Our Mission
is to protect endangered livestock and poultry breeds from extinction.

Thanks to the support of our dedicated members, The Livestock Conservancy continues to ensure that over 150 historic breeds of livestock and poultry are around for future generations.

Cover: Newfoundland pony stallion “Dawson’s Jack O’Boy” is owned by the Victoria Heritage Society and taken care of by Art Kelloway. Image by Patricia G. Morris and was taken at the Victoria Heritage Society Museum in Victoria, Conception Bay, Newfoundland.
Dear Livestock Conservancy Supporter,

Take a moment to reflect on what you have made possible.

Conservation nourishes our bodies, farms, and communities today, and our planet tomorrow. There is joy in this work. The joy of the urban farmer feeding his ducks, of the ranch couple stretching their backs and admiring the fence line just completed. The pride of a cattleman building a new community around shared interest in Heritage Shorthorn cattle. The satisfaction of a shepherd whose land, once considered unsuitable for farming, now boasts more than 12 inches of topsoil. The laughter that escapes from a child when she discovers a litter of piglets. The ease of sharing a simple meal with family.

Call it premeditated joy that comes from planning and hard work. And sometimes, even the hardest worker needs an inspiration, a helping hand, someone to turn to for advice. Because you care, The Livestock Conservancy’s amazing members, volunteers, staff, and directors are there every day to engage, educate, and empower farmers and ranchers. We are that helping hand.

Our common support of the heritage livestock and poultry that grace our barnyards and for the farmers who raise them gives life to your dream for the future. As we look forward to all that 2018-2019 will bring, thank you for investing in the future and supporting our important work today. If you’d like tips for doing even more, please call or send an email (919-542-5704 or amartin@livestockconservancy.org).

Sincerely,

Alison Martin
Executive Director

The Livestock Conservancy
PO Box 477, 33 Hillsboro St
Pittsboro, NC 27312
919 - 542 - 5704
LivestockConservancy.org

“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.” - Jane Goodall
Discover, Secure, Sustain - Three Steps to Save a Breed

1. Discover and study lost breeds;
2. Secure breeds by documenting conservation status, building a critical mass of animals and breeders, and helping breeders find, organize, and communicate with each other; and
3. Sustain breeds by learning what they do best on the farm and in the marketplace, and recruiting and training the next generation of breed stewards.

As guardians of genetic diversity, The Livestock Conservancy has helped prevent extinctions, expanded populations, educated beginning farmers, and assisted breeders in establishing new markets for their products. Livestock Conservancy programs help farmers and breed organizations maintain the long-term viability and sustainability of endangered breeds.

Conservation of rare breeds:
- Protects our food system by securing genetic resources
- Ensures broad genetic diversity for the evolution of agriculture
- Preserves our heritage, history, and culture
- Maintains breeds well-suited for sustainable, grass-based systems
- Provides small farms a competitive edge
- Broadens the marketplace with diverse fiber and flavorful foods
- Retains valuable genetic traits

Discovering Heritage Swine

Meishan pigs date back more than 2000 years in their native China but today their fate is uncertain. After research revealed fewer than 2000 verifiably pure Meishans left in the world, the Conservancy placed the Meishan in the “Critical” category on the 2018 Conservation Priority List. Now study is underway to understand this fascinating breed. Meishans are valued for their meat and lard, but their most coveted trait is their unusually large litters of piglets. Livestock Conservancy member Rico Silvera, founder and president of the American Meishan Breeders Association, likes them for another reason. “They are a great pig for people who are afraid of pigs. They are extremely gentle and prefer a peaceful lifestyle.”
Securing Rare Sheep

Breeders have long sought an opportunity to exchange genetics among flocks of rare Santa Cruz Island sheep so when a member in Oregon made the difficult decision to sell her sheep rather than watch them disappear one by one to cougars, she contacted the Conservancy to help her figure out the best way to disperse her flock. The Conservancy reached out to Mike Kearney in Pennsylvania, who is also passionate about saving these rare sheep, and he agreed to help. Last fall Mike and the entire flock of 27 sheep started the journey east, stopping along the way in the Midwest to exchange rams with another isolated flock. Since then Kearney has sold two starter flocks and has engaged new breeders in the mission. Now these “precious eggs” are in multiple baskets and the Conservancy is providing breeding plans so that each flock contributes to the future of these critically endangered sheep.
Joining Forces to Save Rare Equines

Annual registrations of horses in the United States have declined precipitously over the past 10 years, and waning interest and weak markets have imperiled 23 rare breeds. Rare breed foal registrations are down by 50% since 2008. Endangered breeds of donkeys, and even “mainstream” horse breeds like Saddlebreds and Arabians have seen similar declines.

