



THE LIVESTOCK CONSERVANCY™

**Ayrshire cattle are graduating
off the Conservation Priority
List in 2021!** Photo by Jeannette
Beranger. Check out other CPL
updates on page 6.

Conserving rare breeds since 1977
Spring 2021 | Volume 38, Issue 2



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CONSISTENCY IS KEY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

By Heather Loomis

As heritage livestock breeders, we strive for consistency with our chore times so livestock know what to expect and when to expect it. The benefit of this consistent behavior is knowing where stock will be and what behaviors we can expect to see. Everyone wins because the interaction is simple and always the same. Did you know we should strive for the same strategy when marketing our agribusinesses on social media?

Consistency is the key to creating recognition, understanding, and expectation when telling the story of our farms on social channels.

If you are using more than one social media platform for your farm business, the message of who you are and what you do should be the same across each account. The important benefit of this consistent message is your customers will easily recognize you and know what you offer.

Consider these tips to create consistent branding across social media:

- **Use the same handle for each account.** Your handle is the name you want associated with your accounts. For my farm, I use @bohlayedorchards across the board.
- **Use the same profile picture for each account.** You can use your logo, a picture of you, or a picture of the livestock you raise. Regardless of what you choose, be certain it is a high-quality picture and fits within the space. If you try a picture and the image is too small to be identified, or it shows only a partial face of you or your animal, consider a different photo. You want followers to recognize your profile picture quickly and easily.
- **Use the same keywords in your Bio and About sections.** Each social media platform provides a place to create statements about your farm business, as well as

answer questions and enter contact information. Use the same keywords throughout these descriptions.

How you construct the sentences or paragraphs will vary because of character limits, but the same keywords should always appear.

- **Be clear. Be concise. Be consistent.** Use the same messaging on your website as your social accounts.
- Keep farm or business social media accounts separate from personal social media accounts.

Use this article to create a checklist and give your social media accounts a quick review for consistency.

Heather Loomis is a Romeldale/CVM Shepherdess in Troy, Pennsylvania. She and her husband David live on their fifth-generation family farm, Bohlayer's Orchards. Heather also serves on The Livestock Conservancy's Board of Directors.

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T'ÁÁ DIBÉ - THE FIRST SHEEP

By Nikyle Begay

History tells us that droves of sheep were brought onto the North American continent by the Spanish. These little creatures were sent to feed and clothe the expedition to this new world. My ancestors acquired them through raiding and trading. But Navajo folklore, as told to me by my elders, tells another story.

Growing up, my maternal grandfather would tell me that we once had sheep. Being young, confused, and surrounded by sheep already; I wasn't making any sense of this. He explained the sheep emerged with us during our journey throughout the previous worlds. But, we became greedy and lost our way. So, the Holy People took them from us. We hunted wild game, as well as tended and harvested crops, but nothing sustained us like the first sheep.

We prayed for the return of these sacred animals. We remembered them. We sang their sacred songs, gathered and smoked their tobacco. We also collected and consumed their herbal medicines. In our present world, the Holy People took notice of our repentance and bestowed upon us t'áá dibé - the first sheep.

The Holy People scooped handfuls of different colored clouds to form their bodies. White day clouds were used to form white sheep. Dark night clouds were used to form black sheep. Storm clouds were used to form blue and gray sheep. Yellow twilight clouds were used to form tan sheep. Red clouds at dusk were used to form brown sheep.

The Holy People prayed and sang upon these cloud beings until they turned into tiny stone fetishes, and then placed them in a corn pollen filled pouch.

The Holy People traveled on a rainbow and brought this pouch onto Mother Earth and it was presented to the humans. During this presentation, the [sheep] herbs/tobacco, precious stones, shells, songs and prayers were recited and combined to give the little stone fetishes life.

Of all, the brown sheep was the most beautiful and sought after. So, the Rainbow People and the Sun said that those sheep will be theirs and that they would bless herds every so often with them. From that point forward, we [Navajo] had become reunited with our sacred sheep and soon became very prolific with the pastoral life way.

This time, we didn't become as greedy

nor did we lose our spirituality. My ancestors created songs that retold the stories of our journey with sheep and incorporated them as sacred songs into the Beauty-way ceremony.

Most traditionalist still practice herbal and tobacco blessings on their herds of sheep to restore harmony to the sheep and land, as well as to promote a healthier animal.

Dibé béi iiná - Sheep is life.

Nikyle Begay is a Navajo shepherd and weaver. Nikyle is also an active member of the Navajo-Churro Sheep Association, serving as a sheep inspector and as a writer and editor of their quarterly newsletter The Catch Pen. Learn more about the Navajo-Churro Sheep Association at <http://www.navajo-churrosheep.com/>. Learn more about Sheep is Life at <https://navajolifeway.org/sheep-is-life/>.

Photo of Navajo-Churro sheep courtesy of Nikyle. To see others, follow Nikyle on Instagram @nikylewes. This article was originally printed in the Summer 2018 edition of The Catch Pen, reprinted with permission from Nikyle.

DETAILS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE POST-MORTEM

By Kevin Matthews

Koublet was a retired Akhal-Teke eventing stallion owned and bred by Phil Case of Shenandoah Farm in Staunton, Virginia. The horse suffered from a slowly degenerative, non-treatable medical condition and died in May 2019 at 23 years old. His semen was never collected or preserved, yet his contribution to the rare breed lives on, thanks to a very important book.

