



Conserving rare breeds since 1977

The Canadian Horse: A Versatile Breed Rich in History

By Liz Piacentini

Canada's best kept secret is out! The Canadian horse is successfully participating in just about every discipline. While critically endangered today, the Canadian once played a vital role in Canadian and U.S. history. Recognized as the National Horse of Canada since 2002, the Canadian is big in heart and strength, making the breed both a serious competitor and enjoyable equine partner.

The Canadian horse, or le Cheval Canadien, has been part of North American history for over 350 years. The breed's ancestors originated from the Royal Stables of France where King Louis XIV housed his collection of over 2,000 horses of the finest stock.

When the French settled Quebec, King Louis XIV recognized that early settlers would require horses. Between 1665 and 1671, he sent several shipments of carefully selected horses to help develop this rugged new land that was void of existing herds. He chose horses with strength and soundness to help settlers clear and farm the land, yet elegant enough to transport noblemen and clergy. According to a 2014 Texas A&M genetic study conducted by E. Gus Cothran, the original mares and stallions were likely of Breton, Norman, and Belgian stock.

The Canadian horse quickly became the early settlers' biggest asset. Its compact, muscular body, thick winter coat, rock-hard feet, and willing attitude earned it the nickname, "the Little Iron Horse." For 200 years, the founding herd bred in relative isolation, becoming a genetically distinct breed. By the mid-1800s, the population reached an estimated 150,000 horses and earned the reputation for out-pulling and



Top: The Canadian was developed from horses sent from France to Quebec between 1665 and 1670. Photo by Laurie Neron. **Bottom:** Canadian horses are versatile and adaptable for a variety of uses, such as archery. Photo by Greg Beldam.

out-working larger breeds.

Breed numbers took a drastic downturn in the 1860s. During the Civil War, the US Army imported thousands of Canadian horses. Union soldiers valued their brave natures, strength for pulling artillery, and (unlike draft horses) preferred size for riding. While the Canadian horse may have

helped the North claim victory, sadly approximately 30,000 Canadians died during the Civil War. Those who survived often lost any identity with a specific breed.

The Canadian was exported from his native land for additional wars and cross-breeding. Gradually, it became replaced by

continued on page 4

Kevyn Miller, 1956-2018

We are sad to share the news of our good friend Kevyn Miller passing away unexpectedly on Saturday, April 28, 2018 in Indianapolis. Born in Lebanon, Indiana, Kevyn was a lifelong resident of Boone County, Indiana and graduated from Purdue University, where he studied animal science. He married René (Rynearson) Miller in 1978 and is survived by his wife, two daughters, a grandson, and his parents, brother and sister.

Kevyn raised cattle his entire life and was the livestock manager at Conner Prairie Interactive History Park, where he was involved with the planning for this year's Heritage Livestock Conference, to be held November 8-11 at Conner Prairie.

Previously, he worked with livestock auctions and owned his own business as a hoof trimmer.

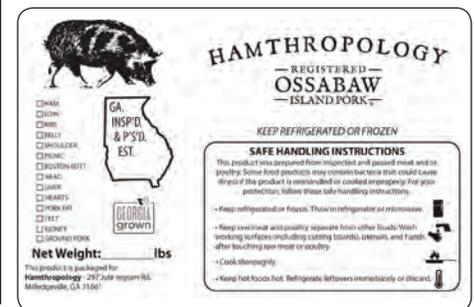
He was past president of the Indiana Simmental Association, past president of the Boone County Beef Producers and a Boone County 4-H beef project leader. He will be greatly missed.



Ossabaw Island Hog Farm Receives Label Approval

Hamthropology - Registered Ossabaw Island Pork out of Milledgeville, GA has received word that the "Registered Ossabaw Island Pork" they raise has met the stringent requirements for "Special Claims" by the USDA and the Georgia Department of Agriculture. This puts their pork in the same specialized category as Waygu Beef, Certified Angus Beef and the like.

The label is specific to the Hamthropology farm, but could lead the way to making it easier for other producers to pursue the Special Claims category. The Livestock Conservancy is proud to have played a role in making this happen.



The Livestock Conservancy News PO Box 477

Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312 USA
(919) 542-5704 • Fax (919) 545-0022
www.LivestockConservancy.org
rwalker@LivestockConservancy.org

The Livestock Conservancy News (ISSN 1064-1599) is published quarterly by The Livestock Conservancy. © The Livestock Conservancy 2018.



The Livestock Conservancy is a nonprofit tax-exempt corporation established to conserve and promote endangered breeds of livestock and poultry. The Conservancy

is a membership organization that engages in research, education, and communication to promote these purposes.

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.

The Conservancy welcomes articles, photographs, letters, and classified advertising for possible publication. Publication of articles or

advertisements is not necessarily an endorsement by the Conservancy. Articles from this newsletter may not be reprinted without permission.

Solicitation Disclosures

Colorado: Residents may obtain copies of registration and financial documents from the office of the Secretary of State, 303-894-2860, www.sos.state.co.us/ re:Reg No. 20133007164

Maryland: A copy of the current financial statement of The Livestock Conservancy is available by writing PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312. Documents and information submitted under the Maryland Solicitations Act are also available, for the cost of postage and copies, from the Maryland Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis MD 21401, (410) 974-5534.

North Carolina residents: Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 1-888-830-4989. The license is not an endorsement by the State.

Virginia residents: A financial statement is available from the State Office of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services upon request.

Washington: For additional information regarding the organization's activities or financial information, The Livestock Conservancy is registered with the Washington State Charities

Program as required by law and information may be obtained by calling 800-332-4483 or 360-725-0378.

Florida residents: (Registration # CH37293) A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

Livestock Conservancy 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



FROM THE SCIENCE — D E S K —

Disease Resistance and Livestock

By Alison G. Martin and D. Phillip Sponenberg

Livestock and poultry breeders often want to know whether they can select their animals to improve disease resistance. An advantage that many heritage breeds already exhibit is resiliency in the face of environmental threats. From any farmer's perspective, one of the most heartbreaking challenges can be losses due to disease, so managing these by genetics or other strategies is a good goal.

Livestock breeds with a history of being raised on free-range are often very robust, because Mother Nature culls the weakest. This does not mean that each individual animal is robust, but rather that the less robust animals experience a shorter reproductive life. Over time their genes are less frequently represented in the herd or flock.

Diseases fit into various categories. Some are infectious, some are not (such as cancers of most types). "Disease resistance" can target either or both of these. Among infectious diseases are some important broad classifications. Some diseases are very specific, and are caused by specific pathogens that can be eliminated by management, biosecurity, or other targeted approaches. Brucellosis, caseous lymphad-

enitis, avian influenza, and several others are in this broad group. For this group, avoiding the threat is realistic in most situations and makes more sense than selection for resistance. Several of these diseases are subject to mandatory or voluntary eradication schemes, adding to the argument for eliminating the disease threat.

At the other extreme are disease organisms that are so widespread as to be ubiquitous. Various parasitic worms are in this group, as well as some viruses and bacteria. For this group there is no realistic chance to avoid them completely, so that some selection against their effects is warranted. Most animals will bump up against several of these, and day-to-day life tests each animal's response.

Another broad category are yet other organisms that lurk in the environment in various ways, usually by targeting a broad range of species (leptospirosis) or persisting in the environment (some parasites, and viruses such as Marek's disease). Some of these can be quite devastating, but fortunately vaccines are available for several (such as leptospirosis). These diseases have no real opportunity for avoidance or eradication, and devastating consequences of infection, so it is realistic to resort to vaccines rather than the slow and irregular process of genetic resistance.

Breeders can enhance selection for resistance through careful record keeping and selection. A good example is parasite resistance in small ruminants. Sheep and goats often experience frequent exposure to parasites during the warm seasons – and

this may be nearly year-round in some parts of the country. The observant breeder will note which animals fare poorly, will get certified in the FAMACHA® parasite evaluation method (named after Dr. Faffa MAJan & colleagues CHart) to evaluate the flock for effects of barber pole worm, and will work with a veterinarian to check for parasite eggs during the peak season. Using this information, the breeder can cull the animals and families most affected by parasites. Over time such culling will improve the overall flock performance. Selection for resistance to these parasites is possible because natural exposure allows for continuous challenge to the animals, and an opportunity to document which are resistant and which are susceptible.

More often than not, breeders will select for overall hardiness rather than resistance to a specific disease. One reason is that exposure to a particular disease is infrequent. In fact, the responsible farmer takes steps to make sure this is so. With infrequent disease exposure, there is little opportunity to observe which birds or animals are resistant and which are susceptible. In order to select resistant birds or animals, there has to be some way to tell which are which. By keeping records on individual animals and families as they encounter different challenges from year to year and culling the worst performers, a breeder can improve the overall resilience of the herd or flock, and ensure that there are always at least some strong performers against multiple possible

continued on next page



Breeds like the Ossabaw Island hog have been shaped through natural selection by living in isolated populations for hundreds of years. Photo by Jeannette Beranger.

The Canadian Horse

Continued from page 1

mechanization. By the mid-1970s, breed numbers dipped to a low of around 400 registered horses. Today, the Canadian is listed as critically endangered by The Livestock Conservancy and the Equus Survival Trust and has a current population hovering around 6,000 worldwide. Passionate breeders, owners, and organizations such as the Canadian Horse Heritage & Preservation Society (CHHAPS) and the Canadian Horse Breeders Association (CHBA) are striving to save the breed

from extinction.