To address these alarming trends the Conservancy, through the generous funding of the USA Equestrian Trust, organized the first-of-its-kind Endangered Equine Summit in Texas in the spring of 2018.

Representatives of 52 rare breed associations, the sport horse community, and equine scientists from around the world worked intensively for a day and a half to develop new conservation strategies, share knowledge on advances in assisted reproductive techniques, and learn how to improve their marketing and communication efforts.

“… the Summit was invaluable - almost life changing. We gained valuable information and insights. We have made connections and are connected. We learned what has to happen if our breeds are to survive. I feel like my head is exploding with everything that needs to be done and shared. The knowledge we gained should be spread far and wide.” -- Pat Morris, summit attendee
The Livestock Conservancy launched the Endangered Equine Alliance, a collaboration of several organizations including Virginia Tech, Texas A & M University, the American Horse Council, National Animal Interest Alliance, universities and numerous breed organizations, to carry out the plans started during the summit. As of today nearly 60 breed associations, registries and other organizations are affiliated with the Alliance.

Other Summit Successes:

- The USDA/National Animal Germplasm Program has agreed to house frozen equine semen and associated information about the animal’s identification, phenotypes, and samples. This is a tremendous leap forward for endangered horses and donkeys!

- Two commercial services that offer advanced reproductive technologies - Viagen and Select Breeder Services - will provide reduced rates for Alliance affiliates for semen collection, freezing and tissue banking.

- The Conservancy is working with Texas A&M University on a manual for breeders, owners and veterinarians to use with assisted Reproductive Technologies - an important tool for preserving rare bloodlines in the face of the breeding decline. This manual is scheduled for release at the fall meeting of the American Association of Equine Practitioners.

- In addition to coordinating semen collections from stallions of rare bloodlines for long-term storage, the Conservancy has also provided Caspian owners with breeding recommendations to help guide conservation breeding of this unique genetic resource.

Members of the Mountain Pleasure Horse Association attended the Summit to insure the future of their breed. They brought their concerns and ideas and developed strategies with other equine breed associations. The Mountain Pleasure Horse Association has joined the Endangered Equine Alliance to forge solutions for heritage breed equines.
Reviving the Red, White, and Roan

Shorthorn cattle were once the most popular breed in America and were pivotal in improving cattle breeding worldwide, so it is ironic that they became rare. A recent study by Rare Breeds International revealed only 342 breeding cows in the United Kingdom and 632 in the USA. There is hope on the horizon for this treasured family cow. With advice and support from The Livestock Conservancy, members Joe and Sue Schallberger launched The Heritage Shorthorn Society to promote and coordinate activities among breeders, and more than 40 people have become members in the first six months. The Society is placing national ads to highlight the merits of Heritage Shorthorns, and they are optimistic of a significant uptrend in breeders - and consequently, an increase in registered cattle. The Heritage Shorthorn Society and The Livestock Conservancy are also searching for stores of frozen semen from decades ago and validating a handful of living cows and bulls as purebred for subsequent inclusion into the conservation efforts.

Finding New Stewards

The last remaining animals of a 150-year-old ranch flock of Spanish goats were discovered and secured by a diligent Florida member, Ralph Wright. The original Partin flock numbered in the hundreds but was reduced to only 15 individuals after the family dispersed the flock. The Conservancy worked with Wright and the Spanish Goat Association to move the Partin goats into the hands of new breed stewards. These goats add an important new dimension to the genetic base of Spanish goats in the Southeast.
An important step was made for critically-endangered Crèvecoeur chickens when hatching eggs were imported from France, thanks to collaboration with Greenfire Farms in Florida. They are believed to be the first French imports for this breed in over 100 years and will improve diversity and carcass qualities through careful crossing with American birds. Chickens with the new French genetics are now in several breeding programs in the U.S. and were used for the first time in the 2018 breeding season.

The future of agriculture may well depend upon the unique genetic diversity found in heritage breeds. By collaborating with commercial poultry scientists, we have discovered brand-new genetic variation in a region of the DNA that determines immunity to disease. Such discoveries highlight the need to conserve rare breeds.
Instructing and Networking

The Heritage Livestock Conference in Williamsburg, Virginia sold out! Each year the conference brings together a large and diverse group of heritage livestock and poultry farmers and others interested in conservation for the opportunity to network, and have their questions answered by experts and master breeders. Pre-conference clinic topics included setting up and running breed associations, making natural dairy products in the home, and a full-day horse conservation clinic. Saturday featured a talk from Libby Henson who spoke about the early days of the Conservancy. During the weekend, attendees could also choose to learn about forages, genetics and management in raising grass-fed cattle, using sheep to graze abandoned lots in the inner city for construction preparation or for maintenance, the history of the Dutch Belted cattle, and succession planning for your livestock and farm. The 2018 Heritage Livestock Conference will be at Conner Prairie in Indiana. We expect another sellout!

“\textit{I had a fantastic time at the Heritage Livestock Conference; it was amazing to be surrounded by others who are just as passionate as I am about conserving rare breeds. I learned so much and am excited to continue working with the Livestock Conservancy, as well as the individuals I met while at the conference. I believe the Conservancy’s mission is crucial to agriculture moving forward.}”

- Amye Gulezian, 2017 conference scholarship recipient

When Amye Gulezian was a student at Hampshire College, she raised Dutch Belted cattle on the school’s farm. Amye got involved with the Conservancy when volunteering at the 2016 Heritage Livestock Conference. She was the \textit{2017 conference scholarship recipient} and, after graduating, held a fundraiser that collected $1000 which she donated back to the Conservancy for future scholarships.
Comparing and Selecting

The Conservancy held a full-day, post-conference workshop on card grading. Card grading is one of the best methods to ensure that animals are not altered by show ring trends and are judged in ways that preserve a breed’s qualities. Because it evaluates each individual against a breed standard, card grading strengthens breeders’ understanding of the characteristics and attributes of each animal within their flock or herd and, in turn, encourages the protection of genetic diversity within the breed.

A special thanks to the staff of Colonial Williamsburg and other Conservancy master breeders who volunteered at the workshop.
Building Bridges

Collaborations leverage the resources of The Livestock Conservancy to save more breeds and get the message out.

- Conservation of many livestock and poultry breeds, such as Barbados Blackbelly sheep, is a shared effort with Canada. Colleagues at Heritage Breeds Canada and the Canadian Animal Genetic Resource Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada collaborate on across-the-border conservation efforts, census, and scientific studies.

- Fruitful collaboration continues with the USDA on a number of fronts and across many breeds. The Conservancy provides them information from the perspective of heritage breeders and the dire situation facing many breeds and their unique genetic resources. This input will be included in the USDA’s recommendations publications “Strengthening Strategic Genetic Resources for Livestock, Poultry and Aquatic Species in the United States”, and the “Blueprint for USDA Efforts in Agricultural Animal Genomics, 2018-2027.”

- Together, Mother Earth News and The Livestock Conservancy help small farmers around the country learn how to raise heritage livestock and poultry. Fairs in TX, MD, NC, KS, OR and PA draw more than 15,000 attendees each, expanding the Conservancy’s reach. Each year brings new ways to expand the offerings, from heritage livestock on display to the public, to in-depth “Power of Poultry” mini-symposia, to “Ask the Expert” informal Q&A sessions.

- Our partnership with USDA’s National Animal Germplasm Program remains active and productive as we rely on one another for technical expertise, practical experiences, and strategies for effective use of their frozen store of germplasm from rare breeds of livestock.

