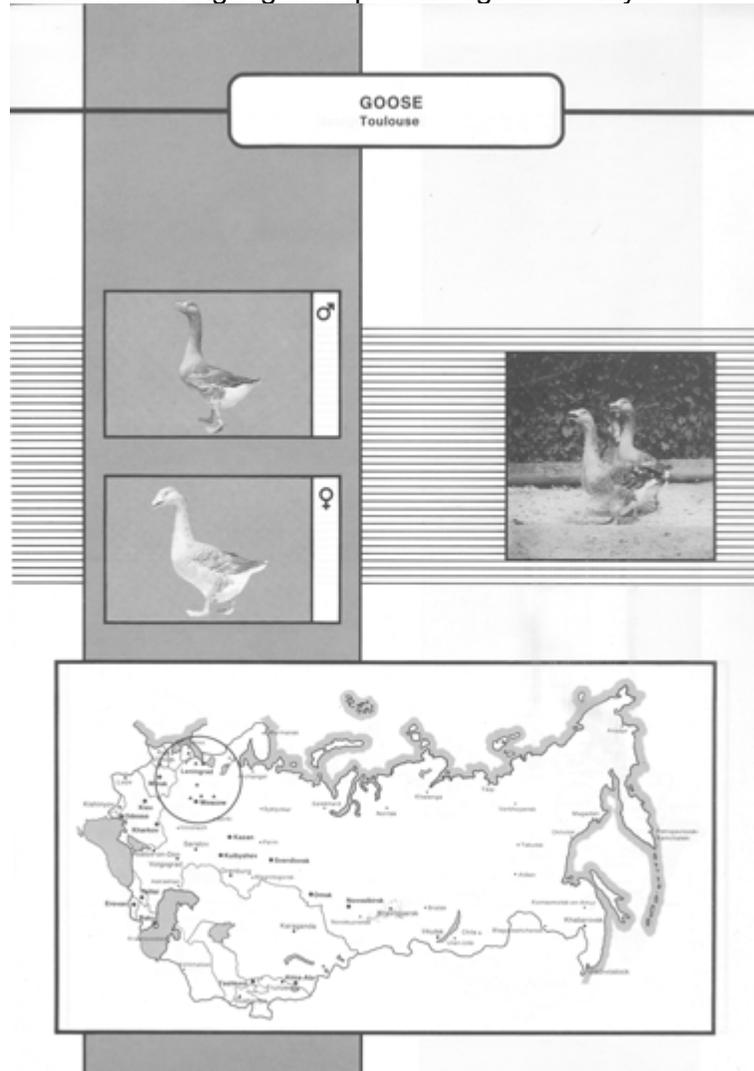
The body is massive, broad and deep. The head is elongated, with a small knob on the forehead at the base of the bill; in some birds the knob is missing. The breast is broad, deep and rounded. The wings are well developed and close to the body. The legs are short and the shanks and feet are orange. The plumage is white, sometimes with a tinge of grey on the wing tips.

The live weight of males is 7-8 kg and that of females averages 6 kg. The young gain weight fast. The 60-day-old goslings weigh 3.8-4.0 kg. The egg

production is 35-40 eggs. Birds mature at the age of 9-9.5 months. Egg weight is 170-180 g.

Solnechnogorsk geese are well adapted to the climatic conditions of Moscow region. Their reproductive qualities are good. The hatching rate is 65-70%. Both young and adult birds gain weight fast. The yield of first-grade carcasses is 80-85%.

The limited distribution and reduction in numbers are due to the introduction of breeds with faster weight gains up to the age of 60 days.



### TOULOUSE (Tuluzskaya)

This breed was developed in France and is very popular in European countries. Geese of this breed were imported to the USSR a long time ago. Acclimatization and breeding have somewhat changed the breed.