The Livestock Conservancy describes the breed as “solid and well-muscled, with a well-arched neck set high on a long, sloping shoulder. The overall impression is one of a round, sturdy and well-balanced horse [that is] energetic without being nervous.”

Today’s Canadian reflects its history of athleticism, stamina, versatility, and strong bone, making the breed an excellent choice for your favorite discipline. This breed is admired for their movement and suspension (Canadians are warmblood eligible), thick wavy mane and tail, intelligence, and even temperament.

Considered easy-keepers, Canadians love variety and excel at the National level

in many disciplines including dressage, eventing, competitive trail, driving, and working equitation. You can even find the Canadian horse in ranch work, Western disciplines, the mounted police, and foxhunting – even mounted archery and skijoring! Discover a Canadian horse and fall in love with a breed that’s happy to embrace your favorite discipline. ❖

To learn more about the Canadian horse, meet breeders and owners, come to the Canadian Horse Expo, being held October 13 in Harwinton, CT. For more information, see www.facebook.com/canadianhorseexpo or contact Margo Killoran at threefoldfarm@comcast.net.

Disease Resistance and Livestock

Continued from page 3

health challenges. One convenient trait for overall resistance is longevity. Long-lived, productive animals simply have not succumbed to any sort of disease, so selection for longevity automatically selects for general resistance.

In theory, a breeder could select for resistance to a specific serious disease. In this scenario, animals would be intentionally exposed each generation, observations made, and breeding decisions based on resistance. Scientists have created resistant flocks and herds by this method, for example for Marek’s disease in chickens. There are several disadvantages for the average farmer. First, the breeder must be willing to lose animals, both to exposure and to culling, and losses to some diseases could be quite high. Second, experimental work has shown that resistance to specific diseases can be negatively correlated with resistance to other diseases, or with production traits. In other words, a flock that is resistant to the chosen disease might be less productive on the farm or might even succumb to some other disease.

With rare breeds, there is another consideration. Let’s say a breeder wanted to follow the method above and take their losses. Think of all the other genetics that would be lost, just to establish resistance to that one disease! Among the animals that were culled or that died, there might be ones that were resistant to a different



Attendees learn the FAMACHA® procedure during a Livestock Conservancy conference clinic. Photo by Alison Martin.

disease, or were good mothers, or were faster to get to market age. Worse yet, there might be animals that are the last of a very rare bloodline. Is that a price we’re willing to pay? In most cases the answer is “No.”

For most diseases and most breeders, the better strategy is to try to minimize disease exposure through good husbandry and good biosecurity. In other words, avoid situations that put animals in contact with disease organisms, just as farmers have always done. This may include vaccination for some farms and some diseases, as an insurance policy against devastating losses. When health challenges do occur, culling the animals or birds that are most affected will ensure that the flock or herd is stronger in the future.

There is an image, a myth really, that heritage livestock and poultry are always more resistant to disease and adverse

conditions than modern livestock and poultry. The situation is more complicated, and depends on the specific background in each instance. Heritage livestock and poultry can be more robust to many environmental challenges, from temperature to forage to disease, because most are raised outdoors and we as breeders can (and should) observe how they cope when these challenges come their way. It is also true

that livestock, generally modern production breeds, that are maintained in carefully controlled situations rarely are tested for resilience, and as a consequence may well lack any genetic heritage for survival in the face of challenge.

It is good to keep in mind, however, that for any given challenge it is the herd/flock/breed that is robust, not each and every individual. Likewise, some breeds and herds are more robust than others. Finally, extreme challenges can overcome the most resilient animals. Hardy livestock perished during the dustbowl, and heritage poultry have perished from Avian Influenza and virulent Newcastle Disease. The wise breeder sets their expectations realistically, and chooses the best husbandry and breeding practices for their situation. No one solution will fit all situations, and all of them can contribute to wise management of our genetic resources. ❖



Heart Stone Farm's Gulf Coast Trial Sheep

By Tim Molinero

We began to notice several years ago that there were fewer flocks of sheep available for herding dog trials in New England. Besides working nearly daily with our border collies, we also compete in Northeast Border Collie Association (NEBCA) and United States Border Collie Handlers Association (USBCHA) as well as other sanctioned events. We knew we needed to commit to creating a flock that would be suitable to replace some of these flocks, but wanted to continue Heart Stone Farm's mission of raising and breeding heritage animals. At the time, we currently had (and still have) a small flock of Babydoll Southdowns. We knew we needed a breed that was resistant to the hot summers, but still able to endure the cold New England winters. Most importantly, they had to respond appropriately when being worked by herding dogs.

After much research, we found the Gulf Coast Native sheep. We were informed that these sheep worked well with dogs due in part to their strong "flocking instinct," a key factor in their survival as a breed.

The history of the Gulf Coast Native goes back to the early explorers and settlers to the New World in the 1500s. Their exact genetics are hard to trace, but the breed foundation comes from the first Spanish imports. Their fine wool suggests a contribution from pre-Merino types.

Their vitality in the heat, their breeding as "range" sheep, and their ease of keeping helped us to make the decision to use Gulf Coast sheep. We also spoke with several herding dog people in the South who all spoke highly of these sheep. The challenge

became to find these sheep, whose small population has put them in the "Critical" category on the Livestock Conservancy *Conservation Priority List*.

We reached out to several breeders in the Connecticut area as well as south of the Mason-Dixon line. We were fortunate to be able to acquire some ewe lambs and a ram lamb from the Connecticut area. When we explained our project, they were supportive and quite excited. We also got a lead that a farm in Texas that was reducing their stock. We were able to get several adult ewes along with some ewe lambs and a lamb ram from this farm. We were able to pick up some lamb ewes and a lamb ram from Georgia at the same time. Things were certainly coming together for our flock of Gulf Coast sheep.

We were also fortunate to have the opportunity to lease land from a 80-acre hay farm about ten minutes from our house. This gives us plenty of room to work the sheep and make sure they are in shape for the trials. We used them for a few "fun trials" in 2016 and we were thrilled with their performance with strange dogs.

With some additional barns added to our farm that year, it was time to bring the sheep back from their summer pasture and wait for the lambs. In February 2017, a few hours after a barn check, my wife Lisa opened the barn to find a lamb all licked off and nursing. With breeding just the older ewes, we ended up with 13 ewes lambing for 15 total lambs. We had one still birth, but no other issues and all lambs thrived. They were correct that these sheep really are easy lambers. We need this simplicity since we both work full time.

We were invited to display nursing lambs at one of the top springtime mu-

Photo above: A Border Collie works Heart Stone Farm's Gulf Coast Native sheep at the Maine Celtic Celebration. Photo by Steve Bowler.

seum exhibitions in the United States. We had lambs with their mothers at the Barnyard Baby Animals at Strawberry Banke Museum in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. They were excited to have this rare breed and compensated us nicely.

With workouts for sheep and dogs just beginning, it was time for the Gulf Coast first official trial in May at the New Hampshire Farm Museum. It was the first trial on this field and it truly offered some unique challenges with a run-in in one corner. The wet spring offered some mud patches as well, especially the one blocking the entrance to the exhaust pen. The sheep acted appropriately depending on the pressure of the dog, with the mistake that we did not separate their lambs far enough away so some of the mothers could still hear them. The mothers ran well and challenged the dogs, but we did have some perfect scores, proving the course was not impossible despite the obstacles.

Fifteen sheep spent a weekend at a nearby farm for an Australian Sheep Club of America (ASCA) sanctioned herding event. To save some money, the club transported the sheep themselves. Due to our busy schedules, we were unable to go to the trial and see how they ran, but the feedback was positive and it was noted they did not slow down as the day wore on. We were not sure if that is good or bad, but they are already asking us about sheep next year.

While we were sorting out lambs before the Ossipee Fair in Hiram, Maine, the

continued on next page

Gulf Coast Sheep

Continued from previous page

sheep traveled for an early July event. The arena was small, but the sheep worked well with none attempting to leave the ring. The heat of the day did not slow these sheep down at all. During our lunch break, they were happy to mow the field down some and did not seek any shade from the summer sun.

The sheep then had some time off to get ready for their busy September/October schedule. They were able to spend time on green pasture and gain weight lost during the winter. We rotate their pasture using electronet, but we do not trust it to keep predators out at night, especially in the spring and fall when food can become more scarce. They are put into the trailer every night to keep safe and let out every morning. We supplement with free mineral and grain each morning. The grain is to help with setout at the small fair trials where a set out dog can be too much.

We still worked the sheep nearly daily that summer with all three of our dogs to make sure they were in good shape for the fair trials. Since they are used to their trailer being their home, they have no problems when we hook up to the red Ford and travel down the road. We believe they are more relaxed since they are used to living in the trailer. It also makes loading and unloading quite easy.

We arrived at Blue Hill, Maine the evening before that fair's trials. The sheep were ready to go the next day after skipping breakfast. Of course, they looked like they were under nourished and complained loudly about lack of food. They worked well throughout the day with a few attempts at jumping out, but none of them were successful in the small arena. The pen proved more difficult than we expected, but not impossible. After spending the night under the stars, we moved to the race track for the fast trial. The sheep again were great, with one deciding it needed to jump out of the tiny arena. The sheep had no problems going over the bridge which has been a staple of the Blue Hill trial for many years.

