

# Skills Assessment for the Conservation Breeder

How would you rate your skills in the following areas? Use a scale of 1 to 5.

1. **Very experienced.** I am confident that I can handle all aspects of this part of conservation breeding.
  2. **Comfortable.** I have experience or training in all or most of the aspects of this part of conservation breeding.
  3. **Moderate.** I have some experience or familiarity with this aspect of conservation breeding.
  4. **Somewhat familiar.** I have little experience but some knowledge relating to this aspect of conservation breeding.
  5. **No experience.** This aspect of conservation breeding is completely new to me.
- NA. Not applicable.** (example might be if there is no breed association for your breed of interest, you couldn't participate in the breed association, but maybe there are other means of involvement)

	Rating (1-5)	If not you, then whom?
<b>General</b>		
Working understanding of the biological concepts of breed and strain		
Pedigree registration		
Understanding of the importance of rare breed conservation		
<b>Genetics</b>		
Breed knowledge; history, varieties, adaptations (especially for the breed(s) you are interested in working with)		
Bloodline knowledge for breed of interest		
Breeding strategies:		
Linebreeding		
Linecrossing		
Crossbreeding		
Know how to acquire stock		
Know where to acquire stock		
Register purebred offspring		
Participate constructively in breed association		

<b>Selection</b>		
Have an “eye” for the breed type		
Know ideal phenotype for breed (breed standard or description)		
Know acceptable range of variation within the breed		
Know ideal characteristics for the breed (behavior, productivity, health, foraging, mothering, parasite and disease resistance and tolerance, etc)		
Know what you wish to accomplish		
Recognize genetically based faults		
Know how to consistently select for type, health and productivity over time		
Know general principles of selection in order to anticipate potential outcomes of mating decisions		
<b>Animal Husbandry</b>		
Land management		
Appropriate facilities for breed & climate		
Knowledge of care for species and breed		
Fencing		
Predator threats and management		
Feeds and feeding		
Health management		
Manure management		

**Resources for learning conservation breeder skills:**

*A Conservation Breeding Handbook*, by D. Phillip Sponenberg and Carolyn J. Christman, published by The Livestock Conservancy, \$15.95 [www.LivestockConservancy.org](http://www.LivestockConservancy.org), or (919) 542-5704.

*Managing Breeds for a Secure Future: Strategies for Breeders and Breed Associations*, by D. Phillip Sponenberg and Donald E. Bixby, published by The Livestock Conservancy, \$22.95 [www.LivestockConservancy.org](http://www.LivestockConservancy.org) or (919) 542-5704