



# THE LIVESTOCK CONSERVANCY™



An Overview of Our Organization, Mission, and Work

# Question:

**How many of you have heard of The Livestock Conservancy (Formerly the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy)?**



**How many of you have heard of “heritage breeds”?**

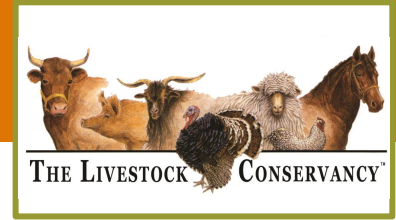


# Who is The Livestock Conservancy?





# Who is The Livestock Conservancy?



- Formerly the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy
- National non-profit 501(c)(3)
- 3,000 members in all 50 states
- Protects 190 livestock and poultry breeds from extinction
- Focuses on genetic conservation
- Works with farmers and others around the country to preserve heritage breeds
- Established in 1977
- Headquarters in Pittsboro, NC



*The highest states for membership are highlighted accordingly.*



# The Conservancy's Mission

- Strengthening the future of agriculture through the genetic conservation and promotion of **endangered breeds** of livestock and poultry.



Turkeys



Donkeys



Cattle



Goats



Horses



Sheep



Pigs



Rabbits



Chickens



Ducks



Geese

# Endangered Livestock & Poultry





# Livestock are Endangered?

## Species



**Species =  
Horse**  
(*Equus caballus*)

Cleveland Bay



Clydesdale



Akhal-Teke



## Breeds

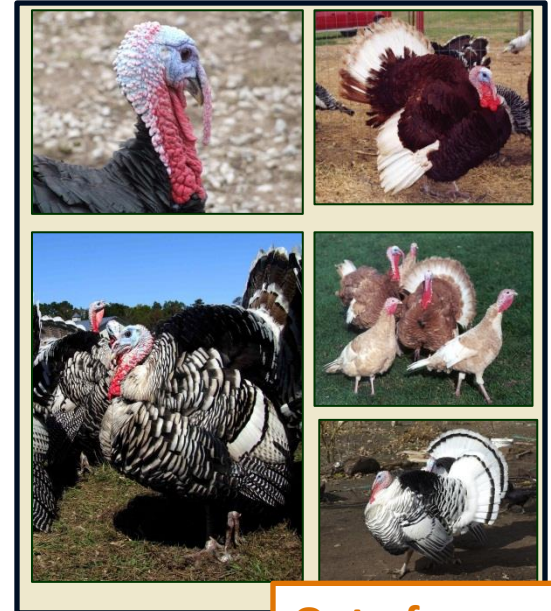


The Livestock Conservancy conserves endangered breeds.

# Why are breeds endangered?

- Modern agriculture favors the use of a few specialized breeds.
- Breeds that don't "fit the mold" are being lost.
- Breeds that are being lost contain valuable traits and genetics that may be needed in the future.
- Breeds = **GENETIC DIVERSITY!**
- Loss of Breeds = Loss of Genetic Diversity.

One breed

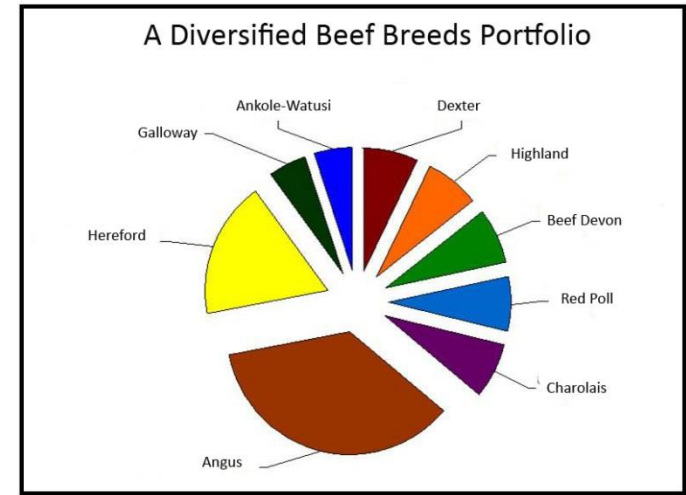


Out of many



# Why does genetic diversity matter?

- Agriculture is like a stock portfolio – **diversifying secures our assets.**
- **Genetic diversity =**  
Agriculture's Security and Future
- **Example of not diversifying:**  
Irish Potato Famine (1840s) –  
The crop was all one variety of potato.  
Blight hit the one variety and the entire crop was lost. Nearly a million people died of starvation.