We also held a one-day local demo. This proved to be much harder than we thought. It was a beautiful, sunny day. The several demos over the day proved to be hard on the three dogs. Setting up the elec-



Gulf Coast sheep descend from Spanish flocks brought to the New World by explorers and settlers beginning in the 1500s. They are currently listed as Critical by The Livestock Conservancy. Photo by Steve Bowler.

tronet, pens, and obstacles put a strain on us as well. The sheep, on the other hand, proved true to their southern roots. The heat and sun did not bother them at all, and they worked steady all day long.

The last trial of the season was the Fryeburg Fair in Fryeburg, Maine. This is arguably the largest fair in Maine and the herding dogs easily attract thousands of spectators throughout the day. The girls were in tip-top shape and ready to go and the weather was perfect. They worked well and put on a great show for the large audience that we had there. They even worked well for the limited nursery class that we had.

Each of these venues pays us quite well for each sheep (some better than others). Many of these venues are several hours travel and accommodations are included. We have all of the equipment to put on a trial, and obviously this adds to the amount that we charge. Many of the fairs have their own equipment, which means we provide only the sheep and their transportation. Sorting the sheep for each run can lead to an exhausting day, but most trials provide money for "pen help," or it is part of the fees that we charge. We have found that we easily make enough money to feed the sheep through the long New England winters, plus an extra profit.

We are mostly involved with NEBCA/USBCHA. However, there are several other herding competitions that are con-

stantly looking for livestock. Some of the other sanctioning bodies are American Kennel Club (AKC), ASCA, and American Herding Breed Association (AHBA). While NEBCA mostly does sheep trials, many of the other sanctioning bodies use other types of livestock, such as ducks, cattle, and goats.

With the wrap-up of the season, 29 ewes were put in with unrelated rams. The sheep are looking healthy and are heading back to our farm for the winter. We are expecting lambs in March and are hoping for another easy lambing season. The goal is to be making maple syrup and watching the lambs be born at the same time.

Many of the dog handlers loved working these sheep. We have already been asked for proposals for more trials and have over 15 scheduled in 2018. We are enjoying another year of trialing with these rare sheep and of educating the public about the importance of heritage breeds and the work of the Livestock Conservancy. ❖

Tim and Lisa Molinero own Heart Stone Farm in Milton, New Hampshire. They raise sheep, herbs, working dogs, poultry, make maple syrup, and do custom shearing. They can be reached online at www.facebook.com/heart.stonefarm.

NEW PROGRAM!

Shave 'Em to Save 'Em

The U.S. sheep population has been steadily declining since the 1940s when it peaked at 56 million. Today the majority of lamb meat and wool sold in the U.S. comes from New Zealand and Australia, and our sheep population has fallen to about 5 million. Like everything else in modern agriculture, a small number of breeds represent the vast majority of sheep, which leaves some breeds in danger of extinction, such as the Navajo-Churro

and Gulf Coast, which came to this continent with the earliest explorers more than 500 years ago. The Livestock Conservancy is hoping to change this situation with our new Shave 'Em to Save 'Em program that encourages fiber artists to work with wool from rare sheep breeds.

Genetic diversity is just one reason to preserve heritage sheep. Heritage breeds have survived through the ages because they are naturally hardy. They adapted to a new environment as they were brought to North America from across the ocean, which means they will likely adapt well in our changing climate. Of particular interest to fiber artists are the different types of wool that each breed produces. Some have a softer wool that's excellent for garments while others have wool that's more

suited to making rugs. Some have white wool that takes well to dyes while others come in a wide variety of natural colors and patterns.

The goal of Shave 'Em to Save 'Em is to put fiber artists in contact with shepherds who produce wool from 19 wool breeds of sheep on The Livestock Conservancy's list of endangered livestock. When fiber artists register they will receive a passport that includes a page of information for each breed. Each page will also include space to put a stamp after they purchase wool from a particular breed. There will be a Facebook group and a Ravelry group where members can share pictures of their projects. As they work their way through the breeds, they will receive prizes for completing projects and reaching various landmarks.

We have long said that the way to save endangered breeds of livestock is to give them a job. In the case of wool sheep and dual-purpose sheep (those used for meat and wool), we need to start using their wool again. Because of marketing challenges, not everyone sells the wool their sheep produce. Some shepherds compost the wool after their annual shearing rather than cleaning it and selling it. In addition to encouraging fiber artists to try rare wools, the program will also educate shepherds about how to prepare their wool for sale to fiber artists. By helping shepherds market their wool, they will become more financially stable, which helps ensure the future of the sheep. Watch for more details soon as we prepare to roll out this exciting new program. ❖

Heritage Breeds Featured in *Scientific and Technical Review*

The latest edition of OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health)'s *Scientific and Technical Review* is out, and The Livestock Conservancy is proud to have contributed to the section titled "Influence of animals on human behavior – Conservation of rare and local breeds of livestock." Dr. Temple Grandin is the editor of this issue titled "The contribution of animals to human welfare," which is distributed to animal health experts worldwide.

This *Review* discusses how companion animals and livestock can both make a positive contribution to human welfare. Animals improve the welfare of humans in many ways, ranging from providing companionship, improving mental health, facilitating rescues during natural disasters; and finally, for a number of species, as food. Livestock are a contributor to human welfare and are an important part of sustainable farming. Maintaining farmland in good condition is essential for a stable food supply, and several papers discuss research on how grazing livestock can improve farmland. More papers address ethical concerns and possible risks to human health regarding future livestock issues, such as the use of animals (e.g. cattle and pigs) as sources of transplant organs and in producing pharmaceuticals. Humans benefit from animals in many ways and it is essential to ensure that the welfare of the animals is protected.

To order a copy, visit www.oie.int/boutique/ or send 105 € plus and your complete contact and shipping information to: OIE, Publications Sales Office, 12 rue de Prony, 75017 Paris, France Reference: *Scientific and Technical Review* "The contribution of animals to human welfare" Vol. 37 (1). Checks must be drawn on a French bank. VISA, MasterCard, Eurocard, and American Express are accepted. Fax: 33 (0)1 42 67 09 87 – Email: pub.sales@oie.int ❖



New 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.

Hamilton Rare Breeds Foundation
Hartland, Vermont

Susan Schaberg
Saint Louis, Missouri

Michael & Kay Strauss
Crawford, Texas

Securing Rare Breeds in Drought Conditions

By Livestock Conservancy staff

The Conservancy first shared a form of this notice during the historic drought of 2012 and has unfortunately needed to share this information with our network of breeders many times since. This year, the drought situation has once again become dire for some areas of the United States, particularly in the Southwest and Four Corners region.

As drought conditions and the associated struggles they bring continue year after year, it is increasingly important for us to conserve genetics of our resilient Heritage breeds, which in the long-term can help agriculture adapt to changing climactic conditions. Although many breeds are very well adapted to arid conditions, sometimes circumstances demand downsizing or changing our husbandry practices.

If you must sell, priority should be given to making sure breeding quality animals get into the hands of capable people. There are many opportunities to network with these individuals through breed clubs, associations, and of course the Livestock Conservancy's network through the website and office.

Producers may be charged with making hard decisions in order to weather the tough times ahead. For stewards of endangered breeds, planning for the future is going to be critical for the long-term survival of these rare animals. It is our responsibility as endangered breed stewards to ensure that the breeds will live on, whether they



Breeds like the Texas Longhorn have been shaped by the arid conditions of the Southwest. They possess traits and genetics that will become even more vital to agriculture's future as the climate changes. Photo by Debbie Davis.

remain on our farms or go into the hands of new owners in this time of struggle.

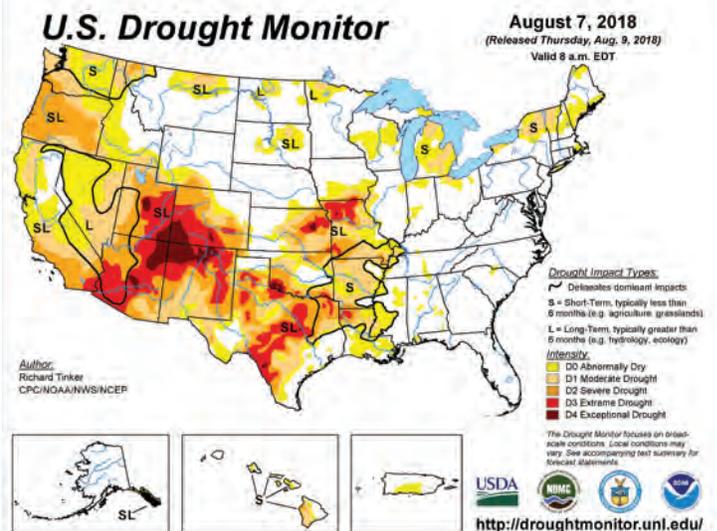
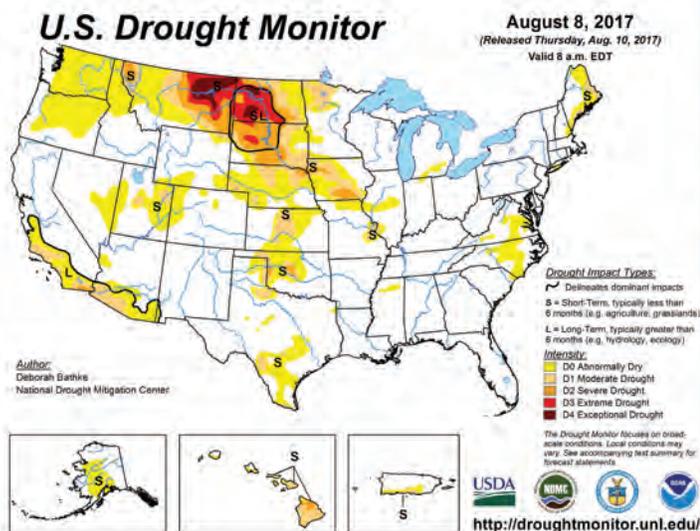
Where to start?

