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Conserving rare breeds since 1977

THE LIVESTOCK CONSERVANCY™ NEWS

2015 Conservation Priority List Released

Each year the Livestock Conservancy updates the *Conservation Priority List*. Census numbers for livestock breeds are gathered from breed associations throughout the year, along with their reports of trends, issues, and triumphs. For the landrace breeds that don't have formal registries we rely on the network of relationships we have with the breeders themselves to carefully craft estimates of breeding populations. Global population estimates are important for "transboundary breeds", those that are present in more than one country. Sources of information for these breeds include international conservation organizations, breed associations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and university scientists who are knowledgeable about the status of certain breeds and breeders in their country.

All of this information provides a rich context for our two-day

long review examining each breed on the *Conservation Priority List*. Using the criteria you see at the top of each list and the knowledge gained from our conservation partners, we discuss the status of each breed and make appropriate changes. This year's changes are as follows:

Established trends for pigs, sheep and horses in the past five years continue to influence their status. Ever since the economic downturn in 2008, demand for horses has been low, and feed costs have been high in recent years due to drought and (until late 2014) fuel costs. As a consequence, horse breeders are breeding fewer foals each year. Canadian horses move



Dales Ponies are now listed as Critically Endangered. These two are owned by the Hamilton Rare Breeds Foundation. Photo by Jeannette Beranger.

from *Threatened* to *Critical*, and only 174 foals were registered in 2013. This versatile horse is an ancestor of the Morgan – Traditional, and is useful under saddle or driving for work or pleasure. The **Dales Pony** originated in the United Kingdom (U.K.), where its population has fallen to slightly more than 1500, necessitating a move from *Threatened* to *Critical*. The closely related Fell Pony is more popular and remains in the *Watch* category. Dales and other native ponies of England were once used as small draft animals for mining and farms. Known for their stamina and gentle personalities, they are excellent choices today for driving, riding, therapy

horses, and draft work on small properties.

Lincoln sheep also move from *Watch* to *Threatened* because of declining populations in the U.K. Dairy cows, sheep, and pigs have been on the decline there since 1996. In recent years several endangered British breeds have faced greater challenges, despite the strong advocacy efforts of Britain's Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST). Global numbers of Lincoln sheep are now less than 10,000. Fortunately, the National Lincoln Sheep Breeders Association continues to register more than 700 per year in the United States, thanks to the association's promotion efforts and breeder support. Lincoln sheep are a longwool breed, with distinctive lustrous, curly locks of wool. Lincoln wool has found fans among spinners, artists, and crafters, and is used to make everything from woven rugs to wall tapestries to

dolls' wigs. Lincolns are also well muscled and achieve a large size as a meat sheep. They have a calm disposition that makes them suitable for beginners.

The outlook for heritage pigs, on the other hand, continues very strong. Heritage pork has surged in popularity, and it is no wonder! The fuller flavor of heritage breeds, especially when raised on pasture, appeals to consumers and chefs alike. Heritage breeds have also found favor (and flavor) as charcuterie pigs, and it is now possible to find delicacies such as sopressata and bresaola alongside sausages and salamis in many stores, restaurants, and

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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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Commitment to Transparency

The Livestock Conservancy is proud to announce it recently received the GuideStar Exchange Gold participation level, a leading symbol of transparency and accountability provided by GuideStar USA, Inc., the premier source of nonprofit information. This level demonstrates the Conservancy's deep commitment to nonprofit transparency and accountability.

"We have worked hard to showcase our progress toward our mission, and our long-held belief in being transparent about our work, with our constituents," said Executive Director Eric Hallman.



The GuideStar Exchange is an initiative designed to connect nonprofits with current and potential supporters. With millions of people coming to GuideStar to learn more about nonprofit organizations, the GuideStar Exchange allows nonprofits to share a wealth of up-to-date information with GuideStar's many audiences. ♦

New Display Donated

The Livestock Conservancy is thrilled to have a new, professional 7.5' x 10' display donated by member Marc Mousseau and his company, Moose Exhibits! Moose Exhibits is a full-service exhibit house catering to the needs of large and small corporations alike; it provides the entire range of product and services from conception to completion for their trade show marketing programs.

The Conservancy will be using the new display for events where staff is present and conditions are appropriate such as indoor events or in places protected from the elements to keep it in pristine condition. The Conservancy will still ship its other displays to members around the country who would like to set up a tabletop exhibit at events. Brochures, *Conservation Priority Lists*, and other educational materials can also be sent upon request. To request materials for an event, contact Ryan Walker at rwalker@livestockconservancy.org or call (919) 542-5704. To learn more about Moose Exhibits, visit www.mooseexhibits.com.



The Conservancy's new professional display was donated by Moose Exhibits.

FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR



By Alison Martin

What a relief to have February behind us. After one of the warmest Januarys on record here in North Carolina, all of our winter weather arrived in February. Mother Nature has a cruel sense of humor – too bad that this moisture won't go to where it is needed in the West.

The Livestock Conservancy is beginning a strategic planning period. Although our first meeting got snowed under, it's suitable that we address our long-term vision at this time of the year. The annual review of the *Conservation Priority List* encourages us to think about the big picture for the breeds we serve and the needs of our members, breeders, and associations. It's once again time to expand our view to look at the entire landscape for the organization. Feedback from you, our members, is essential in this process – let us know if we're on the right track or the wrong track, and what needs more emphasis or less. Share your thoughts in our online survey at <http://goo.gl/wFLdZQ>, find the survey in the previous newsletter, or contact me for a copy.

This organization does an amazing number of things with limited resources. Serving the needs of eleven species, over 190 breeds, almost 150 breed associations, and thousands of members means that no two days are alike. Projects are juggled

when urgent needs arise or when unique opportunities present themselves. Here are the major program areas that we have in play at this time:

Swine initiative: This three-year initiative has yielded some wonderful tools for those who raise and breed heritage swine, or want to. A web page to pull these tools together in one place should be in place in the next few months. Five breed associations shared their herdbooks for this project and four have already received breeding recommendations. Carcass characteristics of eight breeds were published by our partners at University of Kentucky (<https://dhn-hes.ca.uky.edu/content/heritage-hog-carcass-yields>), while University of Missouri is developing educational guides for heritage breed swine growers that should be available by fall. An enterprise budget and worksheet for market planning are also available. Heritage breed swine are tremendously more popular now than they were at the beginning of this project, and four breeds have moved from *Critical* to *Threatened* in the last three years. Looking to the future, a work weekend is planned for April to help get the Choctaw hog project back on track, as we have not been able to accelerate progress as much as we'd like. Thanks to a generous donor and partnership from USDA, we're also assisting two breed associations with plans for importing semen from British pig breeds. The swine initiative has been funded primarily by USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program.