Phil and Margot Case imported the first Akhal-Teke horse to the United States in 1979. When Phil passed away in December 2019, the 34 Akhal-Tekes at Shenandoah Farm represented the largest herd of registered purebreds in the U.S. His family enlisted Kevin Matthews and Pat Johnston to manage the farm through its transition and sale. A few select horses were sold to good homes and the majority were gifted to the Akhal-Teke Foundation to be managed for breed preservation.

HISTORY OF THE AKHAL-TEKE

Akhal-Tekes descend from the raiding horses of Central Asia described over 3,000 years ago. This living remnant of the fabled Turkoman horse co-evolved with alfalfa itself and, going back to the dawn of athletic horse domestication, is the original athletic root stock for most of the world's modern sport horses.

The name "Akhal" means pure and is also the name of a remote oasis associated with the nomadic Teke tribe. The nomadic life of the Tekes required horses of high endurance that could travel long distances swiftly and reliably. These traits resulted in animals keenly adapted for both war and racing. Recent peer-reviewed research using DNA analysis has added to the strong evidence that Akhal-Teke, not Arabian, is the breed of foundation stallions of the modern Thoroughbred.

Known for the metallic golden sheen on their coat, the Akhal-Teke breed is listed as Threatened on The Livestock Conservancy's Conservation Priority List. Fewer than 20 foals are born in the United States each year, and the global population is less than 5,000.

PLANNING AHEAD

Because of Koublet's health, he was closely monitored by me and other farm staff. We also began planning for his eventual death. When barn manager Sabine Desper texted the morning of May 24, Koublet's condition did not surprise me. Desper had served as both trainer and rider on the stallion for several years, competing in eventing. She knew the horse and the urgency of the situation. Koublet had gone down in his stall, and under the circumstances, we knew he was not going to get back up.

Shenandoah Farm had already considered the possibility of an end-of-life semen collection of the stallion. I had raised the possibility with farm veterinarian Dr. Hannah Plaughter of the Westwood Animal Hospital in Staunton, Virginia. Dr. Plaughter's veterinary interests included end-of-life care, but semen collection from a downed horse was new to her. End-of-life semen collection is a procedure most veterinarians have never done before in their practice.

"I'd be interested, but I've never done anything like that," Plaughter told me. "I'd be happy to take a look at the manual."

I had suggested she take a look at the *Manual of Methods for Preservation of Valuable Equine Genetics in Live Animals and Post-Mortem*, published by Texas A&M University and The Livestock Conservancy in 2019. Authors Kindra Rader, Charles C. Love, Charlene R. Couch, and Katrin Hinrichs, provided detailed information and emergency protocols for veterinarians and owners to preserve priceless genetics through sperm, egg, and tissue samples collected from both live animals and post-mortem.

When I phoned Dr. Plaughter, she was able to access the manual online immediately from The Livestock Conservancy's website. She was making another farm call at the time and linked to the manual from the cab of her truck. Plaughter re-arranged her afternoon schedule to make the collection happen.

"The Manual was key to our success," said Patricia Johnston, my spouse and partner at our Swan Farm Akhal-Teke ranch in Oregon. Johnston works in the

Department of Interior for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) overseeing landscape native plant community restoration projects and a native seed collection program. She also serves as Vice President on The Livestock Conservancy's Board of Directors.

Johnston reached out to Dr. Charlene Couch, Senior Program Manager for The Livestock Conservancy and co-author of the Manual. Dr. Couch connected Dr. Plaughter with Select Breeder Services in Maryland to process the end-of-life collection for Koublet.

CONSERVATION AFTER DEATH

The final report on Koublet's collection shows the quality was below commercial distribution standards, which is typical for the posthumous procedure. Premium semen collections occur when fresh semen is collected from a recently cleaned tract through multiple ejaculations. Because of Koublet's age and health, collections were impossible.

"Based on the amount of semen frozen, post-thaw motility, and this stallion being part of the Endangered Equine Alliance and The Livestock Conservancy, we recommend using this frozen semen with intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) only," Select Breeder Services said.

"We'll be very careful," I said.

Phil Case left a tremendous legacy for the Akhal-Teke breed. Seven stallions with exceptional bloodlines were previously collected and frozen, including the prepotent Senetir, the first Akhal-Teke stallion imported to the U.S., and Senetir's son Sengar, long-listed for the 1996 Olympics in eventing. Semen from Koublet, a Senetir grandson, will be added to that archive, which the Case family is donating to the stewardship of the Akhal-Teke Foundation.

The Foundation is currently developing guidelines for when and how these stallions will be used in conservation breeding strategies. Their frozen semen is a limited and finite resource, so it's important to determine the ideal strategy for each one.

COST OF CONSERVATION

We knew about this option ahead of time because of The Livestock Conservancy. However, it still required on-the-spot decision-making. The Shenandoah Farm team was also concerned about the cost of the end-of-life collection. While other procedures such as egg retrieval, tissue sampling, and even cloning are potentially available to horse owners considering end-of-life collection for their rare breed animals, I determined that semen collection was the most straightforward option with a tight budget.

I also counsel other equine owners to consider end-of-life collection as a viable choice, especially from a cost perspective. It's not necessarily super expensive. All the costs associated with the procedure are competitive with stud fees and cooled semen collection expenses. The total would likely be not much more than \$1,000.

I didn't know the costs upfront, so I was pleasantly surprised at how economical the procedure turned to be. In addition, the Akhal-Teke Foundation provided a grant to cover the costs of the aspects done by Select Breeders Services, which itself provided an Endangered Equine Alliance discount, altogether saving the Case family about half of the total costs.