If you live in an area of the country that is still getting rain, consider growing supplemental feed for your animals. For those individuals who will have to make the decision to downsize their herds or flocks, careful consideration for which animals to keep is key. You must retain both quality and diversity in the animals that remain on the farm. Taking a hard look at pedigrees and then judging the animals based on how they conform to breed standard will guide you in the process. It is

much like judging by card grading and is a powerful tool for successfully maintaining the quality in your animals.

There may be situations in which it will be financially impossible to keep any of the animals. In this case locating a new steward will be the optimal solution verses the stockyard or sale barn. The following resources and considerations are recommended when deciding next steps to take if the need arises.

Deciding What to Keep – Many who attended last year's Heritage Livestock Conference in Williamsburg saw first-hand the benefits of card grading. Card grading



The National Drought Mitigation Center at University of Nebraska-Lincoln tracks and forecasts drought conditions for all 50 U.S. states and Puerto Rico.

for livestock and breeder selection protocols for chickens and turkeys can be found at LivestockConservancy.org > Resources > Card Grading Protocols and LivestockConservancy.org > Heritage Breeds > Poultry Breeds.

Financial Assistance and Support –

The government has a number of assistance programs that may be able to help you get through tough times with your animals. One of the best listings of these programs can be found on the Farm Aid website (www.farmaid.org/our-work/family-farmers/disaster-assistance-for-farmers).

Tracking Conditions – The National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln tracks and forecasts drought conditions for all 50 US states and Puerto Rico. The site also includes data about fire danger, soil moisture, mountain snowpack, and many other useful tools. The resource is used by policymakers and media in discussions of drought and in allocations of drought relief. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency uses the U.S. Drought Monitor to distribute relief through the Livestock Forage Disaster Program, the Livestock Assistance Grant Program, and the Non-Fat Dry Milk Program. The Internal Revenue Service also uses the U.S. Drought Monitor to determine the replacement period for livestock sold because of drought. The site can be accessed at <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>.

Help Finding New Stewards – The Livestock Conservancy has an extensive network of conservation breeders and rare breed enthusiasts. Members can list their animals in the Online Classifieds, be listed in the online and print breeders directories, or view the breed association and registry directory at LivestockConservancy.org or in the back of the printed directory to find others interested in your breeds. ❖

If you need help accessing any of these resources, including the classifieds or Breeders & Products Directory, contact Conservancy staff at 919-542-5704 or info@LivestockConservancy.org.

Livestock, Genetic Diversity, and Sustainable Agriculture

By Carolyn Christman, Donald Bixby, and Phillip Sponenberg

The following article appeared in our newsletter 25 years ago, before “sustainable agriculture” became a household term and documentary-worthy topic. Throughout the Conservancy’s history, our members have been ahead of their time as thought leaders in animal agriculture and conservation. The following commentary still rings true as much today as it did when first published. As terms such as “regenerative agriculture” begin to take hold, heritage livestock breeds are still positioned to take a leading role in the future of farming.

Though the livestock species themselves will never become extinct, almost 100 [now over 150] American livestock breeds are in decline or in danger of being lost. These breeds represent much of the genetic diversity remaining in the livestock species. Without the genetic differences represented by a variety of breeds there would be little opportunity to select and improve livestock to fit changing conditions in the future.

Always before, diversified farms across North America provided the habitat for a wide variety of livestock breeds. There

were regional varieties and types, some with colorful names (such as Iowa Blue chickens) and others (such as “native” sheep) which lacked even the status that a name can provide. Different climactic regions demanded animals adapted to conditions, and so geography itself worked as a selector to maintain genetic diversity. Livestock production and livestock services were an integral part of agriculture.

But diversity in all livestock species is now threatened by several trends in modern agriculture, including the separation of livestock production from agriculture and the increasing uniformity of all breeds within a species towards the highest producing types, and public ignorance and apathy about agriculture, with resulting lack of public support for the farm community.

The protection of livestock genetic diversity, as represented by a variety of distinct breeds, is different from the preservation of wild animals. Endangered domestic breeds must be used within a social and economic context to be saved. Diversity is both essential to and dependent on the re-

continued on next page



The St. Croix and other hair sheep are good grazers, useful for the production of high quality, lean lamb. Their lack of fleece is an advantage in a warm climate. Photo by Jeannette Beranger.

Livestock and Sustainable Agriculture

Continued from previous page

vival of farming in the U.S. What happens across the country today very much affects the agricultural heritage – animals and plants – passed on to the next generation.

Livestock in Sustainable Agriculture

In today's "politically correct" world, animal agriculture has a bad name. Books such as Jeremy Rifkin's *Beyond Beef* blame livestock for much of the global environmental crises and implore readers to become vegetarians as a way to save mother earth. Indeed, modern livestock production systems create many environmental problems, some of them simply because of the separation of livestock from the farm.

Modern livestock production systems have concentrated animals in fewer and fewer facilities or larger and larger size. High quality grains are now grown and transported specifically for use as animal feeds. Manure, nature's best fertilizer, has become concentrated in such large amounts that it poses a serious threat to ground water. Concerns about food safety, animal welfare, and the health of processing workers has also attracted public attention.

Who is to blame? Rifkin is wrong in his assertion that the use of livestock species themselves is at the root of all problems. Traditionally, livestock have been an integral part of agriculture and a recovery of this relationship presents the best alternative to the management problems of today. The use of livestock also presents a number of opportunities for sustainable farmers who want to increase their economic diversity.

Sustainable agriculture is by its definition designed to operate in a natural balance with an emphasis on efficient use of renewable resources. Livestock complements the production of crops, and animal services can provide alternatives to high chemical and high energy inputs.

Livestock Uses and Products

The uses of livestock can

roughly be divided into animal products and animal services. Products are relatively well known: meat, milk, fiber, and leather, as well as manure and other by-products. Animal services – such as grazing, brush clearing, draft power, and pest control – are less well known to the current agricultural generation.

The most well-known animal product is food. The Livestock species produce a significant part of our food supply, specifically cheese, eggs, milk, and meat. Livestock transform the forage nutrients unavailable to humans into foods of high quality for human consumption. The creation of food from forage is agriculturally significant, as livestock can be raised in regions which are poorly suited to field crops and therefore do not need to directly compete with plant production for human foods. Use of animals may instead complement the production of plants.

High quality natural fibers, such as wool, cashmere, and mohair, are produced by livestock. These natural fibers are in much demand since they have qualities unequaled by any synthetic. Another important animal product is leather, used for clothing, furniture, baseballs, and many other goods used in daily life.

Manure, an animal by-product is the most widely used fertilizer in the world. Manure provides essential elements of fertility to the soil and surpasses the potential of "green" or non-animal composts. As animals are mobile, they can be moved around to deposit manure where it is needed.

Livestock Services

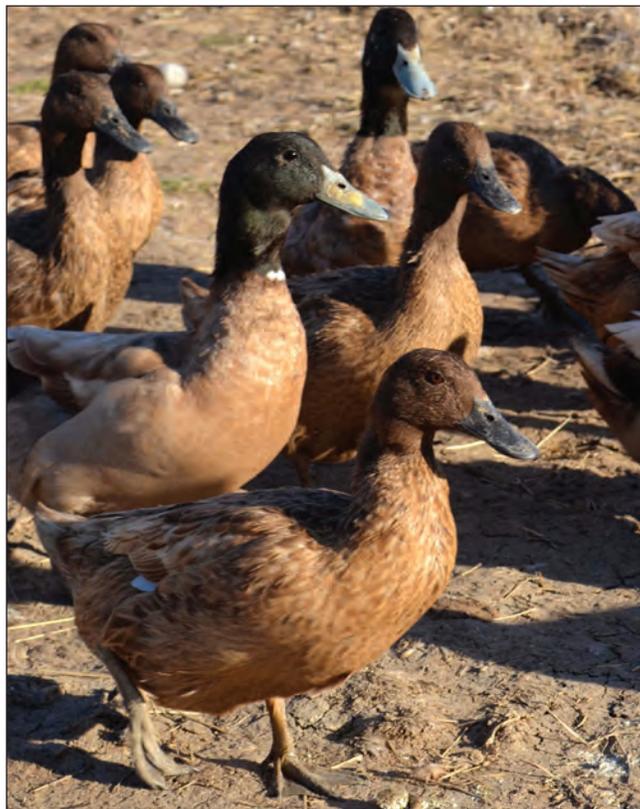
The services provided by livestock are often the only complement or alternative to the use of chemicals, energy, and machinery in agricultural systems. Grazing has acquired a bad name with environmentalists due to confusion between grazing and overgrazing. While overgrazing can rapidly deteriorate natural resources, well managed grazing can greatly enhance grassland environments. Grasses and other types of forage are part of a biological system that demands to be grazed. Most wild grazers are now extinct, so that grazing of livestock is now necessary for grassland health. Productive grasslands are an essential part of sound soil management throughout much of North America, and forage production is an excellent method of healing damaged land. Much of the marginal farmland now in use for row crops should in fact be put into permanent

or semi-permanent forage crops, thus reducing runoff and erosion and increasing the organic matter in the soil. Controlled grazing by livestock is the one such means to make these marginal regions productive in both an environmental and economic sense.