Census: Perhaps one of the most important programs the Conservancy manages, census is also one of the most invisible. It is also more resource intensive than it would appear. The Conservancy's continual efforts to understand the status

Welcome to our Newest Life Members!

The Livestock Conservancy would like to give a special thanks to these members who recently chose to support the Conservancy and its conservation programs by becoming life members.

Kelli Dunaj
Marshall, CA

Michael Anthony & Autumn Elizabeth Pena
Bunssum, The Netherlands

of 190-plus breeds have made us a trusted conservation resource throughout the world. This year we will launch a census of more than 90 poultry breeds, including chickens, turkeys and waterfowl.

Master Breeder: Some ten years ago this program was launched to identify and interview Master Breeders to capture their knowledge and transmit it to a broader audience than any individual alone can do. Interviews are typically scheduled when travels for other projects take us to a region where we have the opportunity to visit Master Breeder farms. Their wisdom and knowledge have appeared directly or indirectly in the Conservancy's educational materials, books, and articles. Whenever possible we try to connect new stewards with experienced stewards and Master Breeders, by phone and at the Conservancy's workshops and annual conference, such as the wonderful panel of Texas Longhorn breeders who shared their knowledge in Austin in 2014. There is always more to learn about the rare breeds we work with and the best practices these breeders have developed.

Poultry Recovery Project: The *Conservation Priority List* includes more breeds of chickens than any other species, and the ever growing popularity of chickens, turkeys, and waterfowl make them an important element of our work, especially when it comes to education and training. In 2011, building upon the success of the Buckeye recovery project, we launched a project to restore productivity to Java chickens. In 2011-2013, we were successful in bringing attention to the breed, recruiting new breeders, and placing chicks. During the last two years, we have not been able to devote the time to the project that it needs for complete success and are exploring other ways to complete it. Training poultry farmers to select quality breeding stock and follow-through by breeders are important to restoring productivity to Javas and all other poultry breeds. We teach a workshop on this 2-10 times a year. If you cannot attend a workshop and would like to learn more about selection of chickens or turkeys, the methods are well illustrated in the manuals on the Livestock Conservancy web site, and staff can provide guidance.

In 2014, we encountered a unique opportunity to hatch and distribute Beltsville Small White turkeys, a breed that has all

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Conservation Priority List

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farmers markets. This year **Large Black hogs** and **Gloucestershire Old Spots hogs** move from *Critical* to *Threatened*, joining moves in 2014 by Guinea Hogs and Red Wattle hogs. Both breeds hail from Great Britain, where they are also endangered – the Large Black more so than the Gloucestershire Old Spots. These breeds both descend from the Old English pig, a large, lop-eared type, and were genetically influenced by small, fat pigs of Asian origin in the late 18th century. The Gloucestershire Old Spots and Large Black were easy-keeping cottage pigs and also raised for pork, bacon, and lard by small producers until early in the 20th century. They work well for these same purposes today.

This year, we are adding **Large Fowl American Game chickens** to the *Study* category. There is great genetic diversity among game fowl beyond those currently recognized by the American Poultry Association. Many bloodlines of game fowl have very long histories and pedigrees, often tracing back centuries. The Livestock Conservancy does not endorse fighting, which is banned in all 50 states. Many game fowl are now bred for hobby, exhibition, and meat. Early writings emphasize the delicious flavor of early game fowl, and The Livestock Conservancy has



A Large Black boar on pasture at Cabbage Hill Farm. Photo by Jeannette Beranger.



Lincoln sheep have moved from the Watch category to the Threatened category.
Photo courtesy of Brian Larson.

launched a pilot project to reintroduce them to the table. Game fowl of all kinds are threatened, in part, because they are more challenging to raise than other fowl. While seldom aggressive toward people, males must be isolated from each other.

There has been little change to the poultry in the past few years. Unlike livestock, the process for census of poultry is much more labor intensive. We have conducted census for some individual breeds with the help of breed clubs, but the last comprehensive census of poultry

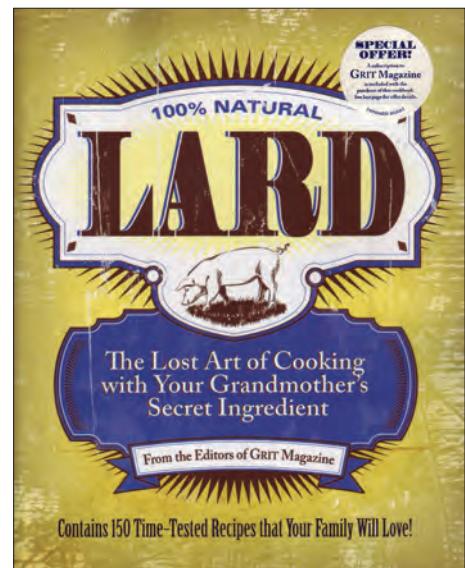
is ten years old. Thanks to funding from Murray McMurray Hatchery, we're excited to announce that the next comprehensive census of chickens, turkeys, and waterfowl will begin this summer. The popularity of poultry has grown tremendously since the last census. An increase in poultry numbers may drive changes to the *Conservation Priority List*. Breed clubs that are interested in launching a census of their own breed can contact the Conservancy's technical staff for forms. ♦

The Wonders of Lard

By Karen K. Will

Heritage breed pigs fell out of favor in the 20th century when hydrogenated vegetable shortening replaced lard in cooking, and petroleum products replaced lard in machinery lubrication, and even soap making. Now cooks have rediscovered how amazing lard is for baking. It's also essential to recreating family recipes such as fried chicken. Karen Keb Will is the editor of Lard: The Lost Art of Cooking with Your Grandmother's Secret Ingredient, published in 2012 by the editors of Grit magazine. The book can be found in many traditional and online booksellers.

The modern diet, with its emphasis on low-fat, fat-free, and “healthy” fats like canola oil and margarine, is just that ... the product of modern industry. Low-fat diets have been squarely discredited in the last few years and what's now becoming accepted is that saturated fats from animal



(and vegetable) sources provide needed energy in the diet; they provide essential building blocks for cell membranes; and they act as carriers of the fat-soluble vitamins A, D, E, and K. Fats from animal

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Conservation Priority Livestock Breeds 2015

Critical: Fewer than 200 annual registrations in the United States and estimated global population less than 2,000. For rabbits, fewer than 50 annual registrations in the United States and estimated global population less than 500.