DETAILS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Looking back, details made the difference. It was important to have had the preliminary discussion with our vet. "A small percentage of vets deal with rare breeds, so it's important for owners to know the information and be able to explain the importance of a single horse to the health and survival of an entire breed," Johnston said.

With Dr. Plaugher and the Westwood Animal Hospital staff in the Shenandoah Valley coordinating closely with the Select Breeders Services clinic in Maryland, the posthumous tissue collection went straight to Fed Ex, just meeting a mid-afternoon deadline for overnight shipping. At the time, I was not sure services would be available if Koublet had gone down on Saturday, Sunday or Memorial Day. We were delighted to learn that Select Breeders Services was open and able to process collections seven days a week.



Koublet, a retired eventing Akhal-Teke stallion owned by Phil Case, contributed to conservation with post-mortem semen collection. Photo courtesy of Kevin Matthews.

Johnston is now using this first-hand experience to share their hard-won knowledge with other Akhal-Teke owners around the world.

"I'm reaching out to people in my circles and encouraging them to take a closer look at this breeding tool as a resource to help preserve the irreplaceable genetics of rare breeds," she said. "It was kind of an experiment for us, and it was successful. Without a doubt, we'd do it again."

Kevin Matthews and Patricia Johnston are spouses and co-owners of Swan Farm Akhal-Teke ranch in Oregon. Patricia is Vice President of the Akhal-Teke Association of America and Vice President of The Livestock Conservancy's Board of Directors. She is a life-long horsewoman, with a professional background in biology and ecology. Kevin is co-founder of the Akhal-Teke Foundation, a ranch hand, blacksmith, educator, and entrepreneur with a background in ranch and farm operations and management, horse and dog training, as well as hay analysis and production.

Manual of Methods for Preservation of Valuable Equine Genetics in Live Animals and Post-Mortem

Kindra Rader, Charles C. Love, Charlene R. Couch and Katrin Hinrichs

Available in print from our online bookstore at
<https://livestockconservancy.org/index.php/resources/internal/store>

or for free download at
<https://livestockconservancy.org/index.php/what/internal/reproduction-manual>

2021 CONSERVATION PRIORITY LIST UPDATES

The status of most of the 185 endangered livestock and poultry breeds on the Conservation Priority List (CPL) remained steady during the last year. This is a testament to the ongoing efforts of breeders and breed associations around the country. Strong partnerships among breed associations, breeders, and owners are necessary for breeds to survive and grow in numbers. The Livestock Conservancy continues to facilitate and support such partnerships to ensure that our unique and irreplaceable heritage genetics are conserved for future generations. Your conservation efforts help ensure that rare breeds do not disappear.

GRADUATING!



Ayrshire cattle are graduating from the CPL in 2021. Ayrshire cattle are an excellent choice for small dairies, family farms, and mixed-breed dairy herds. The breed was imported from Scotland to the northeastern United States at least 200 years ago. Their selection for life in rugged landscapes confers the ability to efficiently convert forage to milk, making them productive dairying animals for grass-based operations. Ayrshire cows can produce 12,000 – 17,000 lbs of milk per year, with an average milk fat content of 3.9%. They generally calve with ease and the breed is hardy and long-lived. Today, more than 3,000 Ayrshire cows are registered each year in the United States, and 5,000-6,000 are born annually in the United Kingdom. Worldwide, the population of Ayrshire cattle well exceeds the 25,000 animals needed for graduation. Congratulations to our dedicated partners, the U.S. Ayrshire Breeders' Association, and to all the Ayrshire breeders who have worked hard to save this breed!

BREEDS IN NEED



Miniature donkeys moved from Recovering to Watch this year because of declining registration numbers. The Watch category means there were fewer than 2,500 registrations in the U.S. and an estimated global population of less than 10,000 donkeys. Miniature donkeys descend from a composite of small Mediterranean donkeys brought to the United States in the early 20th century. Although small donkeys continue to be used as pack and cart animals in their native region, miniature donkeys in the United States are kept primarily as pets and companion animals. They are docile, trainable, and friendly, good characteristics for fitting in with a family. Miniature donkeys are also suitable companion animals for other equines or livestock. They can be trained to pull or pack, and are strong for their size.



Navajo-Churro sheep thrive in arid environments and are especially hardy, but the enduring drought in the Southwest forced some breeders to scale back. Annual registrations fell below 200 per year, moving them from Threatened to Critical. Navajo-Churro sheep have been integral to Navajo, Hispanic, and Anglo cultures in the Southwest for more than 400 years. They are small, intelligent sheep with a strong flocking instinct, generally long lived, and excellent mothers. Navajo-Churros have a double coat of fine underwool and coarse outer hair. Low grease content and open locks make hand processing this wool easy. Their fleece is important in their desert homeland as it conserves water and is superbly suited to the textiles produced in the local region, which are famous for their unique qualities and cultural relevance.



Shire horses moved from Threatened to Critical this year, with fewer than 150 annual registrations in the United States and a total estimated global population well under 2,000 horses. Shires have a proud history as draft animals. Descended from medieval war horses, these tall strong animals were used in 18th century England to power farm implements and draw heavy loads. The Shire was essential to industrialization, moving cargo and people over both long and short distances. Even as the railway eclipsed the canal barge, Shire horses remained important for hauling freight from docks and railway stations to warehouses, and from warehouses to businesses, until the emergence of motorized transportation. Today's Shires are used in riding, jousting and archery competitions, forestry, and exhibition – especially pulling exhibitions that demonstrate their power. A handful of breweries in the United Kingdom continue to use Shire horses to draw carts that deliver ale from the brewery to the pubs. Careful conservation of these beautiful and useful horses will be essential to their future.