Goats, sheep and some breeds of cattle are particularly good at browsing, which is the consumption of bushes and other tall plants in preference to grass. These animals can be used to eat rapidly growing pest plants such as leafy spurge, blackberry, kudzu, poison ivy, and other tenacious woody invaders. Reduction of these pest plants allows for the recovery of natural diversity.

Goats are being used to reduce the risk of fire through brush control. Goats love rough, rocky land and the browse that forms the highest fire hazard. They can be an effective, economical, and environmentally sound solution to the problem of establishing fire

continued on page 16



Ducks, like these Khaki Campbells at Sloans Creek Farm, are good at controlling slugs and other pests in ponds, gardens, and around berries. Photo by Jeannette Beranger.



Heritage Livestock Conference

Conner Prairie, Fishers, IN - November 8 - 11, 2018

Connect
Network
Learn



NEW!

Saturday afternoon interactive experiences
and live-animal sessions!

COME JOIN US!

Conner Prairie is just outside of Indianapolis, IN, and has meeting rooms as well as outdoor space with heritage breed livestock!


CONNER PRAIRIE
INTERACTIVE HISTORY PARK

13400 Allisonville Road, Fishers, IN 46038

Member Rate: \$205 - Use code: MEMCON1

www.LivestockConference.org

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!



SCHEDULE - AT - A - GLANCE

Thursday, November 8 - Networking Reception

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

For everyone who signs up for clinics or conference

Friday, November 9 - Pre-Conference Clinics

8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Breed Associations - Routes to Success (Part 1)
Oxen Basics
Green Picket Fences

1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Breed Association - Routes to Success (Part 2)
Charcuterie with Multiple Species

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Kick-off Banquet & Silent Auction

Saturday, November 10 - Conference Workshops

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

Networking Breakfast & Poster Session

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Plenary - Agritourism at Conner Prairie

9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Breakout Sessions (3 concurrent)

10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Breakout Sessions (3 concurrent)

11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Lunch

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Basic Animal Handling and Management
(4 species - outside)

3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Breakout Sessions (3 concurrent)

4:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Breakout Sessions (3 concurrent)

4:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Closing Plenary

Sunday, November 11 - Post-Conference Clinic

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Pig Reproduction & Artificial Insemination

Unless otherwise noted, Thursday evening, Friday banquet, and Saturday talks will be at Conner Prairie. Check pre-and post-conference clinic listings for locations.

This is a tentative schedule, subject to change as the program develops.



EXTRA SPECIAL



Sunday Post-Conference Clinic

Join Dr. Wayne Singleton and Dr. Kara Stewart at Perdue University for a special post-conference pig reproduction and artificial insemination clinic.

Calling all "Fiberistas"

Bring your knitting, crocheting, weaving, spinning, etc., and visit with other fiber artists during the conference. Work on your projects and learn tips and techniques from one another. Space will be available at Conner Prairie.

Silent Auction

Support rare breed conservation by donating an item to the silent auction. Examples of items include: vacation getaways, creative artwork, unique dining experiences, gifts baskets, gift certificates, movie tickets, fleeces, fiber, tote bags, books and more. If you'd like to donate to Friday night's silent auction, please email: Angelique: athompson@LivestockConservancy.org, or call 919-542-5704 x108

Feature Your Breed

If you'd like to donate meat, eggs, or dairy for Friday night's banquet, please email: Angelique: athompson@LivestockConservancy.org, or call 919-542-5704 x108. Each food provider's farm is listed on the Conservancy website for up to a year! It's a great way to bring customers to your farm.



REGISTER NOW! www.LivestockConference.org

FRIDAY PRE-CONFERENCE IN-DEPTH CLINICS

Making Charcuterie

Join butcher George Turkette of Turchettis Salumeria and Amy Lynn & Alan McKamey of Heritage Meadows Farm for an informative class on the traditional craft of charcuterie. Expand your value-added heritage meat offerings and learn to create a wonderful array of cured specialties. Turchettis Salumeria is dedicated to using only whole animals to create their line of salumi, sausages, and smoked meats influenced by “Old World” techniques and George’s Italian heritage. Speakers: George Turkette, Amy Lynn, Alan McKamey. Location: Turchettis Salumeria, 1106 Prospect St, Indianapolis, IN 46203

Oxen Basics

Learn the basics of working oxen and try your hand at driving a team! This session will give an overview of working with oxen, particularly in a living history setting. Begin with a classroom discussion of the selection, training, commands, care, safety, and pros/cons of oxen (as compared to horses), then go outside to get hands-on experience with Conner Prairie’s team of English Longhorn steers. This session will take place both indoors and outdoors, so please dress appropriately. Speakers: Stephanie Buchanan and Emily Nyman, Conner Prairie, Location: Conner Prairie, 13400 Allisonville Rd, Fishers, IN 46038

Green Picket Fences

In this half-day session held in the heart of an inner-city neighborhood, attendees will feel, learn, and see permanent agriculture in action through demonstrations of key components of the Green Shepherd Project “closed-loop systems” that use heritage breed American Jacob sheep, and learn about a circular economy (in which the community profits) at the Fish Bowl Pet Shop project house. A walk in this two-block area (weather permitting) will show another key component of our program - working with Nature not against it – and how this promotes biodiversity through the cultivation of fruit forests. Speakers: Kay Grimm and Sue Spicer, Fruit Loop Acres. Location: Park at the lot on 2041 E Michigan St. Indianapolis, IN 46201, and meet at the Fish Bowl Pet Shop project house at 2101 E Michigan St.

Breed Associations - Routes to Success Part 1

The nuts and bolts of operating an association.

Does your breed association, registry, or club struggle with turnover, conflict, and not having enough time to “do it all”? These groups are vital to the conservation of endangered breeds - and it doesn’t have to be this way! Using the models of successful breed associations, this workshop covers topics including setting up and running an efficient registry, managing a studbook, promoting the breed, and avoiding conflict. Speakers: Brian Larson, past president of the National Lincoln Sheep Breeder’s Association and the Conservancy’s current Board Chair, and Jeannette Beranger, Senior Program Manager, The Livestock Conservancy. Location: Conner Prairie, 13400 Allisonville Rd, Fishers, IN 46038

Breed Associations - Routes to Success Part 2

Where’s the money and how can my association get some?

Fundraising makes so many people uncomfortable...but with training and preparation, anyone can learn to do it – and perhaps even enjoy it! This session, geared toward fundraising beginners, will focus on fundraising opportunities and strategies for non-profit breed clubs and associations. Learn facts, best practices, and helpful information presented through a series of interactive and group exercises, small group discussions, and case development work. Topics include: What Are We Selling? Where’s the Money? Why People Give, The Cycle of Fundraising, Creating A Fundraising Menu, and Six Quick Asks. Speakers: Judy Wollen a retired resource development specialist that has fundraising experience working in the US and abroad with charitable organizations and professional associations, and Ryan Walker, the Conservancy’s Marketing and Communications Manager. Location: Conner Prairie, 13400 Allisonville Rd, Fishers, IN 46038

SATURDAY

Saturday Workshops Include:

Agritourism | Making Sense of DNA Results and Findings | Marketing for Small Farms | Youth in Agriculture | Reproductive Technologies for Heritage Animals (Panel Discussion) | Forage Selection for Your Species | Saving English Longhorns | Starting and Maintaining a Youth Spinning Group | Yards as Mini-Pastures: Turn Your Lawn into Food Production | Adventures in Duck Raising

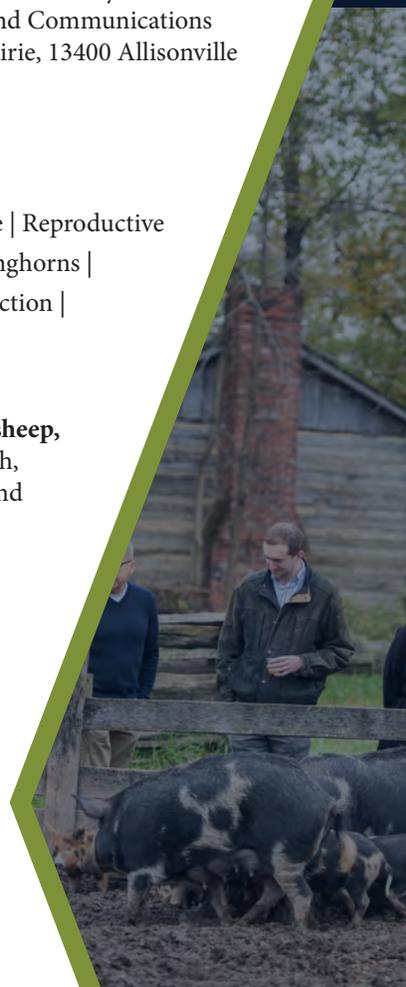
Special Saturday Workshop

Meet with Conner Prairie’s agriculture staff and learn about how they care for Conner Prairie’s heritage breed **sheep, goats, cattle, and hogs**. Topics will include low-stress livestock handling, guest and animal safety, animal health, breeding programs, and livestock selection. In this hands-on session, participants will have a chance to work and interact with the livestock. **This session will take place outdoors.**

SUNDAY POST-CONFERENCE CLINIC

Pig Reproduction and Artificial Insemination

This clinic will feature the use of advanced reproductive technologies in swine. The clinic will begin with a discussion of reproductive processes of the male and female pig and move on to demonstrate the basic techniques involved with pig artificial insemination using live animals. Attendees will learn how to detect estrus/heat, how to collect and evaluate semen (live demo & microscopes provided), and about semen processing and storage using simple low cost methods. Attendees will get hands-on experience with insemination and with diagnosing pregnancy using Real Time Ultrasound. Printed materials & light refreshments provided. Location: Purdue University, Dept. of Animal Sciences, Land of Lakes Center Arena, 270 S. Russell Street, West Lafayette, IN 47906. 90 minutes from Conner Prairie. Free parking. Minimum of 10 people, max 20.