Threatened: Fewer than 1,000 annual registrations in the United States and estimated global population less than 5,000. For rabbits, fewer than 100 annual registrations in the United States and estimated global population less than 1,000.

Watch: Fewer than 2,500 annual registrations in the United States and estimated global population less than 10,000. For rabbits, fewer than 200 annual registrations in the United States and estimated global population less than 2,000. Also included for all livestock are breeds that present genetic or numerical concerns or have a limited geographic distribution.

Recovering: Breeds that were once listed in another category and have exceeded Watch category numbers but are still in need of monitoring.

Study: Breeds that are of genetic interest but either lack definition or lack genetic or historical documentation.

	Critical	Threatened	Watch	Recovering	Study
Cattle	Canadienne Dutch Belted Florida Cracker Kerry Lincoln Red Milking Devon Milking Shorthorn – Native ¹ Randall or Randall Lineback Texas Longhorn ²	Ancient White Park Pineywoods Red Poll	Ayrshire Galloway Guernsey	Ankole-Watusi Belted Galloway Devon or Beef Devon Dexter Highland	Chirikof Island Criollo (North Central Mexican)
Goats	Arapawa San Clemente		Spanish	Myotonic or Tennessee Fainting Oberhasli	Golden Guernsey
Pigs	Choctaw Mulefoot Ossabaw Island	Gloucestershire Old Spots Guinea Hog Large Black Red Wattle Tamworth	Hereford		Saddleback
Rabbits	American Chinchilla	American Belgian Hare Blanc de Hotot Silver Silver Fox	Beveren Giant Chinchilla Lilac Rhineland	Crème d'Argent	Harlequin
Sheep	Florida Cracker Gulf Coast or Gulf Coast Native Hog Island Leicester Longwool Romeldale / CVM Santa Cruz	Black Welsh Mountain Clun Forest Cotswold Dorset Horn Jacob – American Karakul – American Lincoln Navajo-Churro St. Croix	Oxford Shropshire Tunis	Barbados Blackbelly Shetland Southdown Wiltshire Horn	

Breeds unique to North America are printed in bold.

¹ Some Milking Shorthorns qualify for the "N" (Native) designation. These animals have pedigrees tracing only to ancestors registered before the herdbook was opened to outcrosses with other dairy breeds; this is a globally endangered population. The status of any Milking Shorthorn can be verified through the AMSS.

² Cattlemen's Texas Longhorn Registry.



THE LIVESTOCK CONSERVANCY™

Conservation Priority Equine Breeds 2015

Critical: Fewer than 200 annual registrations in the United States and estimated global population less than 2,000.

Threatened: Fewer than 1,000 annual registrations in the United States and estimated global population less than 5,000.

Watch: Fewer than 2,500 annual registrations in the United States and estimated global population less than 10,000. Also included for all livestock are breeds that present genetic or numerical concerns or have a limited geographic distribution.

Recovering: Breeds that were once listed in another category and have exceeded Watch category numbers but are still in need of monitoring.

Study: Breeds that are of genetic interest but either lack definition or lack genetic or historical documentation.

	Critical	Threatened	Watch	Recovering	Study
Donkeys	Poitou	American Mammoth Jackstock		Miniature Donkey	
Horses	American Cream Canadian Caspian Cleveland Bay Colonial Spanish Strains¹ Banker ^{2,4} Choctaw ^{2,3} Florida Cracker ² Marsh Tacky ² Santa Cruz ² Wilbur-Cruce ² Dales Pony Galiceño Hackney Horse Morgan – Traditional⁵ Newfoundland Pony Shire Suffolk	Akhal-Teke Colonial Spanish – Combined ¹ Dartmoor Exmoor Lipizzan	Clydesdale Fell Pony Gotland Irish Draught Mountain Pleasure/ Rocky Mountain	Belgian	

Breeds unique to North America are printed in bold.

¹ Includes horses registered by the Spanish Mustang Registry, Southwest Spanish Mustang Association, Spanish Barb Breeders Association, Horse of the Americas, American Indian Horse Registry, and several strain-specific registries. Feral horses from the Cerbat, Pryor, and Sulphur areas include many that would meet the criteria as well as some that do not.

² Colonial Spanish horse strains that are bred in isolation and also contribute to the combined population.

³ Includes Cherokee and Huasteca influenced horses.

⁴ Includes Shackleford, Ocracoke, Corolla, Carrot, Core, Hatteras, and Cedar horses.

⁵ Includes horses whose pedigrees are absent of outcrosses after 1930



Conservation Priority Poultry Breeds 2015

Critical: Fewer than 500 breeding birds in the United States, with five or fewer primary breeding flocks (50 birds or more), and estimated global population less than 1,000.

Threatened: Fewer than 1,000 breeding birds in the United States, with seven or fewer primary breeding flocks, and estimated global population less than 5,000.

Watch: Fewer than 5,000 breeding birds in the United States, with ten or fewer primary breeding flocks, and estimated global population less than 10,000. Also included are breeds that present genetic or numerical concerns or have a limited geographic distribution.

Recovering: Breeds that were once listed in another category and have exceeded Watch category numbers but are still in need of monitoring.

Study: Breeds that are of genetic interest but either lack definition or lack genetic or historical documentation.

	Critical	Threatened	Watch	Recovering	Study
Chickens	Campine Chantecler Crevecoeur Holland Modern Game Nankin Redcap Russian Orloff Spanish Sultan Sumatra Yokohama	Andalusian Buckeye Buttercup Cubalaya Delaware Dorking Faverolle Java Lakenvelder Langshan Malay Phoenix	Ancona Aseel Brahma Catalana Cochin Cornish Dominique Hamburg Houdan Jersey Giant La Fleche Minorca New Hampshire Old English Game Polish Rhode Island White Sebright Shamo	Australorp Leghorn – Non-industrial Orpington Plymouth Rock Rhode Island Red – Non industrial Sussex Wyandotte	Araucana ¹ Icelandic Large Fowl American Game Manx Rumpy or Persian Rumpless Saipan
Ducks	Ancona Aylesbury Magpie Saxony Silver Appleyard Welsh Harlequin	Buff or Orpington Cayuga	Campbell Rouen – Non-industrial Swedish	Runner or Indian Runner	Australian Spotted Dutch Hookbill
Geese	American Buff Cotton Patch Pilgrim Pomeranian Roman Shetland Steinbacher	Sebastopol	African Chinese Toulouse – Non-industrial		Gray
Turkeys	Beltsville Small White Chocolate Jersey Buff Lavender/Lilac Midget White	Narragansett White Holland	Black Bourbon Red Standard Bronze Royal Palm Slate		Naturally mating, non-standard varieties of turkeys

Breeds unique to North America are printed in bold.