DOING WELL



Galloway cattle moved from Watch to Recovering this year, thanks in large measure to continuing growth of the breed in other countries. Originating in Scotland, Galloway cattle are cold adapted and sturdy. Their thick double coats shed snow, sleet, and rain, insulating these medium-sized, polled cattle. Although they do not grow rapidly, patience pays off in their well-marbled, flavorful beef. While Galloway cattle were never as popular in North America as their Belted Galloway cousins, sizeable populations in England, Germany, Denmark and other countries pushed the global population to more than 10,000.

STUDY

Breeds in the Study category require further research to learn whether their history, genetic integrity, global status, and U.S. numbers merit listing on the Conservation Priority List. This step is necessary to clearly target The Livestock Conservancy's conservation efforts toward breeds that not only require conservation, but can also benefit from our conservation efforts. After investigation, three breeds will be removed from the Study category, and one was added for further investigation. Breeds in Study will only be listed on The Livestock Conservancy's website and not on the printed Conservation Priority List.



North American yaks are long-haired bovines of Tibetan origin. They were imported to North America in the late 1800s to early 1900s to produce cold tolerant cattle hybrids for beef production in the harsh northern climates of Alaska and Canada. After more than a century of genetic separation from their cousins in the Himalayas, purebred yaks in the U.S. may merit recognition as a distinct genetic pool, and were added to our Study category this year. The breed is useful in grass-based ranching, especially where stocking levels are restricted and environmental conditions are harsh. Yaks produce lean, nutrient-rich beef, and their fur and milk are valuable to high-end fiber producers, dairy farmers, and cheesemakers. The next steps for North American yak are to confirm their genetic composition and to further investigate their purebred population status, both in America and internationally.



California Vaquero horses were added to the Study category in 2018. This small subset of the Sulphur mustang population was defined as exemplifying a classic Iberian phenotype. The Livestock Conservancy determined that the population is not large enough for a stand-alone breeding effort. California Vaquero horses will continue to be tracked within the Sulphur population of Colonial Spanish horses.



Golden Guernsey goats were imported from the United Kingdom to the United States and remain few in number here. Most Golden Guernsey flocks in the U.S. are derived from embryo transfers or from upgrades using imported semen. Fortunately, numbers of this useful dairy goat breed appear to be rising in their country of origin.



Manx Rumpy/Persian Rumpless chickens have a reduction in the number of tail vertebrae and lack a fleshy rump and tail feathers. This characteristic is controlled by a single dominant gene, and is best described in South American chickens, known in the United States as Araucana. The trait is also observed in other breeds. The Livestock Conservancy was unable to confirm any breeding populations of Manx or Persian rumpless birds that meet the criteria of a true genetic breed.

New Year – New CPL Look

We updated the format for our 2021 Conservation Priority List to highlight uniquely North American breeds, as well as Non-American importations both before and after 1900. The existing categories of Critical (C), Threatened (T), Watch (W), and Recovering (R) remain and are noted with their corresponding letter. We also removed the Study category in the print version to streamline the document. However, breeds in Study will continue to be listed online.

Ayrshire cow, Shire horse, Miniature donkeys, and rumpless chicken by Jeannette Beranger. Navajo-Churro ewe by Nikyle Begay. Galloway bull by Susan Waples. North American yak courtesy of Nicole Porter. California Vaquero mare by Deborah Jones. Golden Guernsey goat by Bob and Ross Featherstone.

2021 CONSERVATION PRIORITY LIVESTOCK BREEDS

Critical (C) Breeds with fewer than 200 annual registrations in the United States and an estimated global population less than 2,000. For rabbits, fewer than 50 annual registrations in the U.S., estimated global population less than 500, fewer than 150 recorded at rabbit shows in the previous 5 years, and 10 or fewer breeders.

Threatened (T) Breeds with fewer than 1,000 annual registrations in the U.S. and an estimated global population less than 5,000. For rabbits, fewer than 100 annual registrations in the U.S., and estimated global population less than 1,000, fewer than 300 recorded at rabbit shows in the previous 5 years, and 11-30 breeders.

Watch (W) Breeds that present genetic or numerical concerns or have a limited geographic distribution, with fewer than 2,500 annual registrations in the U.S. and an estimated global population less than 10,000. For rabbits, fewer than 200 annual registrations in the U.S., estimated global population less than 2,000, fewer than 500 recorded at rabbit shows in the previous 5 years, and 31-60 breeders.

Recovering (R) Breeds once listed in another category, but have exceeded Watch category numbers and still need monitoring. For rabbits, more than 500 recorded at rabbit shows in the last 5 years, and more than 60 breeders.



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NORTH AMERICAN BREEDS

CATTLE 
 Canadienne (C)
 Milking Devon (C)
 Randall or
 Randall Lineback (C)
 Texas Longhorn (CTLR -
 Cattleman's Texas
 Longhorn Registry) (C)
 Florida Cracker (T)
 Pineywoods (T)

GOATS 
 San Clemente
 Island (C)
 Spanish (W)
 Myotonic or
 Tennessee
 Fainting (R)

PIGS 
 Choctaw (C)
 Mulefoot (C)
 Ossabaw Island (C)
 Guinea Hog (T)
 Red Wattle (T)
 Hereford (R)

RABBITS 
 Silver Marten (C)
 American (W)
 American
 Chinchilla (W)
 Giant Chinchilla (W)
 Palomino (W)
 Silver Fox (R)