TOP 5 TAKEAWAYS

- ▶ Methods to diversify your farm income
- ▶ Insight on breeding and selection from the experts
- ▶ Tools & Solutions for your ranch, farm, or homestead
- ▶ Ideas for raising livestock and poultry right in your backyard
- ▶ Famous Heritage breed meals!

Don't miss this opportunity to network with fellow rare breed enthusiasts!

Last year SOLD OUT!

The 2017 Heritage Livestock Conference SOLD OUT! Don't wait, register now. Visit LivestockConservancy.org for full session descriptions and to register!

CONFERENCE LOCATION



13400 Allisonville Rd., Fishers, IN 46038

Conner Prairie is one of the most visited outdoor museums in the country. On their grounds, every guest has the opportunity to pursue fun and knowledge in a way that is tailored to them. Get a closer look at their animals including English Longhorn cattle, Ossabaw Island hogs, Leicester Longwool sheep, and Arapawa goats.

Reserve your room at the host hotel:

Homewood Suites by Hilton Keystone Crossing

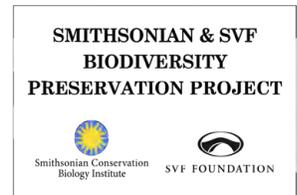
2501 E. 86th Street Indianapolis, IN 46240

Phone: (317) 253-1919

Reserve by: Wednesday, October 10, 2018

www.LivestockConference.org

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



RANDALL LINEBACK BREED ASSOCIATION

2018 Heritage Livestock Conference Registration

Register online at LivestockConference.org

Please select what you would like to attend. If registering more than one person, please copy this form or use a separate sheet of paper for each additional registration.

AMOUNT

Pre-Conference Clinics - 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Oxen Basics - \$69

\$ _____

Green Picket Fences - \$69

\$ _____

Breed Associations - Routes to Success (Part 1) - \$35

\$ _____

Pre-Conference Clinics - 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Charcuterie with Multiple Species - \$69

\$ _____

Breed Association - Routes to Success (Part 2) - \$35

\$ _____

SPECIAL: Sunday Post-Conference Clinic 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Pig Reproduction and Artificial Insemination Clinic - \$69

\$ _____

Conference - Friday 6:00pm - Saturday 6:00pm

Member - \$205 _____ Non-Member - \$250 _____

\$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED*

\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Payment Information

Check enclosed

Charge my credit card (AMEX, Visa, M/C, Discover)

Card number _____ CVV _____

Exp. Date ____ / ____ Billing zip code _____ Signature _____

Please send form(s) along with payment to:

The Livestock Conservancy

PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312

Questions? Please call 919-542-5704

or email:

athompson@LivestockConservancy.org

*Conference registration may be cancelled for a full refund with 30 day's notice. Less than 30 day's notice: non-refundable. Clinics are non-refundable.

Livestock and Sustainable Agriculture

Continued from page 10

breaks on such land.

Hogs can be used as self-motivational bulldozers to clear land of brush and open it up for cultivation. They can also glean fields after harvest or turn over compost to hasten its readiness for use as fertilizer.

Draft power is another important service provided by cattle, horses, donkeys, mules, buffalo, and other livestock. Globally, oxen are the most widely used draft animal, though horses are far more common in North America. The usual vision of Amish or Mennonites as the only farmers using horse teams is incomplete. More and more people appreciate the versatility, usefulness, and economy of animal power, particularly given the rising costs of fossil fuels. In addition, draft animals are increasingly being chosen for selective logging operations on private, federal, and state lands where minimal impact on remaining trees and soil is desired.

Interest is also returning in the use of livestock as part of a system of biological pest control. Swine, geese, chickens, and other poultry have traditionally been kept in orchards to control pests through the shifting of orchard debris and eating windfall fruit, grubs, weeds, and other pests. Sheep can also be used in orchards; for example, St. Croix sheep are now being used to control pests in macadamia nut plantations in Hawaii.

Using animal services is doubly beneficial. These services are themselves positive, but they can also replace expensive or potentially detrimental inputs, high energy use, or labor intensive practices – and at the same time producing marketable food and fiber products.

Rare Breeds for Sustainable Agriculture

Many rare breeds of livestock are good candidates for sustainable production systems. These breeds have characteristics and strengths very different from industrial types. They have not been selected to utilize high levels of inputs – such as high energy feed, air conditioning, heated barns, veterinary intervention, and antibiotics; in fact, they are most competitive with lower inputs. Generally, they are characterized by good foraging ability,

maternal instinct, reproductive efficiency, parasite and disease resistance, climate adaptation, and overall vigor. These are characteristics with value in low-input systems.

While crossbreeding has been heavily emphasized, many pure breeds have the ability to do the job just as well as a hybrid and can represent a better long term investment. Purebreds provide well-defined and proven genetics and give you as a breeder control over the next generation of animals. They also provide the opportunity to sell seed stock. In addition, participation with a pure breed puts you into a ready network of buyers – something essential to the development of alternative enterprises.

It is not always easy to find the right breed. Relatively little research on forage-based production has been done over the last fifty years. In fact, the narrowness of agricultural research is another reason that some breeds are rare – they have not had the opportunity to demonstrate what they do best. More research to document breed differences in low-input systems is desperately needed, and such research could provide highly beneficial to farmers.

Livestock Conservation

When the long list of animal services is understood, the complicated and rewarding interconnection between human beings and livestock becomes more obvious. Agricultural systems that use these complex inter-relationships of people, animals, and specific environments to the fullest extent are also the ones that benefit most from the availability of traditional breeds of livestock.

A consideration of livestock conservation must include this agricultural partnership between livestock and human beings. Conservation cannot be an abstract goal, but must include a substantive effort to protect all agricultural potential for the future through the active use of the genetic diversity that is currently available for truly productive agricultural systems. ❖

Don Bixby was the Conservancy's Executive Director from 1988-2002; Carolyn Christman was Program Coordinator from 1987 to 1999; Dr. Sponenberg has served as Technical Advisor since 1978.

UK Rare Breeds Survival Trust News

By John Wilkes

John Wilkes is a Livestock Conservancy Board member and Rare Breeds Survival Trust's North American Ambassador. He is a native of South Shropshire, England, and he and his American-born wife currently live outside of Washington, D.C.

The Livestock Conservancy and U.K. Rare Breed Survival Trust (RBST) share many of the same goals, values, and even some of the same animals on their respective Watch and Conservation Priority lists. They also share information and ideas.

RBST is headquartered in Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, England. As North American ambassador for RBST, I plan to visit the office and meet with staff to learn more on my September visit to the U.K.

Unable to meet with RBST on my last trip in May, I shot a short video while in the U.K in honor of International Heritage Breeds Week to promote both RBST and The Livestock Conservancy. The video ended up on the Livestock Conservancy's Twitter feed on May 23.

While filming in a South Shropshire meadow, there was a small and inquisitive herd of splendid English Longhorn cattle keeping rather a close eye on me. Fortunately, I avoided a stampede while recording with my iPhone.

Safely back in Washington, D.C., I had a recent catch-up conversation with Elizabeth Fearnley, RBST Communications Officer. Elizabeth is busy working to improve the RBST website along with fielding press inquiries and dealing with social media issues. Following the departure of former executive director, Tom Beeston, RBST staff has been busy.

Tom was a good friend to The Livestock Conservancy and will be missed after he decided to spend more time with his family. We wish Tom all the best in his future endeavors. A new executive director has not yet been announced. Nicole Lander is acting as interim CEO while RBST Trustees recruit for an appointment to take up the role later this year.

Elizabeth spoke to me about the increased workload during this interim



Sir Kim Darroch, British Ambassador to the U.S., and John Wilkes pose holding the RBST crook of office. Photo courtesy of John Wilkes.

period. She said, "We are all getting on with it and trying new things; putting our newsletters and membership monitoring online. We're more automated and have reduced physical input." She also mentioned RBST's continued efforts to target a much wider audience.

To that end, they are fortunate to have a solid working relationship with the BBC's prime time rural affairs show called Countryfile. It airs regularly on Sunday evenings and has 4.24 million viewers.

Longstanding Countryfile presenter Adam Henson is the son of RBST founder Joe Henson. Adam frequently features heritage and traditional breeds on the show.

Many Livestock Conservancy members will remember Libby Henson, sister to Adam. Libby gave a very interesting presentation on heritage breed conservation at the 2017 Livestock Conservancy conference in Colonial Williamsburg, VA. She also served as Livestock Conservancy Executive Director in the mid-1980s.