¹ Araucana and Ameraucanas are often confused with each other and may be sold interchangeably.

From the Program Director

Continued from page 3

but disappeared from farms. Though unplanned, if we had allowed this opportunity to slip by, it might not have come again. Poult were placed at five farms in 2014. These efforts continue in 2015, and we hope to move the Beltsville Small White turkey from *Critical* to *Threatened* within two years.

Technical staff are planning a poultry census to begin in 2015 (see page 4). The American Poultry Association, breed clubs, and commercial poultry hatcheries are important partners in this work.

Breed Associations and Registries:

Breed associations play a vital role in breed conservation. They have direct contact with many breeders, promote breeds, and often are primary sources for breeding information for their members, all actions that help endangered breeds thrive. As with all organizations, from time to time challenges arise. The Livestock Conservancy assists and counsels breed associations when needed, on matters ranging from forming new associations, by-law changes, and registration procedures, to calming troubled waters. These needs are hard to predict in advance, and usually require quick responses. The Conservancy also helps promote association meetings and events, and serves as a neutral party to count election ballots.

Some breeds are not represented by breed associations, so the Conservancy manages registries for Ossabaw Island pigs, Hog Island sheep, Santa Cruz Island horses, Santa Cruz Island sheep, Wiltshire Horn sheep, and Marsh Tacky horses. Dr. Phil Sponenberg also registers Pineywoods cattle. Throughout its history, the Conservancy has created or managed 20 more breed registries, often assisting in the birth of the breed associations that now operate those registries.

Discovery and Rescue: While discovery work often must be opportunistic because of limited travel funds, the Conservancy has two discovery projects moving forward in 2015.

In January, board member John Wilkes photographed native Hawaiian sheep and goats and met with several flock managers on state and private lands in Hawaii. Evaluation of these flocks began in 2013, and thanks to John's observations, we now have a better sense of which flocks are most important to conserve. We can begin to help the land managers craft conservation plans and hope to obtain DNA samples for testing.

Another project that may evolve quickly involves Chirikof Island cattle (which may be renamed Aleutian Island cattle, because cattle are present on a number of islands). The Livestock Conservancy, USDA's National Animal Germplasm Program (NAGP) scientists, University of Alaska, and other partners have designed a plan for harvesting gonadal samples from mature Aleutian Island bulls and cows.

NAGP's laboratories have the technology to harvest and store such samples, which can be used to generate embryos to reconstitute Aleutian cattle in other locations. Because of the immense challenges posed by the location of Chirikof Island, this plan offers the most certain possibility of ensuring the future of Aleutian Island cattle. Our hope is to complete this work during a roundup by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and, while there are still many unknowns, this could occur as early as this summer. (For more information about the cattle of Chirikof Island, see *Feral Cattle on Chirikof Island*, ALBC News March-April 2009, and *An Island for Cattle and Seabirds: Chirikof Island at a Crossroads*, The Livestock Conservancy News, Spring 2014.)

The Alaskan cattle project is also an example of breed rescue, when important groups of animals can no longer stay where they are and face dispersal or worse. Rescue situations can be seldom be planned much in advance. Conservancy staff always stand ready for possible rescues, following strict criteria to ensure that our time is used wisely.

Secure and Sustain: The needs of each breed on the *Conservation Priority List* evolve over time. By staying in touch with breed associations and breeders, we try to understand when breed status is stable and when to respond to evolving needs. Plans for 2015 range from developing breeding recommendations for a number of the breeds listed as *Critical*, a genetic recovery program for Ossabaw Island hogs, and

Wikipedia Updates

The Livestock Conservancy could use some help updating our information on Wikipedia! The Conservancy's main page is mostly up to date, but many pages for the breeds on our *Conservation Priority List* (nearly 200) link to our old name and website, have no mention of the breeds being endangered or of The Livestock Conservancy, or have no page at all. From an online breed-marketing perspective, having a Wikipedia page is very important, as Wikipedia pages constantly rank highly in search engines and are often the first place people go to look for information about the breeds. These pages can link back to



WIKIPEDIA

The Free Encyclopedia

the Conservancy's website and your breed associations' under "External Links."

If you would like to update your breed's Wikipedia page, follow the steps below:

1. Go to www.wikipedia.org.
2. Search for a breed name.
3. If you find a page for your breed, go to step 6.
4. If no page exists for your breed, on the

Search Results page, click "ask for it to be created".

5. Click the link to create a new page yourself, or click "Wikipedia: Requested Articles" and submit your request for another Wikipedia volunteer to create an article about your breed for you.
 6. Review the breed page to ensure information is accurate and up to date.
 7. If changes or additions are needed, click the "edit" tab at the top of the page.
 8. Make any edits or additions needed (don't forget to mention the Conservancy and the breed's Conservation Priority status) and click "Save." You can also preview your edits before saving.
- That's it – thanks for helping out!♦

identification of Caspian horse bloodlines. We are also thinking long-range about the frozen repositories at NAGP laboratories, both in terms of adding to the inventory and developing a strategy for using frozen inventory to restore lost bloodlines in the future.

Train the Next Generation: In the last several years the Conservancy has been very effective in expanding the audience for heritage breeds. Last year's *From Service to Stewardship* workshop for military veterans and our Chicks in Schools project launched in 2013 educated some who may become the next heritage breed stewards. Heritage breeds now live at several more zoos and historical farms, where the general public can learn about these wonderful breeds. In 2015, staff will give presentations to audiences ranging from local college students, to living history farm curators, to heirloom seed savers, to homesteaders. Heritage breeds will be promoted through articles in the popular press, E-news, blogs, social media, books such as *An Introduction to Heritage Breeds*, and our new podcast series. Social media coverage of the Conservancy has grown exponentially in the last three years.