SHEEP 
 Florida Cracker (C)
 Gulf Coast or
 Gulf Coast Native (C)
 Hog Island (C)
 Navajo-Churro (C)
 Santa Cruz (C)
 Jacob - American (T)
 Karakul - American (T)
 Romeldale / CVM (T)
 Barbados Blackbelly (W)
 St. Croix (W)
 Tunis (W)

BREEDS IMPORTED BEFORE 1900

CATTLE 
 Dutch Belted (C)
 Heritage Shorthorn - Native* (C)
 Red Poll (T)
 Guernsey (W)
 Galloway (R)
 Dexter (R)
 Red Devon (R)

PIGS 
 Tamworth (W)

RABBITS 
 Belgian Hare (R)
 Beveren (R)

SHEEP 
 Cotswold (T)
 Dorset Horn (T)
 Lincoln (T)
 Oxford (W)
 Shropshire (W)
 Southdown (R)

*Milking Shorthorns that qualify for the "Native" designation are identified as pure, old line, dual purpose Milking Shorthorns, by the AMSS office.

BREEDS IMPORTED AFTER 1900

CATTLE 
 Kerry (C)
 Lincoln Red (C)
 Ancient White Park (T)
 Belted Galloway (W)
 Ankole-Watusi (R)

GOATS 
 Arapawa (C)
 Oberhasli (R)

PIGS 
 Large Black (C)
 Meishan (C)
 Gloucestershire
 Old Spots (T)

RABBITS 
 Blanc de Hotot (C)
 Silver (C)
 Argente Brun (T)
 Checkered Giant (T)
 Creme d'Argent (T)
 Standard Chinchilla (T)
 Lilac (W)
 Rhinelander (W)

SHEEP 
 Teeswater (C)
 Black Welsh
 Mountain (T)
 Clun Forest (T)
 Leicester Longwool (T)
 Wiltshire Horn (W)
 Shetland (R)

2021 CONSERVATION PRIORITY EQUINE BREEDS

Critical (C) Breeds with fewer than 200 annual registrations in the United States and an estimated global population of less than 500.

Threatened (T) Breeds with fewer than 1,000 annual registrations in the U.S. and an estimated global population of less than 5,000.

Watch (W) Breeds that present genetic or numerical concerns or have a limited geographic distribution, with fewer than 2,500 annual registrations in the United States and an estimated global population less than 10,000.

Recovering (R) Breeds once listed in another category, but have exceeded Watch category numbers, and still need monitoring.



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NORTH AMERICAN BREEDS

DONKEYS



American Mammoth Jackstock (C)

¹ Each of these breeds has an independent, stand-alone registry and conservation program. Each has also contributed to the Colonial Spanish breed.

² Includes horses whose pedigrees are absent of outcrosses after 1930.

³ Includes several different registries, each with somewhat different goals (SMR, SSMA, SBHA, AIHR, HOA). Under this umbrella some strains have independent conservation programs and are noted individually.



HORSES

American Cream (C)

Banker¹ (C)

Canadian (C)

Florida Cracker¹ (C)

Galiceño¹ (C)

Marsh Tacky¹ (C)

Morgan - Traditional² (C)

Newfoundland Pony (C)

Colonial Spanish³ * (T)

Rocky Mountain/
Mountain Pleasure (T)

Puerto Rican Paso Fino (T)

Belgian (R)

*Colonial Spanish Strains:

Baca-Chica (T)

Choctaw (T)

Santa Cruz (T)

Sulphur (T)

Wilbur-Cruce (T)

BREEDS IMPORTED BEFORE 1900



HORSES

Cleveland Bay (C)

Hackney Horse (C)

Shire (C)

Suffolk (C)

Clydesdale (T)

BREEDS IMPORTED AFTER 1900

DONKEYS



Poitou (C)

Miniature Donkey (W)



HORSES

Caspian (C)

Dales Pony (C)

Dartmoor (C)

Exmoor (C)

Fell Pony (C)

Highland Pony (C)

Akhal-Teke (T)

Gotland (T)

Irish Draught (T)

Lipizzan (T)

2021 CONSERVATION PRIORITY POULTRY BREEDS

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

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

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

Recovering (R) Breeds once listed in another category, but have exceeded Watch category numbers, and still need monitoring.



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NORTH AMERICAN BREEDS

CHICKENS



Holland (C)
Cubalaya (T)
Rhode Island White (T)
Buckeye (W)
Chantecler (W)
Delaware (W)
Dominique (W)
Java (W)
Jersey Giant (W)
New Hampshire (W)
Rhode Island Red -
Non-Industrial (W)
Plymouth Rock (R)



DUCKS

Ancona (W)
Cayuga (W)



GEESE

Cotton Patch (C)
Pilgrim (T)
American Buff (W)



TURKEYS

Beltville Small White (C)
Black (T)
Royal Palm (T)
White Holland (T)
Bourbon Red (W)
Bronze (W)
Narragansett (W)
Slate (W)
All Other Varieties* (W)

*Varieties that are distinct, but not APA recognized include Chocolate, Jersey Buff, Lavender, Midget White, and other distinct color varieties. Does not include broad-breasted varieties because they are not endangered.

Breed identity in poultry is challenging. Breeders of all kinds, including exhibition, production, and hatchery, are diligent in breeding standard-bred birds. Other breeders sometimes resort to crossbreeding to achieve their goals and promote their birds as standard-bred. The Livestock Conservancy is unable to validate each breeding program, but buyers are encouraged to ask if birds are purebred and meet breed standards.