# How does The Livestock Conservancy save heritage breeds?



# Current Projects

## South Carolina Goat Rescue

- Discovered an isolated and unique population of Spanish goats in SC.
- Researched history and documented phenotype
- Removed select goats from island and placed in a breeding program.
- Breeding program has produced offspring, now going to farms.



## Research



## Rescues





# Current Projects

## Master Breeder Program

- Through our vast network of national contacts, ALBC has identified old-time breeders who are experts in their fields.
- The Conservancy interviews and records first-hand information from these individuals, documenting information for the next generation.
- The Conservancy publishes the information obtained from Master Breeders, and teaches workshops and clinics to share the information.



## Research



## Learning & Documenting



## Education

# Current Projects

## Marketing, Outreach, and Promotion

- The Conservancy is working with partners to define “Heritage” as a marketing term for each species of livestock and poultry
- The Conservancy travels to multiple fairs and shows each year. At each event, staff provide lectures and educational seminars on heritage breeds.
- The Conservancy provides free materials and resources to help members and heritage breed producers to market their products.



## Outreach & Promotion



## Education



# Current Projects

## **Saving Endangered Hog Breeds**

- The Conservancy is currently working on a national swine project with several university partners.
- Education, research, carcass evaluations, training, and DNA analysis are all part of the project.
- The three-year initiative will produce materials that heritage breed swine producers can use to raise, breed, market, and sell heritage pork to consumers.



## **Outreach & Promotion**



## **Education**



## **Research**



## **Learning & Documenting**



## **DNA Collection**



# Securing Heritage Breeds



- ✓ Protects our food system;
- ✓ Ensures genetic diversity for the evolution of agriculture;
- ✓ Conserves valuable genetic traits
- ✓ Captures our heritage, history, and culture;
- ✓ Maintains breeds of animals that are well-suited for sustainable agriculture;
- ✓ Gives small family farms a competitive edge.

# How can I help?

- Become a Livestock Conservancy Member
- Use rare breed products (eggs, meat, fibers, etc.)
- Visit a rare breed farm to get an up-close view of what raising these breeds is all about
- Educate yourself about heritage breeds and their importance
- Support businesses that use heritage breeds (restaurants, fiber artists, etc.)



# Membership Levels

- **Student - \$25**
- **Basic - \$45**
- **Sustaining - \$100**
- **Group - \$100**
- **Corporate - \$250**
- **Lifetime - \$1,500**



**Included in Basic and above:** Newsletter, e-News, Breeders Directory, Directory Listing, Classifieds, Livestock Advice and Guidance, Discounts, Member Logo, Support for rare breed conservation, and more!