Of course, our members are also active in spreading the news about heritage breeds. We encourage participation in our podcasts and others, as well as media coverage when the opportunity arises. Members can borrow a tabletop display for events, and we will send you brochures and handouts, or you can print your own from the website. The Livestock Conservancy's Annual Conference provides learning and networking opportunities for breeders ranging from beginners to highly experienced, and covers a range of topics. This year's conference will be held in central California. It's not too soon to submit proposals to speak!

Member and Non-member Services: The breeders directory of members who have heritage breeds and heritage breed products is perhaps the second most important element of The Livestock Conservancy's work. By connecting breeders with each other and helping new breeders find breeding stock, the Conservancy serves as a go-to resource for heritage livestock. This is a benefit to members too! Member Bob Daye said it well in 2012, "I have advertised through several outlets, but almost all of my sales have come from people who found me by using the ALBC

Breeders Directory." The Conservancy is exploring ways to partner with breed associations to expand the number of breeders who list their breeds in the printed and online directories. Staff also helps farmers decide what breeds might be best for their circumstances, assists members with farm, market, and breeding plans, and serves as an information clearinghouse for everything to do with heritage breeds.

If you've read this far, congratulations! Even for us, when we look at this list of all the projects and accomplishments, it is a lot. All of these programs fit together like an intricate puzzle that keeps breeds thriving, recruits new breeders, and ensures that we are ready to respond quickly to unforeseen events. With this information in hand, please review the strategic planning questions in the Autumn/Winter 2014 Newsletter, or visit <http://goo.gl/wFLdZQ>

Volunteers Needed!

You have told us that you want to be more involved, and now is your chance! If you're interested in lending a hand, whether it's helping with clerical work at The Livestock Conservancy's headquarters or holding workshops in the field, we need your help. Please visit the volunteer section of our website. If you have questions, please email info@livestockconservancy.org.

to provide your comments on the work of The Livestock Conservancy, and the directions it should take in the future.❖

The Wonders of Lard

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sources – lard, tallow, duck and goose fat – and vegetable sources – olives, coconut, flax – provide our bodies with highly beneficial fatty acids; they keep our bones healthy (aiding calcium absorption); and they enhance the immune system. Engineered fats have none of these benefits.

Lard, or pork fat, is about 40 percent saturated fat, 48 percent monounsaturated, and 12 percent polyunsaturated. The amount of omega-6 and omega-3 fatty acids varies in lard according to what the pigs have eaten, making fat from pastured or grassfed hogs the best choice. Lard is also a good source of vitamin D.

Healthy lard comes from grassfed or pastured pigs, specifically from the leaf fat that's deposited around a pig's kidneys. You can buy leaf fat at a butcher shop, or a small, local meat processor (sometimes given away for free), or from a local pig raiser. Once rendered, this type of lard has almost no pork flavor and can be used with excellent results in baking since the large fat crystals produce an exceptionally flaky pie crust.❖

DID YOU KNOW?

Effect of Sex Ratio and Population Size on Inbreeding

Actual population size, effective population size, and changes in inbreeding coefficients per generation are given to illustrate the results of using different numbers of male and female parents to produce a generation of animals.

The chart below can be found in the Conservancy's *A Conservation Breeding Handbook* by D. Phillip Sponenberg and

Carolyn Christman. It explains the importance of livestock and poultry breeds and describes how individual breeders can be stewards of these genetic resources. Soft cover, 136 pages, 8 1/2 x 7, illustrated.

To order this book and many others, visit LivestockConservancy.org or send \$15.95 + \$6.00 S/H to: The Livestock Conservancy, PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312

Number of males	Number of females	Total population	Effective population size	Increase in the inbreeding coefficient per generation
1	30	31	3.87	12.9%
3	30	33	10.9	4.6%
9	30	39	27.6	1.8%
30	30	60	60	0.82%
1	60	61	3.934	12.7%
1	90	91	3.96	12.6%

First Annual National Heritage Breeds Day/Week

The first annual National Heritage Breeds Week, sponsored by The Livestock Conservancy, will be held May 17-23, 2015. Help the Conservancy launch this national campaign and spread the word about rare breeds!

The week will culminate on Saturday, May 23 with National Heritage Breeds Day! This is the day for you to hold a local event like a farm tour or workshop to raise awareness in your community.

There are many ways you can participate:

Adopt a Classroom: Host a classroom field trip to a local heritage breed farm or ranch or to a historical farm with heritage breeds in your area. Or, bring the breeds to the classroom! This provides a great opportunity for children to learn about the importance of genetic diversity and conserving heritage breeds.

Adopt a Legislator: Invite one or more state legislators to visit local farms and ranches or set up a visit to their state office. Leave them with Livestock Conservancy materials and heritage breed products.

Adopt a Nursing Home: Visit a local nursing home and consider taking heritage breed animals with you. Many older folks once raised heritage breeds and will appreciate the opportunity to reconnect with the animals.

Create Farmer's Market Events: Local Farmer's Markets are usually in full-swing around this time of the year. What better place to emphasize the importance of agriculture? Arrange to have music, samples, fun games for kids and make a day of it.

Have a Heritage Breed Petting Zoo: Organize a petting zoo where children and their parents can see farm and ranch animals and learn more about them. Provide your own animals, or work with local farmers and ranchers to provide the animals.

Host a Celebrity: Invite a local celebrity who is familiar with heritage breeds, raises them; or has a friend or family member who has been involved with them) and request sponsorship of National Heritage



Breeds Week and/or National Heritage Breeds Day. Hold an event and ask the celebrity to speak about a personal experience involving heritage breeds.

Set Up a Library Display: Approach your local public or school libraries about organizing an exhibit during National Heritage Breeds Week. You might offer to arrange for a speaker or a lecture series about agriculture. Books about rural communities, animals, farms, etc., could be part of a special National Heritage Breeds Week section that encourages children to learn more about agriculture and how it affects their lives. The Livestock Conservancy's new book "An Introduction to Heritage Breeds" is a wonderful addition to any library.

Host a National Heritage Breeds Day Breakfast: Host a Heritage Breeds breakfast for local government and business leaders. Identify a keynote speaker to talk about agriculture and plan your menu around locally grown and raised agriculture products.

Organize a Fundraiser: Host a fundraiser, such as a walk-a-thon, and donate money to The Livestock Conservancy and/or a breed's registry, club, or association. Emphasize the importance of heritage breeds in the nation's agricultural system; pay tribute to a local farmer; or recognize all farmers who raise heritage breeds year-round.