BREEDS IMPORTED BEFORE 1900

CHICKENS



Campine (C)
Crèvecoeur (C)
La Fleche (C)
Malay (C)
Modern Game (C)
Redcap (C)
Sultan (C)
White-Faced
Black Spanish (C)

Houdan (T)
Sebright (T)
Ancona (W)
Andalusian (W)
Cornish (W)
Dorking (W)
Hamburg (W)
Langshan (W)
Minorca (W)
Polish (W)

Sumatra (W)

Brahma (R)
Cochin (R)
Leghorn -
Non-Industrial (R)



GEESE

Pomeranian (T)
African (W)
Chinese (W)
Toulouse - Dewlap (W)
Sebastopol (T)



DUCKS

Aylesbury (C)
Buff or Orpington (T)
Rouen - Non-Industrial (W)

BREEDS IMPORTED AFTER 1900

CHICKENS



Nankin (C)
Yokohama (C)
Aseel (T)
Faverolles (T)
Icelandic (T)
Lakenvelder (T)
Old English Game (T)
Russian Orloff (T)
Spitzhauben (T)

Buttercup (W)
Catalana (W)
Phoenix (W)
Shamo (W)
Australorp (R)
Sussex (R)



DUCKS

Dutch Hookbill (C)
Magpie (T)
Saxony (T)
Silver Appleyard (T)
Campbell (W)
Swedish (W)
Welsh Harlequin (W)
Runner or
Indian Runner (R)



GEESE

Roman (C)
Shetland (C)
Steinbacher (C)

A POULTRY CLUB'S PANDEMIC PIVOT

By Dr. Joshua T. Ream

Despite the challenges that 2020 presented, the Last Frontier Poultry Association (LFPA) in Alaska has made the most of our time and our 2019 Livestock Conservancy Microgrant.

Like many organizations, the LFPA had to develop new and unique ways to continue engaging our members during an ongoing global pandemic. We moved our monthly meetings to an entirely virtual format, which resulted in some unanticipated benefits like reaching a state-wide audience. We also began recording our meetings and presentations for future viewing opportunities on social media platforms. We offered several presentations focused on heritage poultry breeds and ran a Breeds of Conservation Priority informational campaign in the spring. These efforts are ongoing, and we fully expect them to continue when life returns to normal.

Though we are choosing to focus on the positives of our transition to a virtual organization, we still hope that one day we will be able to socialize with our members in-person. Social media platforms are great, but only allow so much personal interaction and learning. When it comes to poultry exhibition and judging, learning about a bird is as much about observing it and feeling it as seeing a picture of it. There are many aspects of poultry husbandry that are difficult, if not impossible, to teach remotely but we do our best.



LFPA member Tessa Reimer won the 2020 art contest design for the club hoodie. Photo courtesy of Joshua T. Ream.



Presentation given at a 2020 LFPA member meeting. Graphic courtesy of Joshua T. Ream.

LFPA has also found lots of other ways to keep our members engaged in fun activities, from photo and art contests to virtual silent auctions. The key to our online success has been regular communication with our members and frequent opportunities to participate in both entertaining and educational virtual events.

Furthermore, we experimented with a delegation of tasks from the Executive Board to members at large to increase involvement and ownership in the club. These efforts were mostly successful and increased our ability to offer extensive programming throughout the year.

One major component of our Livestock Conservancy Microgrant was to host our second annual Big Dipper Classic Poultry Show with a licensed American Poultry Association (APA) judge. Our first annual show was held in 2019 in conjunction with the Alaska State Fair in Palmer, Alaska. This event was a huge success and generated exceptional interest in professional showing of standard bred poultry, including heritage breeds. However, it was soon clear that our small club could not logistically or financially sustain an annual event. We did not have enough exhibition cages for all the expected entries, nor the funds to fly a licensed judge to Alaska under contract. There are currently no licensed poultry judges living in our state. The microgrant set LFPA on a path to a sustainable future of providing poultry exhibition opportunities in Alaska.

The pandemic caused the Alaska State Fair to cancel its events for 2020, but LFPA still purchased the supplies necessary for a successful 2021 event. We more than doubled our poultry exhibition cages and will have a licensed APA and American Bantam Association judge under contract to attend our show next year. Our microgrant also helped us obtain ribbons and small prizes for champion poultry exhibitors. We told members that the show was not canceled, just merely postponed. We fully expect the show in 2021 to be bigger and better than ever.

In light of the many challenges before us, the LFPA has rolled with the punches of 2020 and will be successful in reaching both our mission and the mission of The Livestock Conservancy. We intend to continue promoting poultry breeds of conservation priority in the northernmost state. Alaska may be cold with long dark winters, but we have a wonderful group of poultry enthusiasts here that care deeply about this hobby and profession. Thank you for helping our small club to do great things.

Joshua T. Ream, Ph.D. is the president of the Last Frontier Poultry Association, Alaska's only poultry association. Their goal is to promote purebred poultry, educate members about raising and breeding healthy birds, and to connect Alaska's poultry people. Learn more at <https://www.facebook.com/LastFrontierPoultry/>

HERITAGE BREED PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT



A Delaware rooster named Clarence. Delaware chickens are an American breed listed as Watch on the Conservation Priority List.

By Kim Carr

As a kid growing up in St. Louis County, I had the good fortune to spend my summer between fourth and fifth grade on my grandparent's farm in southern Missouri. At the ripe old age of 10, I decided I would grow up to be a farmer. I made plans to have chickens like my grandparents, Rhode Island Reds, Dominiques, and other egg-producing breeds found on the farm. I had no idea about heritage breeds, I only knew that I wanted what my grandparents had.