- The Blue Ridge Red Poll Association’s annual meeting in North Carolina was a stop on the 15th International Red Poll Congress and Tour. They invited Livestock Conservancy Communications Manager Ryan Walker to attend and to share ideas on marketing and promotion of rare breeds.
Communication is key to saving a rare breed. This past year the Livestock Conservancy connected with breeders of very rare Poitou donkeys to share information and semen in a critical step to keep from losing the breed in the United States.
Celebrating International Heritage Breeds Week

Now in its fourth year, International Heritage Breeds Week (IHBW) continues to grow. This year the event was featured in newspapers around the country including Red Bluff Daily News, Philanthropy Journal News, and the Durham Herald Sun, on South Dakota Public Radio, and restaurants with locations in New York City, Paris, and the United Kingdom. Sedgwick County Zoo, Knoxville Zoo, El Paso Zoo, and Little Rock Zoo all held special seminars, animal encounters, and craft days that featured heritage animals. **Over a half-million people in the U.S. and 15 other countries learned about rare farm animals** through social media - an increase of 500% from when the program launched in 2015.

**lolafarmssandgardens** @livestockconservancy is an incredible resource and we wouldn’t have had the knowledge to choose the right breed for us without them

**pradodelana:** I thought that we should end #HeritageBreedsWeek with a bang! Receive 10% off any of our rare breed yarn (CVM or Lincoln Longwool) at checkout. After all orders are through, I will make a 10% contribution of the final sales to the conservancy.

**lecoqriconyc** The #PlymouthRock is a #heritagebreed pasture-raised by Amish farmers in Pennsylvania. With the help of @arianedaguin, we have been able to get them directly from the farmers themselves. They are outstanding farm chicken — strong, docile, and great producers of eggs and meat. In June, the first roosters from this breed will be featured for the first time ever at Le Coq Rico -- #heritagebreedsweek

Social media reached 537,219 members and followers

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*The Livestock Conservancy 2017-2018 Annual Report*
Showcasing International Heritage Breeds Week

Livestock Conservancy member Marissa Buchanan started raising chickens in part due to her daughter’s love of the animals and the desire for a home business after 9 years of service in the Tennessee Army National Guard.

Marissa thought Heritage chickens were beautiful but it was their friendliness, productivity, foraging skills, hardiness, and superb flavor that convinced her to include them on her farm. After joining The Livestock Conservancy she acquired Buckeye, Campine, Cochin, Polish, and Sebright chickens.

She soon discovered that in her area of Tennessee, knowledge and use of heritage farm animals was limited so she decided to hold a Heritage Breeds Festival at her farm for International Heritage Breeds Week. She invited local farmers, suppliers, and vendors; in attendance were 11 poultry breeders, 3 goat breeders, 1 cattle breeder, many crafters, and over 500 visitors. The experience was so positive that she is holding another festival this fall!

“... Local farmers did not have an exhibition to spotlight their skills. We want to support The Livestock Conservancy because many breeds are going extinct.” - Marissa Buchanan
Gathering the Stories

Often the stories of the people that care deeply about rare livestock are just as fascinating as the history of the breeds. So this summer, thanks to a generous donation from members Therese Coucher & Rick Wilson, The Livestock Conservancy began reaching out to members to fill in the pieces that make each breed’s history unique and bring their conservation stories to life. So far, 98 current members have been reached and 15 have agreed to share their stories. They range from retired professionals now turning to raising livestock to a teenager who shows her own flock of Hog Island Sheep.

As the first phase of the project is completed this fall, be on the lookout for some amazing stories such as that of Mojo, the Blue Slate turkey, who would sit on Eddie Beuerlein’s shoulder. (They named the farm after him.) Or Mike Garbisch’s recollections of about going for drives through the Minnesota countryside just to see the different cattle breeds. He doesn’t raise livestock, but is a member so that he can support livestock farmers and ranchers. Cassandra Reilly of Benedictine Farms is recreating a medieval garden, and the ever-fascinating Deb Robson is passionate about teaching others to use Heritage fibers. These stories and more exemplify the diversity of Livestock Conservancy members, and they all share a passion for saving rare livestock and poultry.

Our summer intern has reported incredible commitment among members to saving rare breeds. Often, members will say things like, “I had no idea that this breed was endangered until I found The Livestock Conservancy,” or “I was looking for a rabbit breed for meat and found information on the best breeds for my needs on The Livestock Conservancy’s website.”
Preserving Critical Knowledge

A wealth of knowledge from poultry Master Breeders was captured on video at the American Poultry Association (APA) National Show in a new video series titled “The Secrets of the Masters.” The Conservancy teamed up with the APA to preserve the valuable lessons and skills learned from working with endangered poultry for future stewards. The first episodes of the series will feature Rhode Island Red chickens and Khaki Campbell ducks and will be available in 2019.
Connecting with Chefs

As an Ambassador for the Livestock Conservancy since 2017, Ariane Daguin is opening doors for heritage breeds with some of the top chefs and restaurants in the Northeast. Daguin is the founder, owner, and CEO of D’Artagnan, a purveyor of sustainable, humanely raised gourmet meats. Ariane hopes that their relationship with the Conservancy will make it possible to add more Heritage breed products to their offerings.