Hold a Contest: Sponsor a community-wide event, such as a coloring or poem-

writing contest for students. The children could spotlight a specific breed or species. The drawings or poems could be displayed in local schools, hospitals, or nursing homes.

Create a Public Exhibit: Showcase an exhibit at your local mall, shopping center, or public area to introduce the public to heritage breeds. Include examples of heritage breed products like wool, cheese, or eggs, as well as information on how these products are produced. Contact other local heritage breed producers to collaborate and display items and information. Consider conducting outreach and education in urban and underserved areas.

Involve School Lunch Programs:

Encourage elementary schools to designate a day during National Heritage Breeds Week to distribute quizzes and puzzles with school lunches. This can also serve as an opportunity to explain the connection between farms and foods on the table. Contact your state's School Food Service Association for guidance. Or, with cooperation of the school, donate items (milk, ice cream, burgers, cheese, etc.).

Sponsor a Show or Fair: Promote a positive image of heritage breed conservation by sponsoring a local show or fair. Consider including exhibits, food stands, live animals, or entertainment.

Do Breeds Week Media Outreach

- Write and distribute a press release announcing National Heritage Breeds Day and/or National Heritage Breeds Week.
- Place an article in your state or local newspaper(s) or a community blog about National Heritage Breeds Week and the contributions of heritage breeds

Tell Us How You Are Participating

Post your event on our Facebook page, tweet about it, or tell us about it via email.

Email rwalker@livestockconservancy.org to get your event listed on our online calendar.

Be sure to take photos at the event and get copies or links for publicity you generate!

to American Agriculture.

- Host a press conference. Discuss an important agricultural issue in your community; honor a farmer or rancher; or bestow an “honorary” farmer title to a deserving politician or civic leader.
- Host an editorial board meeting with leading state or local newspapers. Discuss the importance of heritage breeds on your farm or ranch and ways the

public can become more involved in supporting rare breed conservation.

- Suggest that your state or local newspaper solicit stories from heritage breed farmers or ranchers to discuss how they are working first-hand to protect genetic diversity and endangered breeds.

Promotional Materials You Can Use

Brochures, *Conservation Priority Lists*,

and other materials can be downloaded from The Livestock Conservancy’s website at www.livestockconservancy.org/index.php/involved/internal/promotion. We have professionally printed glossy trifold general brochures available for you to hand out as well. If you would like some, contact us at info@livestockconservancy.org or (919) 542-5704.❖

Egg Production in Young and Old Chickens

By Patricia Foreman

Hens in large farms, sometimes called “factory” farms, are kept in strictly controlled environments. The birds have constant access to feed and water, and are managed to control the birds’ replacement of feathers (molting). This ensures the hens are in sync for the timing of egg production. They have a life span of about two years before being processed for stew meat. In backyard and truly free-ranging flocks on grass, hens will not produce eggs as consistently as commercial birds. Why? Here are some reasons:

- Some birds in the flock might be younger, and not mature enough to lay eggs yet. It takes 5-6 months for a chick to mature and begin laying eggs.

- As hens get older they don’t lay as many eggs as in their first two years. Egg production drops about 10% per year. An older hen still lays a significant number of eggs, but not as many as younger hens. The older hen’s eggs tend to be large, but fewer.

- Some hens will be in molt – growing new feathers. Molting can happen at different times of the year but it is usually in the fall. While molting, egg laying decreases, and often stops until the new feathers grow in. If you were a chicken, which would be more important, using your body’s protein and energy to grow a new suit of feathers, or producing eggs?

- Many family flocks and small family farmers will have heritage and dual-purpose chickens (producing both meat and eggs). The egg production in these flocks will be lower.



The heritage breed Australorp holds the world record for egg production, laying an amazing 364 eggs in 365 days. Pullet owned by Colby Schwaderer. Photo by Jeannette Beranger.

- Many small private flocks will have roosters to help with predator protection. Roosters don’t contribute to egg production, but they have other charms and talents helpful to flocks.

- When a hen goes broody and wants to sit on eggs, her egg laying ceases. Incubating eggs until they hatch takes three weeks. And a hen mothering the chicks until they are old enough to fend for themselves takes another 5-7 weeks. This puts a laying hen out of egg production for a total of about 2.5 months.

- Extremes in temperatures (severe heat or cold) can cause a hen to slow, or cease laying.

- Consistent access to quality feed that contains enough protein affects egg laying, as does access to fresh water.

- Changes in daylight affect egg laying. As the days get shorter – egg laying slows and often stops. Then, as days get longer, a hen’s egg laying increases. That’s Nature’s way. Winter, when the days are shorter and temperatures drop toward freezing, is a hard time for a hen to incubate eggs, keep the chicks warm and find enough food for the babies to eat. Spring is the natural time for a hen to increase egg laying for

producing chicks.

With all these egg production variables in free-range and family flocks, how can you estimate the number of hens needed for your “egg shed”? You might recall the 1918 USDA poster with the formula for a family egg shed that I mentioned in my article in the the Summer, 2014 newsletter. The poster states that “Two hens per every member in the household will keep a family in fresh eggs.”

Why two hens instead of the one hen-per-capita we used in the egg shed formula in that article? Because, not all hens in family flock and free-range flocks will lay consistently throughout the year for the reasons listed above. Weather, feed, exercise, brooding, molting, and environment all affect egg laying.

So having two hens for every household member allows for the young chicks to mature and the older hens to decrease or stop laying for a variety of reasons.

This poster goes on to state:
“Uncle Sam Expects YOU to Keep Hens and Raise Chickens”.

Notice that Uncle Sam didn’t just suggest, or imply it was a good idea. No! He “EXPECTS” you to do your duty and keep a family flock. Be a responsible citizen and keep chickens!❖

Patricia Foreman has degrees in Pharmacy and Agriculture from Purdue University and a Masters of Public Affairs from Indiana University. She has kept poultry for over 20 years, including owning and operating a small-scale farm with free range, organic layers, broilers, and turkeys. She is an avid sustainable agriculture and heritage breed advocate. Pat is the co-author of several books including Chicken Tractor, Day Range Poultry, Backyard Market Gardening, A Tiny Home to Call Your Own, and City Chicks. She is the Founding President of the Gossamer Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to global sustainability and local foods.