Countryfile's popularity in the U.K. is so great that it has its own annual summer country event. The show is held on the spectacular grounds of Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire – birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. This year, Countryfile Live 2018 will be held August 2-5; some 120,000 visitors are expected.

For RBST, this event affords access to thousands of urban dwellers who have

interest in rural lifestyle and conservation. Elizabeth Fearnley explained: "We've got two stands, one more corporate and the other with a range of heritage breed animals. Our breeders talk to the general public about their animals and try to sell memberships – hopefully we cover both bases."

Elizabeth also shared RBST's excitement as sponsor for inaugural British Charcuterie Awards at Countryfile Live 2018. Interest in charcuterie in the U.K. has grown at a phenomenal rate, particularly using native breeds. Elizabeth said, "I don't know what it's like in the States, but here it's really taking off."

In total there will be nine classes including classes for non-traditional breeds. RBST is hopeful a heritage breed will take the coveted Champion of Champions crown. Elizabeth said, "We've had some competitors enter five products each in the traditional breed classes, which is amazing."

Presently, the heavy horse is very much the focus for RBST conservation efforts. They are investing in their heavy horse campaign, as much like in the U.S., traditional breeds of horse are under severe pressure as numbers hit critically low levels. A stark recent front-page headline in major U.K. broadsheet *The Daily Telegraph* stated, "Shire horses could die out in the U.K. within 10 years, charity warns."

The original heavy horse campaign began last October. It was timed to coincide with the launch of the RBST National Gene Bank. In late July, RBST re-launched their heavy horse appeal with more focus on social media.

Elizabeth said a 60-second film about the UK heavy horse entitled "Save Our Working Class Heroes" was produced specifically for RBST social media platforms. They sought the advice of social media agencies to help build awareness and donations – \$50,000 has thus far been collected. This money will pay for semen collection from heavy horse stallions to help ensure survival of these gentle yet powerful giants. Three Suffolk stallions have been collected with the potential to put approximately 125 foals on the ground. This autumn, RBST will try to collect from two Clydesdales and two Shires.

RBST Rare Breeds of the Year Horse Show will be held on October 6th. The Livestock Conservancy's Senior Programs Manager, Jeannette Beranger, is scheduled

to attend, and RBST staff and members look forward to hosting Jeannette at the event. She will use this opportunity to record more videos for the horse gait study she has undertaken.

Summertime is show time within many agricultural communities in the U.K. RBST members form "support groups" and provide a presence at these customarily popular events to spread the word about traditional breed conservation.

These annual regional gatherings are traditionally a focal point for the rural community. They also attract large numbers of urban visitors keen to learn about the growing trend for heritage breeds and their conservation.

Elizabeth related a very proud moment this year for RBST during the Countryside Parade at the Royal Cornwall Show. At the front of the celebratory parade to honor His Royal Highness Prince Charles on his 70th birthday, Elizabeth said: "Members of our Cornwall Support Group led rare breeds at the head of the agricultural section in the procession. It was really cool!"

At the end of the parade HRH received a few selected gifts. RBST presented him with a Boreray lamb – a breed that originates from the islands of St. Kilda on the west coast of Scotland. The lamb was reunited with its mother after the official handover and will join the Prince's flock at his Highgrove Estate later in the year.

RBST was honored to play such a key role. HRH Prince Charles holds RBST in high regard. Elizabeth explained how very fortunate RBST is to enjoy "one of very few royal patronages bestowed by HRH."

She relayed another royal link in the campaign to raise awareness of the plight of the heavy horse. The Duchess of Cornwall was asked to name a shire foal at a recent official engagement in Wales and she chose "Merlin". The hope is some "magic" can now rub off on the mission to rescue the U.K. heavy horse from extinction. ❖

Save the Date!

**International Heritage
Breeds Week**

May 19-25, 2019

CLASSIFIEDS

Advertise in The Livestock Conservancy News. See ad rates on page 16. For more info, call 919-542-5704.

Breed Associations

The Livestock Conservancy runs this advertising section as a service to its members. It accepts the ads in good faith and trusts that buyers and sellers will exercise their own good judgment in completing any transactions.



ACDHA
AMERICAN CREAM DRAFT HORSE ASSOCIATION
Nancy H. Lively, Secretary
193 Crossover Road • Bennington, VT 05201
802-447-7612 • lively123@comcast.net

The "Cream" of Drafts
America's Only Native Draft Horse

Visit us at www.acdha.org

Our member advertisers help support this newsletter.



The American Romeldale/CVM Association, Inc.

For information on the sheep, wool and Breeder listing of this Critically Endangered Breed

www.arcainc.org

americanromeldale@gmail.com
registrar@glmregistry.com



Selecting
a Breed
Goes Beyond
Color



American Red Poll Association
PO Box 427 | Nancy, KY 42544 | 765-425-4515
arpa@americanredpolls.com | www.americanredpolls.com

Shetland Sheep



A Hardy, Heritage Breed
Newborn Vigor • Great Mothers
Eleven Natural Colors of Soft Wool



North American Shetland Sheepbreeders Association

<http://www.shetland-sheep.org/>

Pineywoods

Landrace • Heritage • Cattle



Bred • to • Survive

**Pineywoods Cattle Registry
& Breeders Association**

www.PCRBA.org

(601)795-4672

Spanish Goat Association



No Fees
No Politics
Just Breeders

www.spanishgoats.org
540-687-8871

Advertise in The Livestock Conservancy News. Email rwalker@livestockconservancy.org or call 919-542-5704.

Horse of the Americas, Inc. Colonial Spanish Horses



www.horseoftheamericas.com

Quarterly Newsletter
National Awards Program
2018 AIHR/HOA National Show

Gretchen Patterson, Registrar
601 S. Fredonia St.
Nacogdoches, TX 75961
glpatterson62@gmail.com



Spanish Barb Horse Association www.spanishbarb.com

Dedicated to the preservation, perpetuation and promotion
of the Spanish Barb Horse

Discover the Horse that Discovered America

Contact us today to join and help preserve the Spanish Barbs
info@SpanishBarb.com 520-797-1882



Karakul Shepherds Alliance
~where the flocks gather

info@karakulshepherds.org
Ads, Census, Open Flock Book & Sharing
Deborah Hunter, Registrar 206-371-0995, cell



MEISHAN PIGS

*"From The Ming Dynasty to the American Homestead-
Perfection 5000 years in the making"*

Join Online- Livestock Conservancy Members Use Coupon Code
Lc152018 for 15% off any membership level in the A.M.B.A.

info@meishanbreeders.com
www.meishanbreeders.com

Endangered • Docile • Pasture Friendly
Medium Sized • Delicious • Prolific • Distinctive

Come Join Us!



67th Annual Gathering
June 22-23, 2018
Lake Geneva, WI

Pre-registration Required

AMERICAN HIGHLAND CATTLE ASSOCIATION
303.659.2399 • info@highlandcattleusa.org



www.highlandcattleusa.org



Our member advertisers help support this newsletter.

AD RATES

WORD ADS: 25 cents/word.

CAMERA-READY DISPLAY ADS:
(Dimensions width x height)

1/4 page (3-1/2" x 4-3/4"), \$96/issue.

Business-card size (3-1/2" x 2"), \$32 /issue.

Maximum ad size: 1/4 page.

Additional charges for typesetting and photos.
10% discount for full-year insertion (4x) of display ads.

To place an ad or for more information, email
rwalker@livestockconservancy.org

Advertise in The Livestock Conservancy News.



**Breeders of the American
Rabbit N.S.C**

<http://www.americanrabbits.org/>
AmericanRabbits@yahoo.com

**Stock available
nation-wide**

Be Part of the American Story



JACOB SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Dedicated to conserving Jacob sheep
through registration and education.

Discover this majestic, heritage breed!!

www.jsba.org

**Bold
and
Beautiful**

**Barbados
Blackbelly**
Sheep
Association
International

American Blackbelly

www.blackbellysheep.org

Ruminants for a small planet

Sheep for all seasons and all reasons

Productive foragers and grazers.
Easy to manage with minimal fencing.
Distinctive wool to spin, weave and knit.
Very suited to sustainable farming on small
landbase and multi-species pasturing.
Lean, mild and tender meat.



For more information contact
**The American Black Welsh
Mountain Sheep Association**
www.blackwelsh.org
P.O. Box 534, Paonia, CO 81428

America's favorite
homestead hog

www.guineahogs.org

**American Guinea
Hog Association**

Advertise in The Livestock Conservancy News. For more info, call (919) 542-5704 or email rwalker@livestockconservancy.org.

The Dutch Belted Cattle Association of America has the original and only herdbook for Dutch Belted Dairy Cattle

Since 1886 the DBCAA has been continuously recording the royal lineage of this noble breed, preserving and carrying it forward from its origin in the pastures of the Netherlands to the pastures of America's dairymen.

THE SOURCE OF THE BELTED GENETICS FOR ALL OTHER BELTED CATTLE



1820s - Dutch
A.R. Record M, 33M 779P
From the J.A. Wilson herd, Brunswick, ME

Cornell D. Upson, President
3724 County Hwy 33
Cherry Valley, NY 13320-3021
607-264-3108



2005 - Dutch-Herd
4-06 3874 11A28m 3.7% 57M 3.0m 47.5p
5-05 3214 14.209m 3.69% 530F 3.00% 44.2p
Bred by Vandenberg, owned by Bohannon

www.DutchBelted.com



American Kerry Cattle Association

- 🍀 Critical Endangered Breed List.
- 🍀 Original Celtic Dairy Cow.
- 🍀 Gentle Family Milk Cows.
- 🍀 Milk 🍀 Cheese 🍀 Ice Cream.