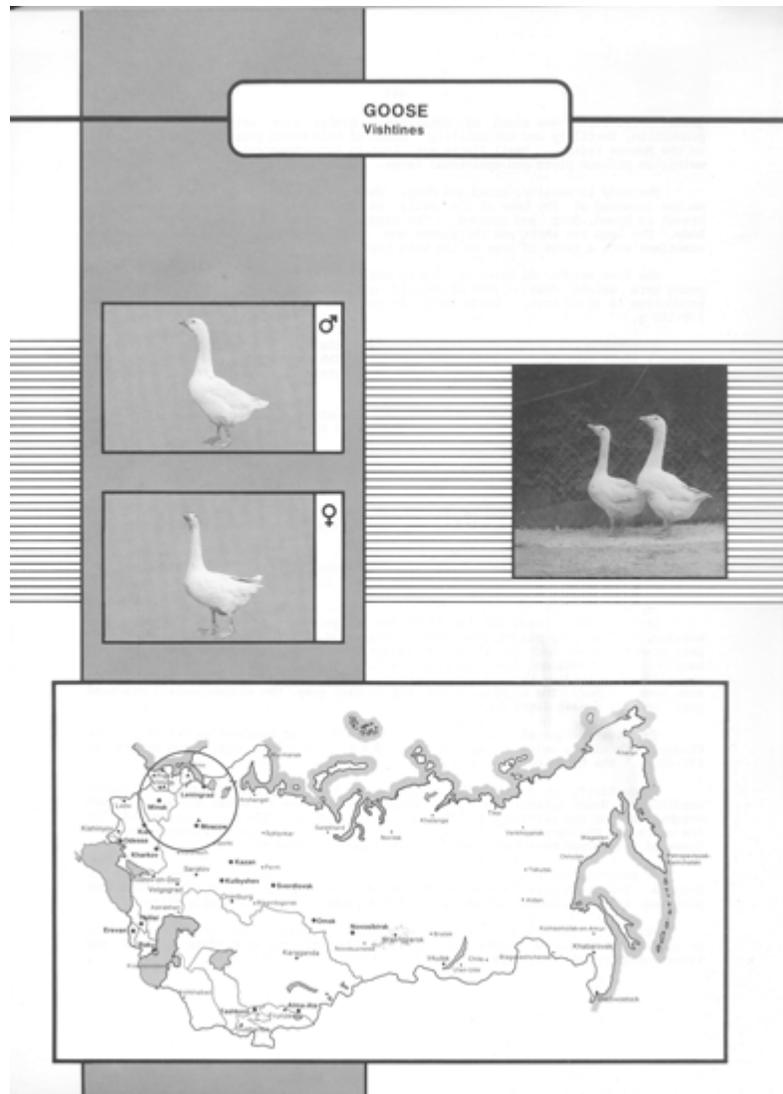
Toulouse geese were raised on a large scale in Kalinin, Vladimir, Moscow, Leningrad and other regions. In 1980 there were 11 400 birds of this breed; at present their numbers are smaller.

It is a meat breed and the birds are large. The body is broad, deep and massive, horizontally placed. The head is broad and short; the bill is straight and pale orange. The neck is of medium length and thick. The legs are short and massive; the shanks and feet are orange-red. There is a "purse" on the neck under the bill and a fold on the abdomen. Some birds have only a "purse" or only a fold; some have neither. The plumage on the back is dark grey, the abdomen white, the head grey, and the breast light grey. The live weight of males is 7-10 kg and that of females is 6-8 kg. The 60-day-old goslings weigh 3.8-4.0 kg. Egg production is 25-35 eggs; egg weight is 170-200 g. The hatching rate is 50-55%.

Productivity is drastically reduced when birds are raised under extensive conditions. Under optimal conditions Toulouse geese have high meat qualities, gain weight fast and produce a lot of fat. The yield of edible parts is some 68% of the carcass. The hatching rate is 70-75%. The survival rate of the young is 90-95%. Geese of this breed have been used for developing new breed groups.

At present Toulouse geese are raised in Kalinin and Moscow regions and in Estonia. Selection work is currently under way in order to maintain the standards achieved, to obtain faster weight gains of the young and improve meat qualities.

Studies at the Ail-Union Institute of Poultry Breeding show that the breed can be used for crossing to obtain young suitable for fattening to produce enlarged fat livers weighing 400 g or more.



### VISHTINES (Vishtines)

A breed group developed in Lithuania by selection of local geese with high productivity. Later, these geese were crossed with East Prussian, Embden and Pomeranian geese.