California, Here We Come! Save the Date for Our Next Conference

The Livestock Conservancy is excited to announce that its National Conference will be held in California for the first time in its nearly 40 year history! Mark your calendar for November 6-7 and make plans to join us in sustainable Sonoma County! Sonoma County and the surrounding areas have rich populations of San Clemente goats, Santa Cruz Island sheep and horses, Buckeye chickens, and Milking Shorthorn cattle. More information will follow soon, but here's a snapshot of the region from Sonoma County Tourism:

With more than 400 wineries, miles of rugged Pacific coastline, towering redwood forests, and its close proximity to San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, Sonoma County is a traveler's dream vacation spot in California. Tasting rooms in the world-class Sonoma wine region range from simple and rustic – two wine barrels and a slab of redwood as an outdoor tasting bar – to the height of elegance.

Go beyond the wine and discover more than 50 pristine nature parks that offer travelers miles of hiking and cycling trails through the towering redwoods or



oak-studded hills. Rivers entice visitors to kayak, canoe, or simply float along the cool waters. A zip line excursion, a ropes course, or a hot-air balloon ride add a dash of adventure.

Breathtaking Highway 1 – the Pacific Coast Highway – delights visitors with crashing waves, sea lions and otters sunning on the beaches, and amazing sunsets that color the sky in brilliant hues.

Lodging

Our host hotel is the Flamingo Resort and Spa in Santa Rosa, California. We've negotiated a great rate for this area of \$139/night, and accommodations can be booked now. Just call (707) 545-8530 or e-mail reservations@flamingoresort.com.

Speak at Our 2015 Conference!

If you are interested in presenting at the 2015 National Conference in Santa Rosa, please let us know!

We encourage interactive programs that provide opportunities for audience participation. The two types of presentations we usually have are:

Pre-Conference Workshops – held on Fridays and can be half-day or whole-day programs. For topics requiring more time and in-depth discussion, an additional day may be added.

General Sessions – can be a single presenter or panel discussion. They are one hour in length and occur throughout the day on Saturday, November 8.

Possible Topics (not limited to these)

- Breeds with strong presence in the West
- Meat processing
- Breeding rare breed livestock or poultry
- Farm-based education programs
- Business planning/financial management
- Multitasking rare breeds
- Urban agriculture
- Value-added products
- Rare breed co-ops & CSA's
- Fiber production
- Marketing
- Rare breed cuisine
- Animal health-related topics

Presenters will receive a modest honorarium that can be used to help cover travel expenses. Speakers not wishing to be compensated may choose to donate the honorarium back to the Conservancy.

If you are interested visit the "Call for Presentations" page of our website or email Jeannette Beranger at jberanger@livestockconservancy.org by May 20, 2015.♦



The Flamingo Resort and Spa, a Santa Rosa historic landmark, offers all the modern amenities with a retro vibe. Photo Courtesy of Sonoma County Tourism.

LETTERS

Dear Livestock Conservancy,

We are making this donation in honor and memory of Harry's mother, Eliane Rutkowski Abeln, who passed away Friday, Dec. 19, 2014, in Washington.

I began raising Crevecoeurs in the 1990s. I chose the breed because they came from the area in France that my mother-in-law came from, Normandy. She has always been interested in my flock. Her own father raised and showed poultry, and was known for his ducks, particularly Rouens. She told me that the proud, beautiful stance of the Crevecoeur roosters is a constant reminder of why the rooster is the symbol of France. She also told me that when she was growing up, a "crevecoeur" was not a broken heart, but a handsome "heart-breaker," like George Clooney! I believe I would not have continued this breed without her support and encouragement.

I am continuing to work with my remaining flock. Not much going on with all the cold! Our next Missouri Poultry As-

Test Your Pastured Products

Later this year *Mother Earth News* magazine will run an article about the importance of eating pastured meat, eggs, and dairy products for their high levels of beneficial fatty acids. They are asking producers to submit samples to be tested, and the results will be published along with the article.

Mother Earth News has negotiated a discount on the costs of the testing, and both Joel Salatin and Jo Robinson have endorsed the project. Their statements are included at the webpage linked below. Right now, *Mother Earth News* is only asking you to indicate your interest in participating and tell them what product you could submit for testing. Please go to <http://goo.gl/6x56BB> to read the details and indicate if you want to help produce what they expect will be evidence that your products are indeed worth premium prices. You're welcome to share the survey link with other interested producers you may know.



A Crevecoeur rooster of Jeannette Beranger's, from Connie Abeln. Photo by Jeannette Beranger.

sociation show is in April. I want to donate one of your books to the show auction so could you let me know how much to send you for a signed copy, plus postage?

I would like to see Livestock Conservancy have a packet, flyer, or poster that I can share at my state poultry meets, and maybe at the Missouri State Fair, too. Do you know if there is anything like that?

Thank you for all your help with the Crevecoeurs!

Connie and Harry Abeln

Dear Livestock Conservancy,

I'm from the Mobile Bay Area Backyard Chicken Club in Mobile, Alabama. One of our board members, Ed Williamson, spoke with you about making a dona-



Tell Us About It!

Please share your thoughts, ideas, and images with The Livestock Conservancy! Send photos and notes about your rare breeds and your conservation efforts, as well as your comments about the newsletter, to editor@livestock-conservancy.org or mail them to PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312. Your feedback is always welcome.

tion in memory of one of our members, Eric Viering, who passed away this past weekend on November 1st. We have made the donation through your website. You had also discussed the possibility of our emailing a picture of his wonderful flock of Dominiques for possible use in your newsletter. I've attached the picture. He was very proud of this photograph, which was featured in a local magazine. Eric was a big fan of the Dominique breed. We have re-homed his flock and they are now in excellent hands. Our friend and fellow chicken-lover will be dearly missed!

Sincerely,
Laura Lyon

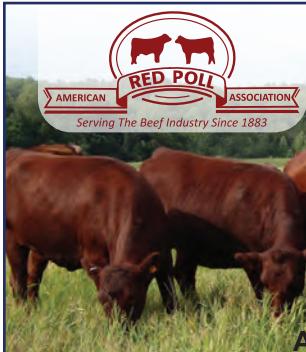


Eric Viering's beloved Dominiques. Photo courtesy of Laura Lyon.