“The work that The Livestock Conservancy does is vitally important because they are protecting the rich biodiversity of our planet. The future of humanity - our very survival - relies on our responsible stewardship of the Earth and all its lifeforms.” - Ariane Daguin

The National Restaurant Association ranked Heritage breed meats among the top food trends for 2018 in an annual survey of 700 professional chefs who are members of the American Culinary Federation. This hot trend could translate to greater economic opportunities for farmers and breeders.

The newest Ambassador for the Conservancy is Chef Antoine Westermann founder of Le Coq Rico in New York City and Paris. Le Coq Rico is the embodiment of Chef Westermann’s lifelong dream of creating a more sustainable future, and proudly serves Heritage poultry and eggs.

“I cook, I eat, I love. I believe in humankind & respect animals. I founded Le Coq Rico to offer the best in sustainable poultry and to support heritage breeds which are an important part of our menu. I am honored to be an ambassador for the Conservancy and to support the important work they do in securing the future for these animals.” - Chef Antoine Westermann
Contributing to Science

The Livestock Conservancy’s chapter entitled “Conservation of Rare and Local Breeds of Livestock and Poultry” was published in the Scientific and Technical Review of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). This issue, themed “The Contribution of Animals to Human Welfare,” was edited by Dr. Temple Grandin, a noted expert in the welfare of livestock and a Conservancy member. The OIE is tasked with controlling the spread of animal diseases worldwide and provides scientific information to its 182 member countries. Bringing the issues of breed conservation, adaptation, and hardiness to international forums more focused on animal production or animal health is essential to a sustainable future, which is what the paper illustrates.

Expanding Access to Conservation Tools

A recent translation of “Chicken Assessment for Improving Productivity” expands access to good conservation principles for the Spanish language community. This popular manual, written by the Conservancy, is available on the Conservancy website, along with other Spanish-language resources. Together, these educational materials help the Conservancy reach an important community of breeders in America, and aids conservation of local breeds around the world. The assessment manual will be introduced to the Latin American conservation community at a scientific meeting in Ecuador this fall.

Teaching Our Children

Now in its fifth year, the “Heritage Chicks in the Classroom Project” continues to be a popular success. Each year the Conservancy partners with 4-H to connect elementary school classrooms with farmers, and provide incubators and heritage breed hatching eggs to enhance the required curriculum topic of embryology. The chicks, ducks and turkeys are then returned to the farmer. Teachers often get creative with the lesson plan and include the community.
SUPPORT & REVENUE

- Contributions - $236,457
- Foundation Grants - $290,500
- Membership - $97,194
- Sponsorship - $28,750
- Conference/Program Services - $76,970
- Merchandise Sales - $10,060
- Other Revenue - $3,212

Total Revenue $743,143

EXPENSES

- Program/Outreach - $380,488
- Management and General - $143,646
- Fundraising - $37,839

Total Expenses $561,937

2017-2018 final financial statements available on LivestockConservancy.org November 2018

Partners

Working together with partners allows us to achieve more

American Horse Council
American Poultry Association
American Milking Devon Cattle Association
Arabian Horse Association
Backyard Green Films
Central Carolina Community College
Colonial Williamsburg
Conner Prairie
Garfield Farms
Greenfire Farms
Heritage Foods USA
Heritage Shorthorn Society
International Boar Semen
Le Coq Rico
Legacy Dexter Cattle Registry
Lucky George Farm
Mississippi State University
Mother Earth News

Murray McMurray Hatchery
National Animal Interest Alliance
NC Cooperative Extension Service & 4-H
Old World Wisconsin
Purdue University
Heritage Livestock Canada
Rare Breed Survival Trust
Sedgwick County Zoo
Seed Savers Exchange
Texas A&M University
United Nations Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO)
University of Missouri
University of Pennsylvania - New Bolton
USDA National Animal Germplasm Program
Virginia Tech
Whiting Farms

More than 150 breed associations, clubs and registries
This past year the estate of long-time member David Brustkern made a bequest to The Livestock Conservancy. Funds were invested for long term growth, which strengthens the financial stability of the organization and provides security for future conservation opportunities.