In college, I majored in Animal Science so I could learn more about becoming a farmer. I soon found out farming is 90% hands-on and not so much book learning. While in school, I don't recall ever being taught about heritage breeds or their importance. We concentrated on commercial breeds. However, it was still a good experience because it gave me the confidence I needed to start a farm of my own.

Four years after graduation, I found myself sitting on 20 acres of cropland in mid-Missouri that I converted to pasture because I lacked any farming equipment and knew my dream was to have livestock. While in school, I worked on the university farm where they had horses and cattle. I ended up bottle raising a black Angus calf that had lost its mom. I had to fight to keep her, but I graduated with a calf, Dinah, who stayed

with my grandparents until I had a farm of my own. Over the years, I added more critters to my farm, leaning toward the old-fashioned breeds that I knew as a child; however, I still had no idea about heritage breeds and their importance.

In 2004, I went with my cousins to a Farmers Market in Troy, Missouri, that was known for livestock and poultry. My intentions were to come home with young laying hens and instead I met a man who had a baby calf in the back of his pickup. The mom was older and not able to raise the calf and the gentleman did not want to bottle feed a baby. This was my first introduction to Irish Dexters.

My plans were to raise the calf for meat, however the more I researched the breed, the more intrigued I became. I had always dreamed of starting a herd of cattle. Dinah had passed years ago, and I was excited to have a bull on the farm, with potential for more. Since we had not come to the market with thoughts of bringing a calf home, I held the baby in my lap as we drove back to the farm. With the help of my cousins, we came up with the name of Reid. Since he was an Irish Dexter, we decided to add a "Mc" to the beginning of his name. McReid was my introduction to heritage breeds.

As McReid grew, I looked for some cows to add to my herd of one. I found a gentleman selling four registered cows, each with a calf on them, and a bull. He was switching from Irish Dexters to Red

Angus for 4-H kids. The bull, Stormy, was handsome, and for a split second I thought about selling McReid, but he was still young and growing. He also had personality, which Stormy lacked. One of the cows had a less than sunshiny attitude, so I sold her and Stormy as a pair and began my life as a full-fledged cattlemoman and advocate for heritage breeds. Over the years, I've had an assortment of heritage breed chickens, Chinese geese, Bourbon Red and Royal Palm turkeys, a Mammoth Jack donkey, Indian Runner ducks, and Katahdin sheep. I no longer seek out animals to add to my farm, but if I did, they would be a heritage breed.

My small farm is purely hobby and I raise enough to keep my family fed. In 2008, I finally landed a job that paid me for my degree. I had insurance, vacation, 401K - all the things I dreamed of, besides being a farmer. The problem is the money and benefits did not keep me from hating my job. It was a true soul sucker. Fortunately for me, the company stepped in after two years and did me the huge favor of eliminating my position. In hindsight, it is one of the absolute best things to ever happen to me. I did not realize it then, but I do now.

While dazed and confused and wondering what to do, I started going to my local Farmers Market in Warren County. I took my excess eggs and a few veggies to sell every week. Somehow,

during this time, I became the Market Master and was in charge of ringing the opening bell and other tasks. I became friends with lots of farmers. I started attending a local food group for potluck dinners to discuss farming methods, saving seeds, foraging and such. I met lots of other like-minded folks here.

Along the way, as I was still trying to figure out what to do with my life that didn't involve me working for a corporation or any job that required me to sell my soul, my cousin mentioned that he would buy my pictures. I received a camera for my tenth birthday, and it just became a part of me. I never thought about selling my pictures, but now my cousin set off a light bulb.

With the encouragement of a friend and my mom, I put together 24 blank note cards with my photos from around the farm. I took them to my Farmers Market and sold them out of a wooden Pepsi flat alongside my eggs. The note cards failed miserably because everyone at the market had a chicken or they drove past a field of cows every day. Lucky for me, I don't get discouraged easily. I now had a purpose and a voice through my images.

Slowly I found myself transitioning into an artist, selling my note cards at first, then going bigger by offering prints, then canvases with my photography at every craft fair I could get into. Gradually galleries and small shops started to carry my work. Even today, I get a little giddy when I walk into a shop and come face-to-face with my note cards. I have transitioned once again, from blank cards to creating handmade greeting cards. I try to be funny and light, choosing pics of animals that will bring a smile. With my handmade cards I can use at least three images, which makes for an incredibly unique card and a great way to highlight heritage breeds.

By 2017, I was ready to take my photography to the next level. I was juried into the St. Louis Art Fair, one of the top 10 art shows in the United States. To show there you need to be at the top of your game, you need a distinctive voice, and you need to tell your story through your art. Here, I set my sights on heritage breed farm animals. I contacted every farmer I met at the market and in the food circle. Then I contacted Missouri farmers listed in The Livestock



McReid, Kim's first Irish Dexter bull, as a calf on his way home from the market (top). Kim's first collection of greeting cards (left). Kim holding a heritage rooster on her grandparents' farm, before she knew what heritage breeds were. (right)

Conservancy's directory to let them know I was working on a photo series of heritage breeds in the hope to someday publish a book.

Now in my third year, this project has become near and dear to my heart. I have visited 18 small farmers and photographed 34 endangered species of livestock and poultry, including American Milking Devon cattle, an American Mammoth Jack donkey, a Poitou donkey, Arapawa goats, Meishan pigs, Hog Island sheep, and many more.

I can't even begin to say how much happier I am in life as I am doing something I truly love. I've met the most amazing folks along the way and this photo project has helped me share the importance of small farms, biodiversity, sustainability, slow food, traditional farming, the fact that we have farm animals in danger of extinction and so much more. I feel like I have a mission

and my photos help give voice to that mission today and in the future.