# Meet the Breeds

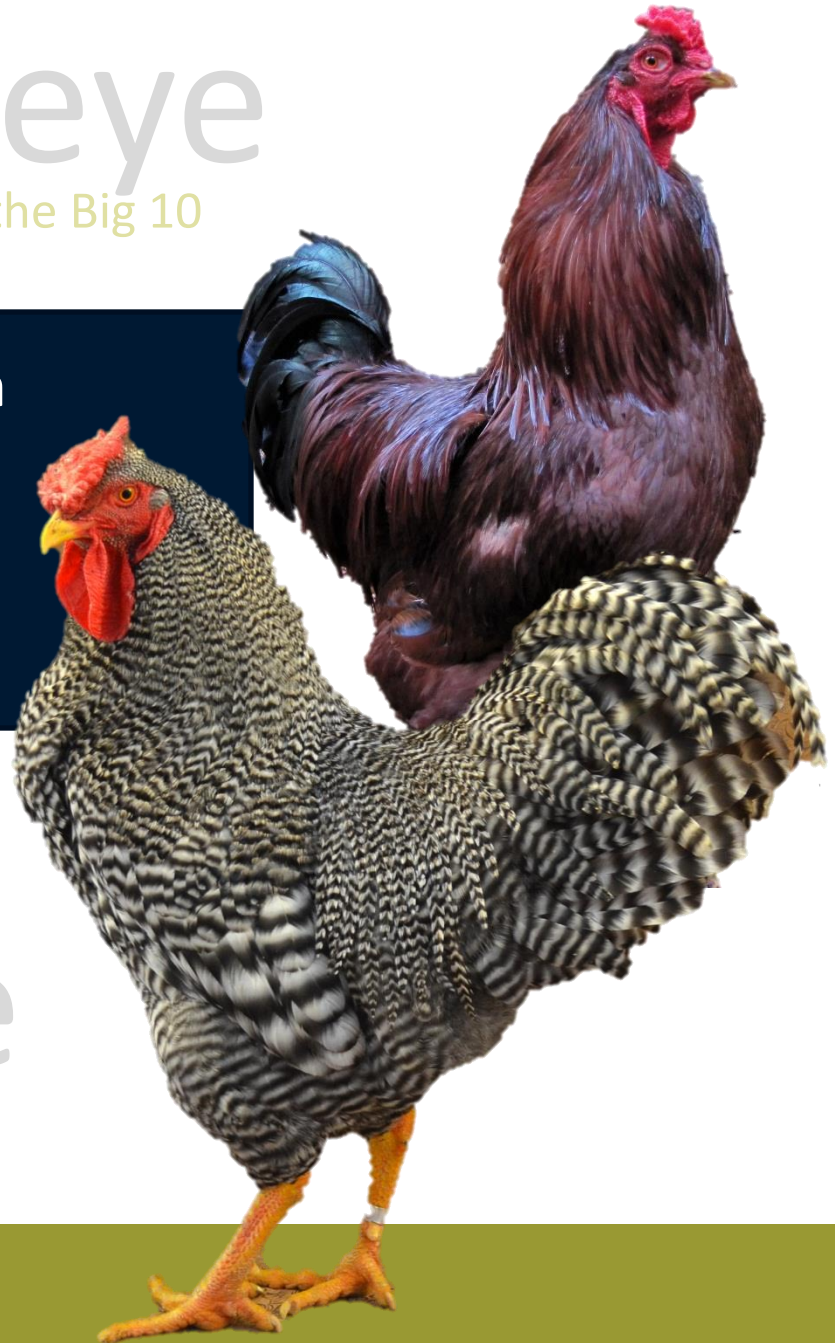


# Buckeye

The Breed, Not the Big 10

**The Dominique was the first American chicken breed. (1750s) The Buckeye was the first American chicken breed developed entirely by a woman.**

# Dominique



# Tunis sheep

Add a “Redhead” to Your Flock

The foundation stock for the Tunis sheep breed came to the United States as a gift George Washington in the late 1700s. Thomas Jefferson also worked with the breed.





# American rabbit

An American Original

The American rabbit is one of only 6 rabbits breeds developed in the U.S.



Francis Marion, the famous general from the American Revolution, rode Marsh Tacky horses – the ultimate all-terrain vehicles of the day.



# Marsh Tacky horse

The Swamp Fox's Steady Steed

# Cotton Patch goose

King Cotton's Prince Charming

Cotton Patch geese were used to weed cotton and corn fields in the South up until the 1950s.





# Milking Devon cattle

The Pilgrim's Passengers

The Pilgrims brought British Devon cattle to New England beginning in 1623. Selection through the years gave rise to the Milking Devon breed.



# Spanish goats

Conquistadors' Contributions

As a ready source of milk, meat, and hides, these goats were taken everywhere by the early Spanish explorers.



# Bourbon Red turkey

Kentucky's *Other* Bourbon



Originally called the “Bourbon Butternut,” they were renamed the “Bourbon Reds” - *Bourbon* for the creator’s home county of Bourbon, Kentucky, and *red* for the rich, chestnut color of the plumage.



# Gloucestershire Old Spots pig

Polka-dot Pig

Noted for its distinctive white coat with black spots, the Gloucestershire Old Spot (GOS) pig looks like the Dalmatian of pig breeds.



# Runner duck

A Bowling Pin duck



Ancient temple carvings suggest Runner-type ducks existed in Indo China over 2000 years ago.

# American Mammoth Jackstock

A Founding Father's Legacy



America's own George Washington was one of the innovators that helped to develop the AMJ breed.



# The Livestock Conservancy

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## Questions and Sharing