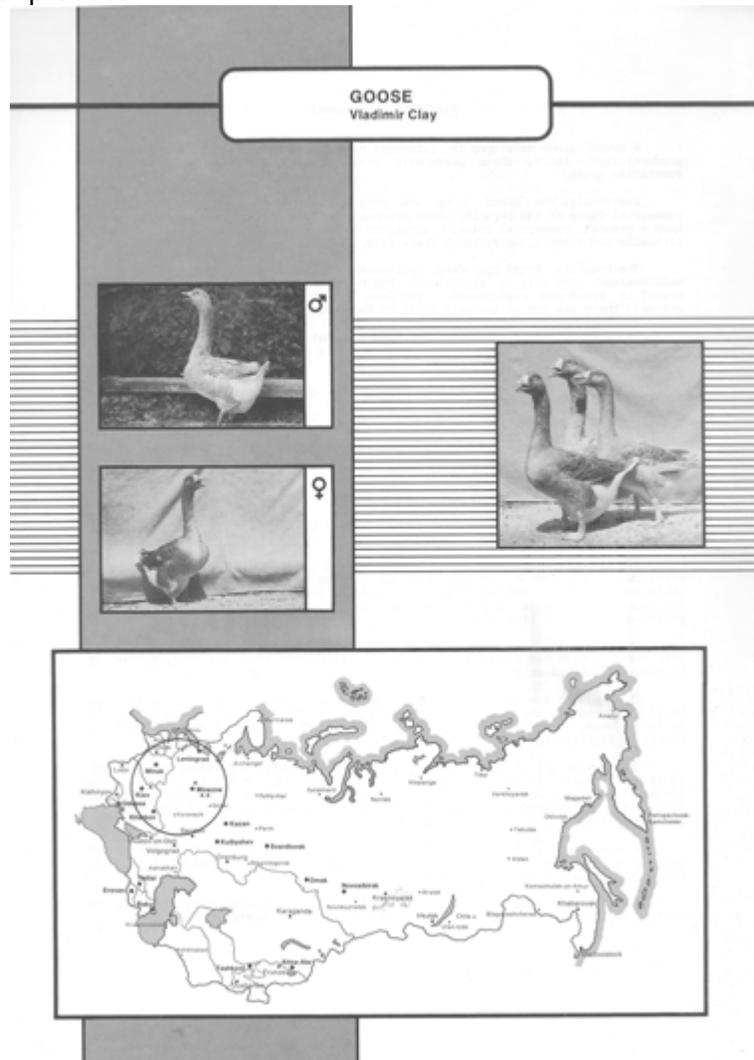
Previously, the breed group was very popular in Lithuania. At present commercial farms of the republic raise predominantly Rhenish and Italian geese which have a greater commercial value. Vishtines geese are raised on private plots in Lithuania and Estonia, on Pydrangu State farm, and on other farms in Estonia.

The body is broad and deep, horizontally placed. The head is round and medium-sized; the bill is orange-red. The neck is curved, of medium length. The breast is broad and protuberant. The legs are short; the shanks and feet are orange. There are one or two skin folds on the abdomen. The plumage is white.

The live weight of males is 6.0-6.5 kg and that of females is 5.5-6.0 kg. The 60-day-old goslings weigh 3.8-4.0 kg. Birds mature at the age of 9.5

months. Egg production is 30-40 eggs. Egg weight is 160-170 g. The hatching rate is 60-65%.

The meat qualities of the breed are rather good. Edible parts account for 68-70%; fat content is 13-14%. The survival rate of the young is 75% and that of adults is 90-95%. For these reasons, as well as because of the plumage colour on which the quality of carcass depends, and satisfactory reproductive performance (fertility and hatchability are 80-82% and 70-75% respectively), the breed is raised either as a purebred or as a parental form for broiler production.



### VLADIMIR CLAY (Vladimirskaya glinistaya)

A breed group developed at Pioneer breeding plant in Vladimir region. The breed is based on geese with clay-coloured plumage obtained by crossing Kholmogory White geese with the Toulouse Grey. The resulting crossbreeds were then bred inter se and typical individuals were selected according to the plumage, good reproductive performance and high live weight.

Previously these geese were very popular in Vladimir and adjacent regions. By 1980 their numbers had declined to 230 birds. At present there are small flocks at Pioneer breeding plant and on private plots of local inhabitants.

The conformation is compact. The head is small and rounded. The breast is broad and rounded; the neck is of moderate length. There are one or two skin folds on the abdomen. The legs are of moderate length. The plumage is clay-coloured of darker or lighter shade.

The live weight of adult males is high - 7.0-7.5 kg; individual birds reach 10-12 kg. Females also have a high live weight ranging from 6.0 to 6.5 kg. The 60-day-old goslings weigh 3.6-3.8 kg. Egg production is 35-40 eggs. Egg weight is 170-180 g. In reproductive performance, Vladimir Clay geese are similar to the Kholmogory breed and in meat qualities they resemble the Toulouse.

A major biological feature of this breed is high egg production in the first productive year, reaching 55 eggs. The survival rate of the young and adult birds is also high, 80-100 and 95-100% respectively.

Vladimir Clay geese represent a valuable genetic resource which is useful to produce new populations. They are raised on general farms and household plots.