<http://www.americankerrycattleassociation.com>

Visit us on 



Since 1623
**American Milking
Devon Association**
John & Bonnie Hall, Westbrook, CT
(860)399-4611
johnandbonniehall610@comcast.net

THE MILKING DEVON
America's First Cattle
The sturdy "reds" provided the Pilgrims the meat, milk and oxen to clear the land, plow the fields, and build the walls to establish the Plymouth Colony.

NAVAJO-CHURRO SHEEP ASSOCIATION

Established 1986

Website: www.navajo-churrosheep.com

Registrar:
c/o Connie Taylor
P.O. Box 1994
El Prado, NM 87529
churrosheep@mac.com

Business Office:
c/o Bonnie Barcus
P.O. Box 190840
Boise, ID 83719-0840
spldanceacres@gmail.com



America's oldest domestic sheep breed

Great mothers, easy lambing, hardy
Lustrous double coated fleece

Livestock & Poultry



Preserving Breed Standards since 1983



- No Shearing
- Parasite Resistant
- Hoof-Rot Resistant
- Non-Selective Grazers
- Easy to Handle
- Fine-Grained Low-Fat Meat

Polled & White!
www.StCroixHairSheep.org

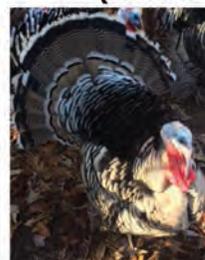
Peacock Hill Farm



**Kangal
Livestock Guardian
Dog**
**Puppies &
Stud Service**



Low Country Goats
Bucklings for sale
(Picture of Sire)



**Heritage
Turkeys**

Eleanor 770-860-8989
Eleanor@MeyerMedical.net

MEISHAN PIGS

- *Most Genetically Diverse Herd in North America*
- *Pedigreed* Registered*
- * Breeder Pairs Available* We Ship*
- *We Mentor Our Customers*

God's Blessing Farm LLC
Niota TN. 37826

www.godsblessingfarm.com
rico@godsblessingfarm.com
865-388-5712



Advertise in The Livestock Conservancy News. For more info, call (919) 542-5704 or email rwalker@livestockconservancy.org.

El Campeon Farms

Hidden Valley
Thousand Oaks, California

Proudly preserving Santa Cruz Island Horses

Contact: Christy Reich, Herd Manager
(310) 729-5105 ~ creich@elcampeonfarms.com

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @santacruzislandhorses



Gonzales, California
800-424-7755

Extensive website:
www.metzerfarms.com
Nationwide Shipping



We specialize in waterfowl with over 30 breeds of ducks & geese - heritage, meat, eggs, beauty, pest and weed control.

GREENFIRE FARMS

PRESERVING THE WORLD'S RAREST CHICKENS



CHICKS SHIPPING EVERY WEEK, YEAR-ROUND
OVER 30 ORIGINAL IMPORTS INCLUDING:



CREAM LEGBAR - BIELEFELDER - AMERICAN BRESSE
AYAM CEMANI - SWEDISH FLOWER HEN - ISBAR

WWW.GREENFIREFARMS.COM

850.574.0199

Desert Weyr

Black Welsh Mountain Sheep



Our flock is US and UK Registered,
Scrapie Program Export Qualified
and NSIP Recorded

Ken & Oogie McGuire
16870 Garvin Mesa Road
Paonia, CO 81428

(970) 527-3573

www.desertweyr.com sales@desertweyr.com



Amber Waves
Registered African Pygmy Goats

We Ship Worldwide

Ph. (951) 736-1076
Fax (866) 302-2817
debbie@amberwaves.info
www.amberwavespygmygoats.com



WWW.HEARTLANDHIGHLANDCATTLEASSOCIATION.ORG

REGISTERED
HIGHLAND CATTLE

417-345-0575

**HEARTLAND HIGHLAND
CATTLE ASSOC.**

976 STATE HWY. 64
TUNAS, MO 65764

HEARTLANDHIGHLANDCATTLE@GMAIL.COM

FREE INFORMATIONAL PACKET AVAILABLE



OSTARA MORGANS



Silver has direct sire line to Red Correll ensuring his foals have a quiet mind, athletic ability and versatility.



Triple S Silver Dollar
2001 stallion

Stock for Sale

WWW.OSTARAMORGANS.COM
Hillsboro WI 608-490-1126

Miscellaneous



Dodo.

The Rare Breeds Survival Trust was founded to protect the 70 breeds of poultry, cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, horses and ponies that are under the threat of extinction.

Many are on the critical list. Together, we can save them from disappearing. Forever.

If you'd like to help, please contact us. With your support, we can make extinction a thing of the past.



No no.

RBST
Rare Breeds Survival Trust
Making extinction a thing of the past
+44 (0)24 7669 6551
www.rbst.org.uk enquiries@rbst.org.uk

Rare Breeds Survival Trust, National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LG, UK. Registered Charity 269442.



Animals Thrive on Thorvin



Thorvin™
World's Finest Nutrients
100% Organic Kelp

- Nature's most complete mineral source
- Loaded with bioavailable nutrients
- For just pennies a day



www.thorvin.com
800.464.0417

Small Farmer's Journal
Defending Small Farms and Craftsmanship Since 1976.



a quarterly periodical for forty years and counting, championing human-scale agriculture and living as a natural act.

www.smallfarmersjournal.com
PO Box 1627, Sisters, OR 97759
800-876-2893 • 541-549-2064

The Livestock Conservancy
PO Box 477
Pittsboro, NC 27312 U.S.A.

Change Service Requested

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Pittsboro, NC
Permit # 50

DATED MATERIAL

CALENDAR

★ ★ denotes Livestock Conservancy event
★ denotes Conservancy participation
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@livestock-conservancy.org or mail to PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

September

September 6-8 – The 2018 Rocky Mountain Horse Association International Grand Championship Horse Show will be held at the Kentucky Horse Park; a general membership meeting will be on September 5th. Visit www.rmhorse.com or email executivedirector@rmhorse.com for more information.

★ **September 14-16 – The Mother Earth News Fair** will be held in Seven Springs, PA. 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.motherearthnewsfair.com for more information.

September 20-22 – The Navajo-Churro Sheep Association Annual General Meeting will be held in Cortez, CO. For more information, visit www.navajo-churrosheep.com/.

September 23-24 – The Oregon Flock & Fiber Festival will be held in Canby, OR. The festival includes workshops, demonstrations,

livestock shows, seminars, and kids' activities. Visit www.flockandfiberfestival.com for more information.

September 27-30 - The American Milking Devon 2018 Regional Show will be held in conjunction with the Virginia State Fair, Meadow Event Park, Doswell, VA 23047. This first-ever AMD Mid-Atlantic Regional Show, a great opportunity to showcase our tri-purpose breed to 50,000 visitors per day. Email OLDGJEPENFARM@yahoo.com or call Richard Larson, 540-829-5683 for more information.

October

October 6-7 – The 2018 Heritage Breeds Festival will be held at Ayrshire Farm in Upperville, VA. This family-friendly event includes demonstrations, hayrides, games, meat tastings, music, and more. Seeking exhibitors and vendors to display heritage breeds and sell agricultural/heritage breed related merchandise to the public. For more information contact Crystal Ritenour at 540-905-9031 or critenour@ayrshirefarm.com.

October 13 – The Canadian Horse Expo will be held in Harwinton, CT, with under saddle/harness demonstrations, equine-related seminars, presentations, and a Breeder's Barn featuring farms, horses for sale, and stallions standing at stud from Canada and the U.S. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/canadianhorseexpo, email threefoldfarm@comcast.net, or call 978-697-7910.

★ **October 13-14 – The Mother Earth News Fair** will be held in Topeka, KS. 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.motherearthnewsfair.com for more information.

October 16-21 – The American Dairy Goat Association Annual Convention will be held in Minneapolis, MN. Visit www.ADGA.org or call 707-829-5270 for more information.

October 26-28 – The Sixth Annual Donkey Welfare Symposium will be held in Davis, CA. This year's theme is "Donkey Psychology and Behavior: a Celebration of the Thoughtful and Loyal." In-depth course on behavior shaping, theory, and practice, including lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on exercises; a BLM burro adoption event, and scientific lectures on research related to donkey biology, medicine, and the protection of endangered donkey breeds. For more information, visit donkeywelfaresymposium.homestead.com, or email donkeysympo-

Ayrshire Farm®

2018 Heritage Breeds Festival

Cows · Pigs · Horses · Donkeys · Rabbits · Sheep · Goats

October 6 & 7, 2018 ∞ 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Upperville, Virginia

Exhibitors & Vendors Wanted

Don't miss this opportunity to display your heritage breeds & sell agricultural/heritage breed related merchandise to the public

Participate as an Exhibitor, Vendor, or both;
one or both days



Family-friendly event including demonstrations, hayrides, games, meat tastings, music, and more!

For more information contact Crystal Ritenour
540.905.9031 or critenour@ayrshirefarm.com