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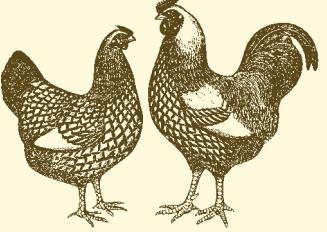
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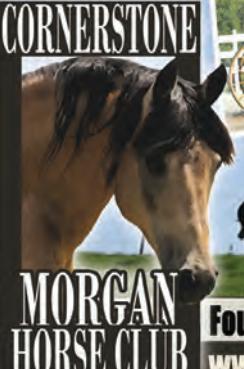


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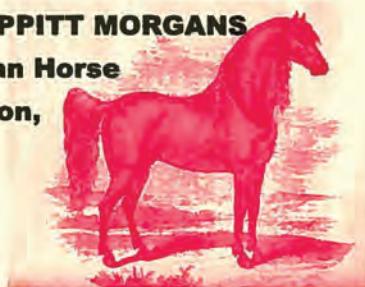
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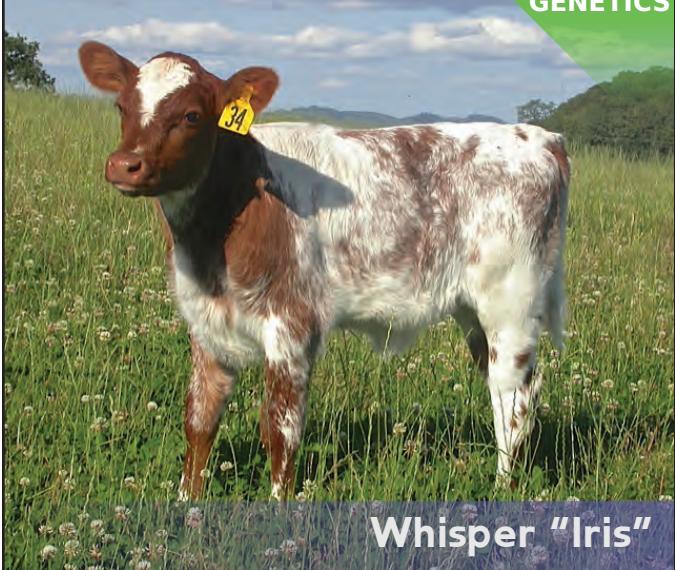
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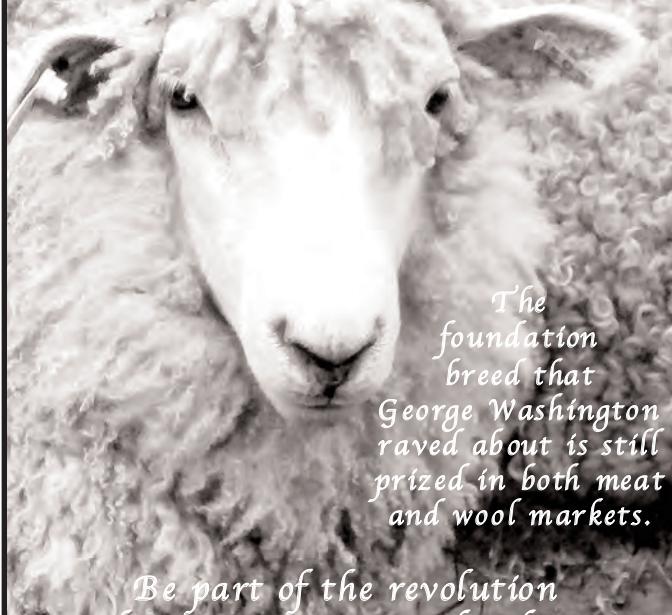
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The Rare Breeds Survival Trust was founded to protect the 70 breeds of poultry, cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, horses and ponies that are under the threat of extinction.

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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@livestockconservancy.org or mail to PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

April

★ April 11-12 – The Mother Earth News Fair will be held in Asheville, NC. 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.

April 16 – The Virginia Beef Expo will be held in Harrisonburg, VA. Contact Hugh Wilson at (570) 286-7952 for more details.

April 18 – A Fans of Lamb workshop, Walkertown, NC. This workshop begins with James Naquin demonstrating how to break down a lamb carcass, with class participation. Then lamb sausages will be made, with discussion about recipes and how to cook lamb. Participants will take home fresh lamb, sausages, and more. For more information, visit www.yellowwolffarm.com/butchery---food.html.

April 23 – The 4th Annual Highland Cattle Auction hosted by the Heartland Highland Cattle Association will be held in Southwest MO beginning at 4PM at the Norwood Sale Barn in Norwood, MO. Visit www.hIGHLANDcattLeAuction.com for more information.

April 25 – Butchering Poultry at Home, a half-day, hands-on class will be held in Walkertown, NC. For more information, visit www.yellowwolffarm.com/livestock--homesteading---farming.html.

May

May 2 – A Cheese Making & Home Dairy workshop will be held in Walkertown, NC. This class will cover safe milk handling, making soft cheese, feta and mozzarella, herbs and flavorings, making yogurt, sour cream, buttermilk and more. This all-day class will include lunch at the farm. For more information, visit www.yellowwolffarm.com/butchery---food.html.

★ May 2-3 – The 42nd Annual Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival will be held at the Howard County Fairgrounds in West Friendship, MD. Visit www.sheepandwool.org for more information.

May 17 – The Garfield Farm Museum's 29th Annual Rare Breeds Show will take place in Campton Hills, IL from 11am-4pm. Breeders from around the Midwest will display rare and historic types of livestock. Individual breeders may offer livestock and poultry for sale. Member participation by The Livestock Conservancy. For more information, contact the museum at info@garfieldfarm.org or visit www.garfieldfarm.org.

★★ May 17-23 – The first annual "National Heritage Livestock Breeds Week," and May 23 – National Heritage Livestock Breeds Day sponsored by The Livestock Conservancy will be held across the United States to raise awareness of nearly 200 endangered heritage breeds of livestock and poultry. A national campaign will be launched promoting the week-long event and heritage breed farmers are encouraged to spread the word throughout their networks. The week of awareness will culminate with National Heritage Livestock Breeds Day, where many farms and ranches will choose to hold local events such as farm tours, workshops, or lectures to raise awareness in their communities. See page 10.

May 23-24 – First Annual Iowa's Premier Fainting Goat Show will be held at the Clarke County Fairgrounds in Osceola, IA. There will be three shows over the two-day weekend. We hope for the show to be sanctioned by the MGR and have an open show for non-registered fainting goats. Visit <http://iowafaintinggoatshow.weebly.com> for more information.

June

★ June 6-7 – The Mother Earth News Fair will be held in Albany, OR. 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.