our story

The Livestock Conservancy is a nonprofit membership organization working to protect over 150 breeds of livestock and poultry from extinction.

Founded in 1977, we are the leading organization in the U.S. working to conserve historic breeds and genetic diversity in livestock. Included in our mission are donkeys, cattle, goats, horses, sheep, pigs, rabbits, chickens, ducks, geese, and turkeys.

did you know?

- The Florida Cracker is one of the oldest breeds of sheep in North America.
- With their strong parasite resistance, high lamb survivability, heat tolerance, excellent mothering instincts, and good flocking, the Florida Cracker has much to offer shepherds in the U.S.
what we do

The Livestock Conservancy works to bridge the gap between conservation theory and on-farm practice. We study breed characteristics and provide education about genetic diversity, breed attributes, and the role of livestock in sustainable agriculture.

We support a network of breeders, breed associations, and farmers. We also help gene banks identify important genetic materials that should be collected from endangered breeds.

join us

Become a member:
For $45, you receive access to our technical and research staff, the quarterly newsletter, the annual Breeders and Products Directory, FREE online classified postings, use of the member logo, and discounts on conference registrations.

Raise endangered breeds:
Breeders make up a network for hands-on conservation, marketing, and public education.

Use rare breed products:
Get acquainted with local farmers to buy fresh, healthy rare breed products.

1 in 5 breeds of the world’s farm animals is on the verge of extinction

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations