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Conserving rare breeds since 1977

THE LIVESTOCK CONSERVANCY™ NEWS

A Brief History of the Purebred Canadian Horse

By Alexis Atchinson

Canada has made many contributions to modern society, including Celine Dion, Wayne Gretski, and the classic round of bacon. The Canadian horse, although less well known, is, in this author’s opinion one of Canada’s greatest accomplishments. Many of those educated in the equine world are not familiar with the purebred Canadian horse breed. Often the breed is confused with Canadian Warmbloods, Canadian Thoroughbreds, and Canadian Sporthorses.

This year the purebred Canadian horse is celebrating its 350th year on North American soil. It is the oldest developed breed and registry in North America. Numerous breeds we commonly know today are direct descendants or at least have the purebred Canadian horse in their bloodline. We will learn more about the Canadian horse influence as we discuss its history.

In 1665, King Louis XIV of France placed two stallions and twenty mares on a ship headed to New France. These horses were intended to assist in developing an agricultural economy in the rugged terrain of the colony. The King could not send the typical pampered horse from his stable – hardiness was critical for them to survive the journey and the life ahead. Horses of Brittany, Normandy, and Spain were the primary genetic influence on the development of this new breed.

Fourteen horses stepped onto the wharf at Quebec City, eight mares having succumbed to the hardships of the voyage. A breeding program was developed to quickly increase the horse numbers to get the agrarian economy growing. The colonists needed the horses to haul timber, plow the fields, and draw the wagons. At the time,

the settlements along the St. Lawrence River were isolated and this isolation helped to develop the breed. The breed came to be known as the “Little Iron Horse” due to its strength and stamina.

There were no pastures and barns in the French colonies, so the Canadian horse weathered the elements and learned to forage in the brush, giving them a hearty digestive tract. With all types of terrain in the wilderness, surefootedness was necessary and only the fittest survived lameness. A long, thick mane and tail developed from the need to ward off black flies and mosquitoes. As they are today, the early Canadian horses were willing, intelligent, and gentle. They are known as “easy keepers.”

Limited numbers of Canadian horses came into the United States during the early 1800s; the real influx of purebred Canadian horses came during the Civil War. Due to the excessive loss of U.S. horses, the Union Army looked northward for replacement mounts. The Canadian horse made a significant contribution to the Union Army’s success with its ease of training and willingness to perform. After the war, the Canadian horse was valued for its genetic contribution to other breeds including Morgans, Tennessee Walkers, Missouri Fox Trotters, American Saddlebreds, and
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Photo by Tim O’Neal, Actiontaken.com, courtesy of Storybook Horse Farm.

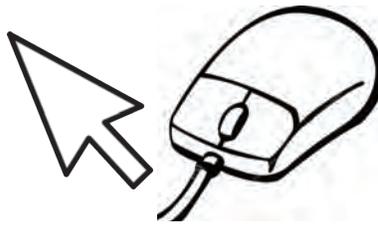


This year the purebred Canadian horse is celebrating its 350th year on North American soil. Photo courtesy of Storybook Horse Farm.

Are You the Missing Link?

Do you have a website, blog, or other online platform that you own or manage? Linking to The Livestock Conservancy will help spread the word about our mission and help LivestockConservancy.org to become more popular. We already receive millions of visits every year, but we would like to reach even more people!

By our latest estimates, we have about 1,300 websites linking back to Livestock-



Conservancy.org, but we could use a link from you, too. If you linked to our old website (albc-usa.org) or used our old name, please be sure to update it to **The Livestock Conservancy**, and to **www.LivestockConservancy.org**. Thanks to everyone who already links to us!

Pass it on...

After you are finished reading issues of The Livestock Conservancy's newsletter, consider passing them along to your local university or college agriculture department, extension office, or high school agriculture department to help introduce more agriculturalists to heritage breed conservation. If you are raising, have raised, or plan to raise heritage breeds, take the opportunity to explain your enterprise, too.



The Livestock Conservancy News

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Basic annual membership is \$45 and includes the quarterly *Livestock Conservancy News* and the annual *Breeders Directory*. We also accept unsolicited donations. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. Please send changes of address to the Conservancy.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR



Interim Executive Director Alison Martin talks about the mission of The Livestock Conservancy and what it means to her.

Our mission: Saving endangered breeds of livestock and poultry from extinction.

I believe in our mission statement, and more than that, I believe in conservation and biodiversity so passionately that I can hardly explain why. It's just... the right thing to do.

Sure, I can give you the intellectual arguments.

A single variety of potatoes grown all across Ireland in the 1840s succumbed to a disease, potato blight. Reliance on that single variety led to starvation of millions. It was called the potato famine.

The collapse of Enron in the 1990s caused thousands of its employees to lose their life savings, because they were over-invested in a single stock – Enron. Breeds are the stock in our stock portfolio, and we need a diverse portfolio to reduce risk.

Many heritage breeds are exquisitely adapted to specific environments. The Navajo Churro sheep that Phil Sponenberg and I saw in California in early November were butterball fat, living on drought-stricken hillsides. Such breeds are a safeguard against climate change.

These are great arguments, but the truth is, when it comes to breed conservation, I just believe it in my core. Saving all our options is the *right thing to do*.

Maybe it's my natural love of variety. I

was the kid who hated to have PB&J more than three days in a row. Saving diverse breeds saves variety, in appearance, adaptation, personality, size. Different breeds to serve different needs (or moods).

Maybe it's my upbringing. Both of my parents were children of the Great Depression (yes, the one in the 1930s), and we saved. Everything. Heck, I still re-use plastic bags. We believe in conservation, in saving all of your options. It starts with land, water, and air, and extends to the living creatures around us, not least of which those that serve us.

My parents worked hard, and they achieved the American dream to give their children a good life, starting with the importance of education. Education took me into science, but I couldn't escape my love of animals and growing things, so I was Ag all the way. I majored in Poultry Science, because I had raised chickens, quail, ducks, geese, and guineas, and I enjoy working with them. That led to jobs with government and industry, and I developed ways to keep healthy the birds and animals that feed millions of people.

It may surprise or dismay some of you that I have a long history in what's called the "allied industries" of large-scale agriculture. I worked to develop and manufacture vaccines for poultry and livestock. For the last four years of that career, I worked for a Fortune 100 company.

Working for the Livestock Conservancy pays a fraction of what I earned in industry. But it gives me something much bigger – the chance to make a difference. The work we do, as members, donors and breeders, as staff and board, truly makes a difference for conservation and biodiversity. That's what The Livestock Conservancy is all about.

I've found two more passions since joining the Conservancy in 2011. Helping farmers find the right answers for their farm has turned out to be incredibly satisfying, something we get to do every day on the phone, by email, and in person. Helping farmers and farms serves breed conservation too.

And I've learned to have hope for the future of agriculture. It turns out that there are a lot of beginning farmers – millennials, women, veterans, career changers, retirees – and they are building the future of agriculture one farm at a time. Many of them are turning to heritage breeds.

Maybe that's the answer to why I care

so deeply. Conservation and the work of The Livestock Conservancy is ultimately about hope for the future. Just as the trees I've planted at every house I've lived in are now shading yards for others, the breeds we save this year will enrich the lives of others, and feed them, for many years to come.

I'd now like to ask you to write and tell me why *you* care about saving endangered breeds. ❖

Dr. Alison Martin can be reached at amartin@LivestockConservancy.org or PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312.



Alison raised rabbits as a child. Photo courtesy of Alison Martin.



Alison with a Choctaw horse at the Oklahoma Heritage Horse Sanctuary in 2014.

RBST Founder Joe Henson Passes Away

Joe Henson, who has died aged 82, was a farmer and founder of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, a charity that was instrumental in saving endangered native farm breeds from extinction.

Henson's conservation work began in 1969 when he agreed to provide a permanent home at his Cotswolds farm for Lord Zuckerman's "living gene bank", a collection of endangered farm animals temporarily housed at Whipsnade Zoo.

Between 1900 and 1973, 26 native British farm breeds had become extinct; however, since the inauguration of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust in 1973, chaired and founded by Henson, no further breeds have been lost. "We were looked upon as funny old eccentrics with these funny ideas, but I used to say, 'You never know what you might want them for again in the future,'" he explained.

Many of the breeds that Henson is credited with conserving have roots that stretch far back into British history. Henson's work also ensured the preservation of the White Park, probably the most ancient breed of cattle native to the British Isles. Cattle of this type were first recorded in early Irish folklore, where they were noted for the purity of their white coats (marked only by a black or red muzzle and ears) and their association with the Celtic "Otherworld". In the *Táin Bó Cúailnge* the Morrigan, the Irish goddess of war, attacks the hero Cú Chulainn in the guise of a white, red-eared heifer; in Christian tradition, an identical cow single-handedly sustains Saint Brigid with the purity of its milk. It is likely that cattle of this physical type – found across the British Isles for over a thousand years – were the ancestors of the modern White Park so ardently championed by Henson.

Joseph Leslie Henson was born on October 16, 1932 to the actor Leslie Henson (who in 1939 co-founded ENSA (the Entertainments National Service Association, which entertained troupes in WWII) and his second wife, Gladys, an actress. Joe Henson's interest in agriculture flourished from a young age and was encouraged



Joe Henson at Cotswold Farm Park. Photo courtesy of Cotswold Farm Park.

by the family's move to the then bucolic Northwood at the end of the Metropolitan tube line in north west London. "[Northwood] was very rural, and my mum would walk me to a little farm up the road, where everything except the ploughing was done by horses," he recalled. "The herd of cows was hand-milked; the milk was bottled and delivered by pony and float; the chickens were all free range."

While his father was away entertaining the troops, Joe was given a pair of rabbits to teach him about the facts of life. The animals were so prolific that the family "didn't live badly" during the Second World War.

Henson worked on farms throughout his teenage years before graduating from the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, in 1954. In 1957 he married his wife, Gill, and took over the tenancy of Bemborough Farm five years later with an old school friend, John Neave.

Bemborough would evolve into the Cotswold Farm Park, and, in 1971, became the first domestic rare breeds farm open to the public. "We had 25,000 visitors in our first season, which we thought was the maximum we would ever get," Henson recalled. "Little did we guess that we would peak at 125,000 ten years later."

It was a source of some amusement to Henson that he became known for his television work, having shunned the theatrical limelight enjoyed by both of his parents in favour of farming. His television

appearances – including a regular slot on *Animal Magic* with Johnny Morris – were marked by his enthusiasm, warmth, and ability to engage the public on a range of agricultural issues, particularly the plight of rare breeds. He was "incredibly proud" of his son Adam's continuation of his work, both on the Cotswold Farm Park and on BBC One's *Countryfile*. In 2011, Henson was appointed MBE (a member of the Order of the British Empire) for his services to conservation.

A countryman to the end, Henson said he hoped to be buried with a lock of Cotswold wool, explaining that "shepherds were always buried with Cotswold wool so that when they met St. Peter at the Gate, he would know that they were shepherds, which is why they couldn't get to church on Sundays."

He is survived by his wife, Gill, and their son and three daughters. Joe's daughter, Libby Henson, helped the Conservancy conduct its first census and served as its Executive Director for several years during the 1980s. Libby brought knowledge of British conservation, and was also able to help the organization develop an American philosophy uniquely adapted to the United States' diverse history of livestock imports and breed formations. She helped the Conservancy grow scientifically, organizationally, and professionally. ❖

Savoring the Age of Flavor

For the first time in our nearly 40 year history, The Livestock Conservancy headed west to California to host our national conference. Attendees from across the country convened in Santa Rosa for clinics, workshops, panels. Many stayed after the conference for a fundraising gala featuring impeccably prepared heritage breed products, beautiful rare breed animals on display, and a live Heritage turkey auction organized by Slow Food Russian River benefitting local 4-H Heritage turkey raisers.

The keynote for the conference was Bob Kennard, who came all the way from Wales to speak about the history, downfall, and revival of mutton in the United Kingdom. To everyone's delight, his wife Carolyn added some great character to the presentation by interjecting with short quotes about the glories of mutton from books, farmers, dignitaries, and others from throughout history. Bob's new book, *Much Ado About Mutton*, has garnered praise from HRH Prince Charles who has personally been heavily involved with the

Mutton Renaissance initiative in the U.K.

A huge thanks goes out to Oogie and Ken McGuire with Desert Weyr for helping to make Bob's trip possible through the donation of frequent flyer miles. Bob and Carolyn were able to visit with Oogie and Ken on their way out to California and when leaving Colorado, they took two coolers of Desert Weyr mutton as checked luggage for use at the conference.

Following the conference, attendees and guests had the opportunity to attend a fundraising event, "The Age of Flavor Gala." This event, organized by Livestock Conservancy board member Jim

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Bixby-Sponenberg Conservation Award

The Bixby-Sponenberg award recognizes people who have stood between breeds of livestock and their extinction. These people are true heroes of breed conservation and serve as true role models for future stewards. This year's recipient of the prestigious Bixby-Sponenberg award is long-time Lincoln Longwool breeder, Brian Larson.

Brian comes from a family long-connected with livestock production and breeding (sheep and cattle). All his ancestors were sheep producers from Norway for many generations. His mother was the primary shepherd for the family flock in Minnesota during his childhood and he made numerous trips to the lambing barn before he could walk. Brian purchased his first two breeding ewes at the age of nine and has continued ever since with pure-bred and commercial sheep. Brian decided to focus on a breed his family once kept which was the Lincoln Longwool. His personal Lincoln flock has been in existence for 34 years, starting with three foundation ewes he brought in from Oregon. At the farm he's kept about twenty white-fleeced mature ewes and a supporting cast of rams and young stock. To diversify the genetics of the U.S. flock, Brian was one of the last to import semen from the breed's native land in the United Kingdom to enhance the traditional Lincoln characteristics in the national genetic pool. The Larson breeding program emphasizes vigor, easy birthing, maintaining traditional Lincoln fleeces, and producing the big-volume Lincoln body type that makes the breed a superb meat producer. He has promoted



Phil Sponenberg (right) awards Brian Larson the 2015 Bixby-Sponenberg Award.

Lincolns at shows, exhibitions, fiber festivals, and with social media, which has become a major part of the farm's promotional strategy.

Brian has been a strong believer in the ongoing education of breed stewards and has led trips to the U.K. so that U.S. Lincoln producers could network with their British counterparts and better understand traditional type for the breed. As part of his own stewardship responsibilities, he has taken it upon himself to plan for retirement and ensure that his many years of work does not disappear. Today, as Brian transitions towards that goal, he has made sure that several new breeding flocks have been established with his stock and that

they will continue forward in the hands of the next generation of breed stewards.

Both Brian and his wife, Jennifer, are PhD nutritionists originally trained in ruminant nutrition, and are currently working as consultants focusing on agriculture and nutrition (animal and human) with global agricultural, food/ingredient companies and non-governmental organizations. Brian is the recent past president of the National Lincoln Sheep Breeder's Association. He has been associated with the Livestock Conservancy since the early 1990s, and in 2015 we were happy to welcome him as a new member of our Board of Directors. ❖

Photos from the Conference



Sheana Davis, cheesemaker, chef, caterer and culinary educator, led a cheesemaking clinic.



Gala attendees enjoyed dinner at a property owned by the Kendall Jackson Winery.



Thanks to our food donors: Rancho Llano Seco, Madrone Coast Farm, Moore Natural Ranch, Desert Weyr, First Fruits Farm, Grabish Farm, and Rosebud Heritage Farms.



Jennifer Reichart volunteered to serve local wine to guests at the gala.



An Irish Draught horse on display was a big hit at the gala.



A Beveren rabbit exhibited during the poster session by Trickster Hares Farm.



François Vecchio discusses the difference between European and American styles of butchery.



Alison Martin and Marc Mousseau having fun at the keynote banquet.



Adam Danforth speaking at a panel discussing carcass maximization, off-cuts, value-added products, and mature meat.



Everyone enjoyed the heritage turkey auction organized by Slow Food Russian River.



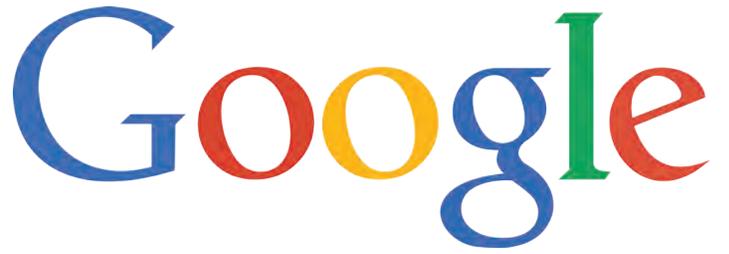
4-H members were asked to tell the audience about the turkeys they raised.



Two 4-H members waiting for the turkey auction.



Taking down information after the turkey was sold.



TomKat Ranch
Educational Foundation



BREED SPOTLIGHT

Poitou Donkey

Conservation Status: Critically Endangered

Use: Produce excellent mules when bred with draft horses

Adult Weight: 750 - 950 lbs

Temperament: Docile

Experience Level: Advanced

The Poitou ass is an ancient French breed valued for the production of mules. The breed was developed in the Poitou region of western France where mule breeding has been documented for over one thousand years. Standardization of the Poitou breed occurred by about 1700, and the modern studbook was established in 1884. In France the breed is referred to as Baudet du Poitou, as baudet means “sire of mules,” distinct from the term âne for common donkey.

The French mule breeding industry was a highly developed and lucrative enterprise. Poitou jacks were bred to mares of a specific horse breed – the Mulassier (or Poitevin) – to produce mules for both riding and work. While mules were promoted across Europe, breeding stock was closely held in the Poitou region. The breed nearly became extinct after World War II when the demand for mules collapsed. The Poitou’s limited geographic area increased its vulnerability; fewer than 80 Poitous

Welcome to our Newest Life Members!

The Livestock Conservancy would like to give a special thanks to the following individuals who recently chose to support the Conservancy and its conservation programs by becoming life members. For more information on becoming a life member, please contact Ryan Walker at 919-542-5704, ext. 102, or rwalker@LivestockConservancy.org.

Corinna Bryant
Ramona, CA

Geoff Eldringhoff
Downingtown, PA



Poitou donkey at the Sedgwick County Zoo in Wichita, KS. Photo by Jeannette Beranger.

survived in 1980.

In the late 20th century several organizations in France organized to protect the breed from extinction. The Parc Naturel Regional du Marais Poitevin has made conservation of the Poitou donkey and the Mulassier horse (Poitevin) a part of its mission to protect the domestic heritage as well as the wild environment. La Sabaud, a network of breeders, exists to promote the breed and raise funds for its conservation. La Sabaud supports the efforts at the Asinerie Nationale Experimentale, an experimental farm that breeds Poitous in conjunction with the Parc. L'Association des Eleveurs des races Equine, Mulassiere et Asine, Baudet du Poitou is the registry organization.

The conservation efforts have had results. The breed has increased in numbers and in 2012, approximately 2,500 pure Poitous were registered in the studbook. A challenge facing the breed in the United States is to continue to inventory and document the asses that are claimed to be Poitous but may be of mixed heritage. Because of the strict breeding guidelines, only those registered in the French international studbook are most assured to be purebred.

Poitous have the conformation and strength typical of mule-breeding asses

everywhere. They are tall, standing 14–15 hands (56–60”) high at the withers and weighing 750–950 pounds. Their heads are large and long, with long ears, and their bodies are muscular with heavy bone. The feet should be large. The most striking feature of the breed is its long hair, which may hang in cords from the entire body.

Poitous are found in black or dark brown, without a dorsal stripe. Other colors are not accepted. ❖

For more information about Poitous contact the following organizations:

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



The Purebred Canadian Horse

Continued from page 1

Foundation Quarter Horses.

Exporting and cross breeding led to dangerously low numbers in the early 1900s, so much so that the Canadian government created a breeding program and facilities just for the Canadian horse. By 1940, most of the facilities had closed because many farming operations had become mechanized. In 1981, the sole government program was closed and the remaining horses were auctioned to members of the Canadian Horse Breeding Association. Fewer than 6,000 Canadian Horses are on the current Canadian Livestock Registry throughout Canada and the U.S., putting the breed back on the endangered list. There has been a significant decline in registrations in recent years. There are many well-intentioned Canadian horse owners, but a declining number of committed breeders. Some breeders have left the Canadian horse behind to pursue more highly recognized breeds.

These highly athletic and versatile equine partners can do it all, from pleasure riding to performance. You'll find them packing in the back country, gathering cattle on the range, strutting in the dressage arena, and driving or jumping on the

cross-country course. Due to their gentle nature, they can carry the role of both family and performance horse. ❖

To learn more about the purebred Canadian horse visit these websites:

www.chhaps.org

www.lechevalcanadien.ca/indexen.htm

www.storybookhorsefarm.com

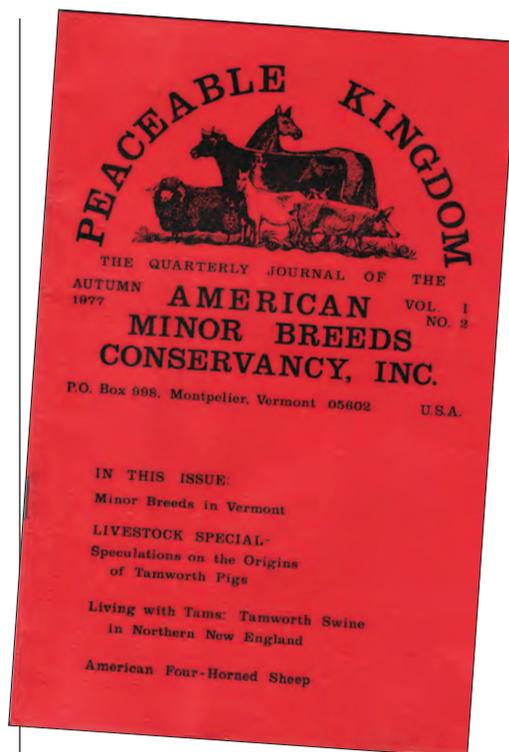
www.LivestockConservancy.org/index.php/heritage/internal/Canadian

The author and her husband, John Hartley, have dedicated over ten years to the promotion and breeding of the purebred Canadian horse. Their Storybook Horse Farm has some of the finest examples and rarest bloodlines of this endangered breed. The horses at their Oregon property from the time of birth are allowed to grow up in herds on rolling pastures which promotes both mental and physical health.

If you are interested in a farm visit or making a Storybook Horse "part of your story" contact Storybook Horse Farm, 5852 Scotts Valley Rd., Yoncalla, OR, 97499, 541-849-2251 or visit www.StorybookHorseFarm.com. See photo updates at Facebook: Storybook Horse Farm & Storybook Warmbloods



Fewer than 6,000 Canadian horses are on the current Canadian Livestock Registry throughout Canada and the U.S. putting the breed back on the endangered list. Photo courtesy of Storybook Horse Farm.



Early Newsletters

As the Conservancy approaches 40 years of rare breed conservation in 2017, we have been looking back through the documents and newsletters we have published over the years. We have copies of most of these documents, but would be grateful if you could help us find some early documents. In particular we are looking for the following:

- An original copy of the Summer 1977 first issue of *Peaceable Kingdom* newsletter (we have a photocopy)
- Original or photocopies of any *Peaceable Kingdom* issues published during 1978
- Fall 1979 *Peaceable Kingdom*
- Summer 1980 *Peaceable Kingdom*
- Anything AMBC published in 1981 or before Fall 1982 (first issue of *AMBC News*)

If you have any of these documents and would be willing to donate them to our archives (or let us have a photocopy of them), we would very much appreciate your contribution. Items can be mailed to The Livestock Conservancy, PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312, faxed to 919-545-0022, or emailed to rwalker@Livestock-Conservancy.org.

Above: An original copy of the second issue of American Minor Breeds Conservancy's first newsletter, titled Peaceable Kingdom.

Fantastic Farm 4-H Club and the Wickham Park Heritage Poultry Cooperative Coop

Story and photos by Erika Maier, 4-H Leader and Coop Mama

In Satellite Beach, Florida, you would expect kids to know all about the differences between the top pro surfers. But members of the Fantastic Farm 4-H Club surprise people when they can tell them the differences between Saxony and Silver Appleyard ducks, and why they prefer Pilgrim to Toulouse geese. Almost two years ago the club helped to build and establish the Wickham Coop, which allows the general public to view all these breeds up close. The Coop has grown from one small coop and a few Market Poultry birds, to eight coops and over 180 birds, all located in previously unused stables. Members enjoy interacting with all ages of poultry, learning about many types of heritage breeds, incubating and hatching birds, and, of course, gathering eggs. The club focuses on hatching, raising, and selling Saxony ducks and Pilgrim geese as well as Buff Orpington, Delaware, and Faverolle chickens in order to help pay for their feed expenses.

The Fantastic Farm 4-H Club is all about heritage poultry, organic gardening and teaching kids where food comes from, even though the club is located in a small beach community where poultry is not allowed. Leaders follow the Learn, Grow, Eat and Grow 4-H/Junior Master Gardener curriculum, which includes a variety of nutrition, physical activity, and academic



lessons. They also teach children about the cycle of life by hatching, raising, and showing heritage breed poultry, including ducks, geese, and chickens. Club members must take responsibility for the animals, themselves, and each other so that they learn cooperation, leadership, integrity, and sportsmanship. Club members also assist with fundraisers such as Rent-a-Chick, plant and bake sales, hatching and live poultry sales, and community events.

The club is based at Surfside Elementary in Satellite Beach and at Wickham Park in Melbourne, Florida. Members can attend meetings in one or both locations. The club is part of the University of

Florida Extension Office and club members can participate in many county and statewide 4-H events. It is a family club, so younger siblings and parents can attend most events. Parent participation is vital, and all coop building and maintenance is done by the families.

The club is devoted to teaching children and the general public about heritage poultry and organic heirloom gardening, as well as building a happier, healthier world. ❖

To find out more about the Fantastic Farm 4-H Club and the Coop, please send Club Leader and Coop Mama Erika an email at rogerika@earthlink.net.



Heritage Breed Properties

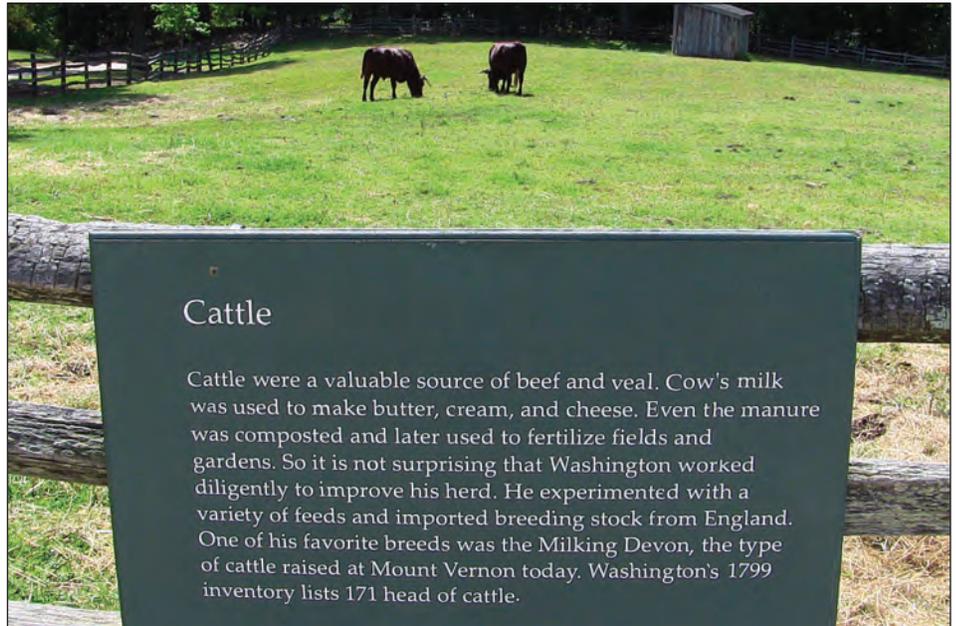
By Ryan Walker

One of the most common questions we get when folks visit The Livestock Conservancy headquarters for the first time is “Do you have animals on-site?” Aside from hatching eggs for various poultry projects, the usual answer is *usually* “No, but many of our members raise them and there are some places open to the public.”

Although many of us have frequent contact with livestock and poultry, the majority of Americans no longer come into frequent contact with farm animals. Luckily we have a growing number of agritourism farms, living history museums, zoos, and other properties where these people can learn about heritage breeds in person. Reading about all of our wonderful breeds in books, magazines, or online is helpful, but there is no substitute for an in-person experience.

Many properties have done a fantastic job integrating educational information into their exhibits and several have called on The Livestock Conservancy for help in developing these exhibits. Many others have limited information about the breeds on display, but we would love for this to be expanded. Adding information about the history of the breeds, their use in agriculture, and their rarity adds a rich conservation perspective to the educational experience that means so much more than a sign that just says “pig,” “chicken,” or “horse.” Historic properties like George Washington’s Mount Vernon estate display signs describing the breeds’ historical links to the property, how they were used, and even affinities the owners had for certain breeds. Sometimes these properties even do demonstrations where people can watch farming activities like shearing, driving, or milking.

Our friends at the U.K.’s Rare Breeds Survival Trust have done a terrific job maintaining relationships



An educational sign hangs on the fence for the Milking Devon cattle display at George Washington’s Mount Vernon estate.

with heritage breed properties through their Approved Farm Parks program, and they have made it easy for people to find places to visit on their website. In return, RBST gets exposure at the Farm Park locations as the recognized domestic authority in livestock conservation.

We have a pretty good knowledge of where these places are and can usually suggest a few depending on which part of the country people are in, but there are invariably some properties open to the public we are not aware of, or that possibly

may not even be aware of our organization.

To solve this issue, The Livestock Conservancy is in the process of compiling a list of heritage breed properties – places where the public can go to see animals on display. We have partial lists that have been compiled over the years, but since these lists were put together, many more have been added and exhibited breeds have changed. After compiling this list, we plan to share the information on our website and other areas where anyone interested in seeing heritage breeds can go visit them.

How you can help

If you know of properties in your area that raise heritage breeds and are open to the public, please let us know! You can email me at rwalker@LivestockConservancy.org, give us a call at (919) 542-5704, or mail us a list to The Livestock Conservancy, PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312. We’ll continue to add to the list, so if you come across new properties in the future that we don’t have listed, please continue to reach out to us. ❖



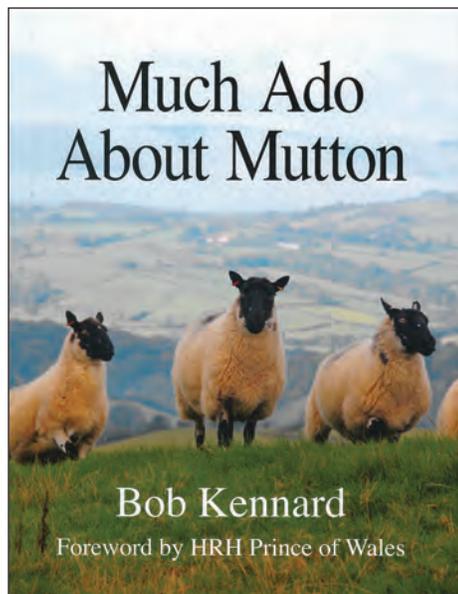
Ossabaw Island piglets on display at Conner Prairie Interactive History Park in Fishers, IN.

Savoring the Age of Flavor

continued from page 5

Reichardt, was held at former stable often used for Slow Food fundraisers, on a beautiful farm/vineyard property owned by Kendall Jackson Wine Estates. Not only did Kendall Jackson Wineries donate the use of this lovely location, but also provided some of the wines used at the event.

Upon arrival, guests were greeted with tables of delectable hor's d'oeuvres prepared by local food artisans, and a wine tasting served by Jim's daughter, Jennifer.



By Our Keynote Speaker ... and available from the Conservancy

In his book *Much Ado About Mutton*, Conservancy conference keynote speaker Bob Kennard explains the decline of this delicious icon of British cookery – and why mutton is now poised to make a comeback as its extraordinary health and environmental benefits (not to mention its superlative flavor) are at last being recognized.

The book is based on the author's experience of over 25 years of producing and extolling the virtues of mutton, together with advice from mutton enthusiasts down the centuries. Get your copy at www.LivestockConservancy.org. The price is \$29.95 + \$7 shipping and handling.

In the main hallway, tables displayed items for a silent auction (that benefitted Slow Food Russian River), and dining tables for the main event were set up in the former cathedral-like riding area. Irish Draught horses from Kleary Field Irish Draught Farm in Sebastopol occupied several stalls in one wing of the facility, and many varieties of heritage breed turkeys were on display with their 4-H member raisers.

Diners were served course after course of amazing food prepared by nationally renowned chefs from the Bay Area, including Justin Wangler, Executive Chef for the Jackson Family Winery; Adam Mali, Executive Chef for Twitter of San Francisco; and Chef Douglas Keane, a winner of TV's Top Chef Masters. Guests feasted on turkey, pork and lamb, more wine, roasted vegetables, and a unique dessert that had many attendees off to find the chef with requests for the recipe.

Dinner was followed by an annual event in the area, a live heritage breed turkey auction to benefit local 4-H members. The young turkey-raisers proudly presented their birds and told a little about them before the auctioneer began taking bids.

Attendees seemed to enjoy all aspects of this sold-out event, leading several Livestock Conservancy members to start-planning another one during late winter/early spring (location to be determined). So, if you missed this one, you have another chance to have a great meal AND support us!

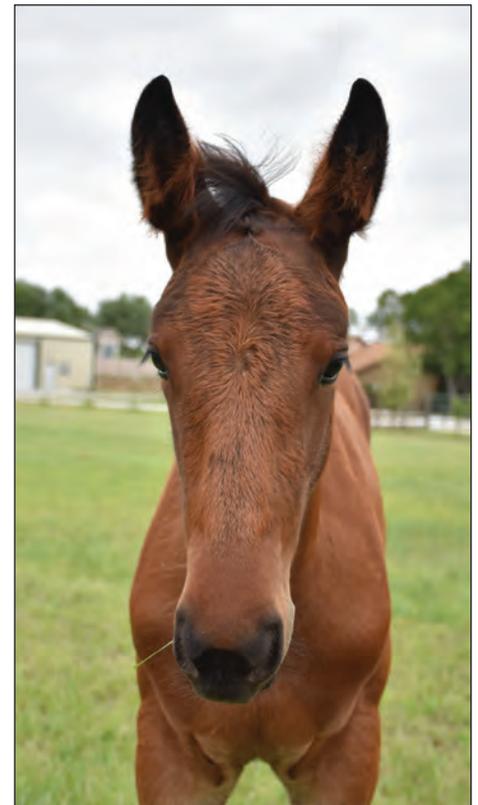
A huge thanks to Jim, Jennifer, chefs Wangler, Mali, and Keane, Kendall Jackson Winery, and all the people who set up, cooked, cleaned up and served at the event. We want you to know how much we appreciated it! ❖

New Cleveland Bay Census

The Cleveland Bay Horse Society of North America (CBHSNA) is pleased to announce the opening of a DNA Data Repository and an online census for both pure and part-bred Cleveland Bays, available to owners worldwide and free of charge, although donations are much appreciated. The CBHSNA is a small independent organization based in North America and originally established in 1885. Through their new census, the CBHSNA hope to help identify "lost" or unregistered/suspected Cleveland Bays, given the breed's status as an endangered domesticated breed. Currently the DNA Data depository possesses over 120 hair and blood samples from both pure and part bred Cleveland Bays, but they must also have some history on unknown horses to help identify them at this time.

The CBHSNA hopes to shore up their sample selection through donations of DNA samples from the owners of known Cleveland Bays in order to more successfully identify through DNA comparisons "lost" members of the breed. The CBHSNA welcomes the donation or sharing of additional DNA reports (that may not already be included in the repository) from CB owners so that they may be included in the repository.

Labs used for these DNA comparisons are located at Texas A&M University and the University of Kentucky. A duplication of the repository will be kept with The Livestock Conservancy as a safeguard. More information on the history and function of the Cleveland Bay Horse Society of North America may be found at www.clevelandbay.org. ❖



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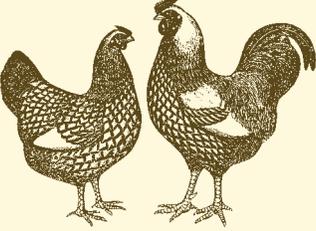
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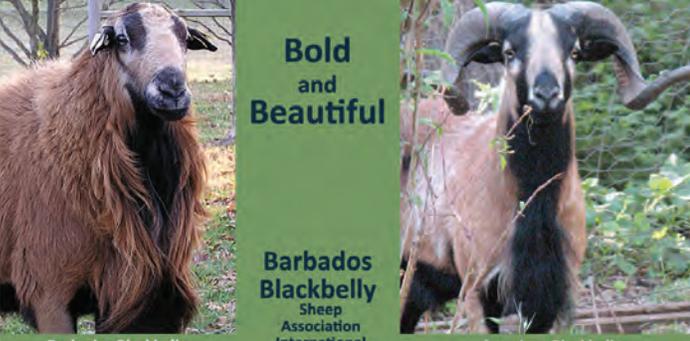


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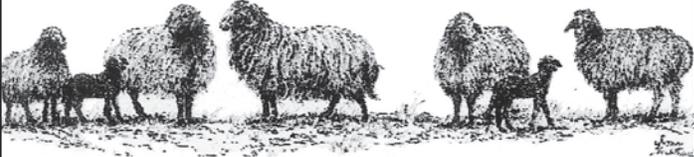


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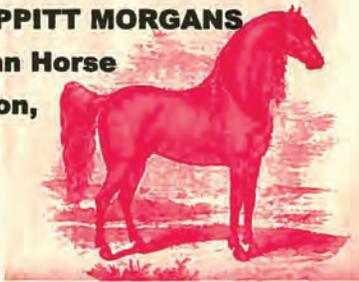
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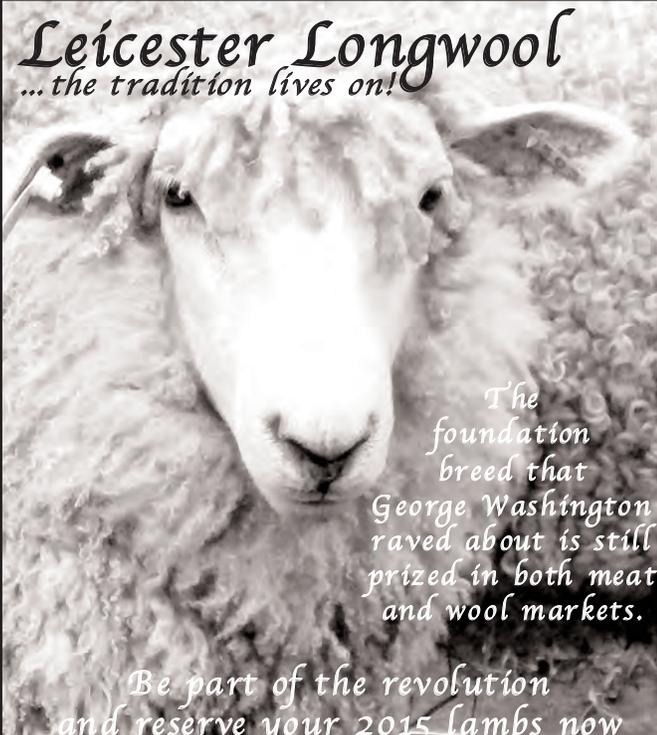


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DATED MATERIAL

CALENDAR

★★ denotes Livestock Conservancy event

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See the Conservancy website for a more extensive list of events. The Livestock Conservancy encourages event organizers to submit events related to conservation, farming, sustainability, rare breeds, and more to the Conservancy's Calendar. Send your submission to rwalker@livestockconservancy.org or mail to PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

January

January 9-24 – The National Western Stock Show will be held in Denver, CO. It features more than 15,000 head of horses, cattle, sheep, swine, goats, llamas, alpacas, bison, yak, poultry and rabbits each year. Visit www.nationalwestern.com for more information.

January 15-February 6 – The 120th Annual Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show will be held in Fort Worth, TX. The event features world-class livestock shows, kid-friendly exhibits, carnival/midway fun, live music, unique shopping and nightly rodeos. Over 1 million visitors and 22,000 head of livestock participate each year. Visit www.fwssr.com for more information.

January 21-23 – The Northern Plains Sustainable Ag Winter Conference will be held in Aberdeen, SD. Visit www.npsas.org or call 701-883-4304 for more information.

January 27-30 – The Southern SAWG (Sustainable Agriculture Working Group) Conference will be held in Lexington, KY. This event offers “field-tested” presenters, a full slate of hot-topic conference sessions

and pre-conference courses, several field trips, a poster display, and a trade show. For information, visit www.ssawg.org/2016-conference-program or contact Southern SAWG at info@ssawg.org

January 30-31 – The National Meet of the American Poultry Association hosted by the Pacific Poultry Breeders Association will be held in Modesto, CA. Contact Bridget Riddle 406-253-7944 or email chopped50@hotmail.com for more information.

February

February 3-6 – The 25th Annual Farming for the Future Conference will be held at Penn Stater Conference Center in State College, PA. Visit www.pasafarming.org/conference or call 814-349-9856 for more information.

February 5-7 – Horse Expo Pomona will take place at the Fairplex in Pomona, CA. Come for demonstrations, shopping, lectures, competitions, breeds, saddles, horse sale, trailers, and trucks. For more information, visit www.horseexpoevents.com.

February 5-6 – The 33rd Annual New Hampshire Farm & Forest Exposition and Dairy Goat Seminar will be held in Manchester, NH. Events include: industry trade show, workshops, demonstrations, food, and contests. Visit www.nhfarmandforestexpo.org for more information.

February 13-14 – The 37th Annual OEFFA Conference “Growing Right by Nature” will be held in Granville, OH. Approximately 100 workshops, a trade show, local and organic meals, a kids’ conference, childcare, and keynote speakers. Visit www.oeffa.org/conference2016 for more information.

★ February 20-21 – The Mother Earth News Fair will be held in Belton, TX. This family-oriented sustainable lifestyle event features dozens of practical, hands-on demonstrations and workshops on everything from beekeeping to using solar electricity. Visit www.motherearthnews.com/fair for more information.

February 25-27 – The Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service Organic Farming Conference will be held in La Crosse, WI. The largest conference in the U.S. about organic and sustainable farming hosts more than 170 exhibitors and more than 3,000 attendees. Visit <http://mosesorganic.org/conference/> for more information.

March

March 1-20 – The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo will be held in Houston, TX. Billed as the world’s largest live entertainment and livestock exhibition, this event sees more than 2.5 million visitors annually. Visit www.hlsr.com for more information.

March 5-8 – The California Small Farm Conference will be held in Sacramento, CA. The four-day educational conference includes day-long short courses and on-farm tours; focused workshops; speakers; and networking opportunities. For more information call 916-231-2141 or visit www.california-farmconference.com/.

March 15-17 – The Midwest Poultry Federation Convention will be held at the Saint Paul RiverCentre in Saint Paul, MN. The event offers the largest regional poultry show, exhibits, and networking opportunities. Visit www.midwestpoultry.com, call 763-682-2171, or email info@midwestpoultry.com for more information.