Sponsors
Thank you for your support in 2017-2018!

Absorbent Products Ltd.
American Guinea Hog Association
Bleak Hill Lincoln Longwools
Cornerstone Morgan Horse, Inc.
D’Artagnan Foods
Creek Road Farms, LLC
Chapel Hill Farm/Randall Linebacks
Earth Tools, Inc.
El Campeon Farms
Marushka Farms
Memphis Zoological Society

Metzer Farms
Randall Lineback Breed Association
Standlee Premium Western Forage
Smithsonian & SVF Biodiversity Preservation Project
The Lippit Club, Inc.
The National Romeldale-CVM Conservancy
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$10,000 and above
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Amy P. Goldman Foundation
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Hanes Foundation
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Manton Foundation
Marie & Stephen Minnich
Charles Taft
USA Equestrian Trust Inc

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Therese Coucher
Adam & Lola Danforth
The DeVlieg Foundation
The Diebold Foundation Inc
W. Cabell Garbee II
GE Foundation
John & Sharon Metzer
Noah Foundation
Lawrence E. Rushton
Stannard & Dorothy Dunn
Charitable Trust
Thomas W. Walvoord
Kari Wenger & Peter Henry

$2000 - $4999
Lois Bueler
Jay H. Calvert
Clif Bar Family Foundation
Marjie Findlay
William & Judith Hefferman
Edward & Andrea Jakes
David & Heather Loomis
R. Mark & Patricia Lusted
Jennifer Musselman
Karen & John Thornton
Clarence Brown &
Pablo Villagomez
William J.J. Gordon
Family Foundation

$1000 - $1999
Anonymous
AAZK – Milwaukee
Chapter
American Milking
Devon Cattle
Association
Anne Hendricks Bass
Foundation
Ruth B. Blaney
Bois d’Arc Farm
Sara T. Campbell
David & Brenda Day
Ruth L. Eckert

$250 - $499
Marian M. Aikman
Eleanor F. Bookwalter
Colleen Bowden
Barbara B. Bowman
Daryl R. Buffenstein
Lisa Butterfield
Cackle Hatchery
Susan Cannon
Harriet Ciccone
Charlene & Paul Couch
Kelli Dunaj

$100 - $249
Mary M. Ackerly
Lucia J. Allen-Gerald
Joan Ballitch
Richard S. Baright
Charles & Marilyn Barnes
Clinton L. Berry
Turbo Property
Donald & Patricia Bixby
Josephine C. Blue
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Sue Browning
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Joseph Clark
Kenneth A. Clefisch Jr
Diane C. Craddock
Eleanor Crosby
Maryellen & Bruce Cudney
Tyler A. Danke

$10 - $99
Anonymous
Foundation
AAZK – Milwaukee
Chapter
Devon Cattle
American Milking
Association
Anne Hendricks Bass
Foundation
Ruth B. Blaney
Bois d’Arc Farm
Sara T. Campbell
David & Brenda Day
Ruth L. Eckert

Members in 50 states and 26 countries

Charles Grimes & Family
Sandra & Rob Guidi
Julie Guilette
Sadie Hadley &
Gila Goodwin
John Haftek Jr.
Brian Roger Hansen
Susan Christine Harman
Laurie Harris
James E. Held
Edward Stephen Higgins
William E. Hine Jr.
Patrick Horan
Samuel Ingram
Neenie Jeffers
Christine A. Johnson
Lloyd B. Johnson
Nancy Landon Kassebaum
Mike Kearney
Elizabeth Kelleher
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Douglas & Cynthia Kirk
Linda M. Koranek
Tom & Sue Krebs
Konrad & Lesley Kuzmanoff
Robert & Joy Kwapien
Ernie Langenbach
Darlene M. Lee
D. P. & Dan Lowther
Nick & Lisa Lynn
Terry & Kristin Mansfield
Getting Noticed

Livestock Conservancy’s Jeannette Beranger and member Patricia Foreman were recognized by the Grow Network as “Changemakers” - just a handful of the many women who are “powerful forces of change in the world of gardening, natural food, and sustainability.”

The Grow Network is the online home of a global network of people who are producing their own food and medicine. The purpose of the organization is to stop the destruction of the Earth.

Tasting the Results

Heritage Foods USA, which sources meat from Livestock Conservancy members, introduced old-world prosciutto from Heritage pork at Prosciutti for Tutti in New York City. There, The Livestock Conservancy met the prosciutto’s creator, Chef Cesare Castella, restaurateur, author, educator, and charcuterie expert, known for his herb-inflected cuisine and fresh ingredients that honor his Italian roots. Attendees had the opportunity to taste the diversity of heritage breed prosciutto from Red Wattle and Tamworth pigs.
Workshops & Talks

- American Poultry Association Meeting
- Elon University Food and Agriculture students (NC)
- Homegrown Food Summit
- Mother Earth Fairs in PA, KS, NC, TX, VT, OR
- Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group Conference (TN)
- Seed Savers Exchange (IA)
- Young Farmer’s Conference (NY)
- World Pork Expo (IA)
- Central Carolina Community College (NC)
- North Carolina Cooperative Extension (NC)
- Carolina Farm Stewardship Association (NC)
- Blue Ridge Red Poll Association / 15th International Red Poll Congress and Tour
- Ventura County Fair

Members, directors and staff have shared and presented talks at many fairs, clubs, and local groups around the country.

Board of Directors
(as of June 30, 2018)

Rick Blaney
Richard Browning
Jay Calvert
Isabela Castaneda
David Day
Adam Dixon
Julie Gauthier
Gabrielle Gordon
Drew Heltsley

Steve Kerns
Brian Larson
Marie Minnich
Elaine Shirley
Beth Tillman
John Wilkes
Judy Wollen
Brice Yocum

Governing the organization, committed to the non-profit mission, Directors bring a wealth of experience and expertise to the Board.

Staff

Alison Martin, PhD, Executive Director
Jeannette Beranger, Senior Program Manager
Michele Brane, Donor Information and Research Manager
Charlene Couch, PhD, Program Coordinator
Dorothy Hammett, Administrative Assistant
Deborah Niemann, Program Research Associate
Angelique Thompson, Operations Director
Katherine Walker, PhD, Saving Our Stories Intern
Ryan Walker, Marketing and Communications Manager

Advisors

D. Phillip Sponenberg, DVM, PhD, Technical Advisor
Volunteers
A big THANK YOU! To our generous volunteers who give their time to the Conservancy.

Layne Anderson  Paul Henningson
Frank Arroyo Robles  Emily Hilburger
Elaine Ashcraft  Anna Hill
Suzanne Avery  Lori Ierace
Kristen Bacon  Valerie Kolaga
Lorinda Barnes  Oogie McGuire
Fred Beranger  Bill Meredith
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Polly Festa  Mark Selby
Patricia Foreman  Susan Sigmon
Cabell Garbee II  Wayne Singleton
Paula Garner  Jim Stephens
Amye Gulezian  Susan Stringer
John Haftek  Rene Taylor
Sharon Hanna  Donna Walton-Gibbs
Susan Harman  Kathy Zehr
Jane Henningson

...and all of the members who staff a booth at their local fair to represent the Conservancy

Inspiring Future Shepherds

The Youth Conservationist Program enables aspiring young shepherds to experience the joys and responsibilities of raising and conserving heritage breeds of wool sheep under the guidance of an adult mentor. Youth receive a yearling ewe – for free! Breeder mentors help the recipients learn to care for their sheep, breed to a registered ram, produce woolen items using the fleece of their own animal, and promote and show their particular breed of sheep. Past recipients often continue as shepherds, and have also become donors in the Youth Conservationist Program. Organized by Livestock Conservancy member and volunteer, Elaine Ashcraft, this longstanding program gives away 10-15 donated sheep each year, many from Livestock Conservancy members.
Become a Conservation Champion

With regular, ongoing support from monthly donations, we can continue to protect America’s rarest livestock and poultry breeds which are integral to our national identity and our future generations.

Give a monthly gift!

Visit LivestockConservancy.org, call (919) 542-5704, or write to The Livestock Conservancy, PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312 for more information.