Most people realize that we have exotic animals such as tigers and rhinos in danger of extinction, but very few realize this is also a concern with domestic farm animals. With your help I can add an extra voice to raise awareness and hopefully educate the general public to the benefits, rewards and extreme importance of conserving our old-fashioned breeds for future generations to come.

Kim Carr is a professional photographer based in Missouri. She is still looking for heritage breed farmers and breeders to participate in her photography project. Find her online at www.KimCarrPhotography.com and on Facebook, Instagram, and Pinterest @KimCarrPhotography.

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF EXMOOR PONIES

By Sue Burger, Exmoor Pony Society

Exmoor, home to one of the United Kingdom's rarest equine breeds, is a wild upland area of 430 square miles, straddling the counties of Somerset and Devon in South West England. Managed by the Exmoor National Park Authority, its northern boundary is made up of craggy cliffs overlooking the Bristol Channel. Dropping down to lush farmland in the South, its highest point is Dunkery Beacon at 1,700 feet above sea level, from where, on a clear day, you can see across the Bristol Channel to the mountains of South Wales.

The moor is characterized by wide expanses of rough grassland and heather, dotted with gorse bushes, known as Commons. Intersected by deep valleys known as combs that are cut by fast flowing streams, the Commons is where you are most likely to find the iconic native ponies grazing.

The ponies have grazed these moors for centuries, probably thousands of years, and are remarkably well-adapted to survive the harsh environment of Exmoor. Icy winds sweep off the Bristol Channel in the winter bringing heavy snow and rain. The ponies evolved many survival characteristics enabling them to endure the extreme weather.

BUILT FOR EXTREME WEATHER

The breed standard, as laid out by the Exmoor Pony Society, reflects their ability to survive in the harsh moor environment. They are short and stocky, rarely over 13hh, preferably 11.2 to 12.3hh. Their height enables them to find shelter in clumps of gorse and natural dips and hollows in the terrain.

To the untrained eye the ponies are almost identical with a uniform coloring of brown with light markings under the belly and inside the thighs. The mealy-colored muzzle and pale eye markings make them easy to identify. The muzzle should look as though it was dipped in a bowl of oatmeal. Their Pangaré coloring is also excellent camouflage on the moor, enabling them to blend in with the bracken and heather.

Exmoor Ponies also have short, thick ears, a wide forehead with large eyes set well apart, outlined by pale coloration,



A three-day-old Exmoor Pony filly foal and her mother playing on the Commons of the Exmoor National Park. Photo by Tricia Gibson, courtesy of the Exmoor Pony Society.

and prominent with a well-defined fleshy hood. Also known as a "Toad Eye," the hood helps deflect the weather. The ponies have a deep strong jaw with large teeth and a fleshy tongue, allowing them to browse on gorse and other tough plants like thistles and rushes.

The muzzle is broad with large nostrils so that air can be warmed before it reaches the lungs. The neck is relatively short, which also helps to conserve body heat. A double-layered winter coat comprised of a short, downy insulating under-layer is topped by longer greasy hairs to repel water. This is essential in poor moor weather. The mane and tail are thick, with the tail having a fan of shorter hairs at the top known as the snow chute, which channels rain away from the dock area. In summer, the coat is short and glossy.

SETTING UP A STUD BOOK

The ponies thrived on the moor for many years, but in 1818 the Royal Forest of Exmoor, as it was formerly known, was sold. The outgoing Warden, Sir

Thomas Acland, took 30 of the ponies and founded the Acland herd, now the Anchor herd. Exmoor farmers also bought stock at the dispersal sale and founded several herds, some of which are still in existence, such as Herd 23 on Withypool Common, Herd 12 on Dunkery, and Herd 44 at Litton.

In the early 20th century, it became fashionable to "improve" native ponies through cross-breeding to produce finer riding ponies. The Exmoor Pony Society was soon founded by local enthusiasts who wanted to preserve the purity of the breed. The primary objective was to form a stud book to register purebred ponies and ensure the future of the ponies for generations to come.

The inaugural meeting was held at the Red Lion Hotel, Dulverton, in the heart of Exmoor on March 10, 1921. The newly formed Exmoor Pony Society (EPS) first formulated a breed standard, which is little changed today. Every pony entered into the stud book must meet standard.

The next few years were spent with highly-experienced breeders inspecting

ponies for acceptance into the stud book as foundation stock. Closed in 1961, only foals from parents already registered in the stud book can be accepted for inspection and registration. Every foal is still inspected to ensure it meets the standard. If it does not, the foal is entered into Section X, which denotes purity and pedigree but is considered below the required standard.

Appointed by the EPS, the first foal inspectors were moorland breeders who had generations of knowledge about the breed. As the ponies' popularity grew and they became more widespread with breeders throughout the UK, the inspection system became more formalized. Potential inspectors had to be EPS members with previous pony involvement. Once accepted, inspectors completed a three-year training, which included handling and assessing foals, and learning to brand with hot irons.

Today, only ponies spending their lives living free on the moor are branded, in compliance with UK law. The vast majority of foals are now identified by microchip. DNA samples are taken from all foals for identification analysis and a complicated system of paperwork, including for a passport, is completed. That said, inspection time is still one of the highlights of the Exmoor pony year, presenting the opportunity for enthusiasts new and old to get together and discuss their favorite subject.

ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION

In the 1930s, Exmoors were popular childrens' riding ponies because of the success of the Moorland Mousie stories penned by "Golden Gorse." On Exmoor, as they had for generations, ponies carried the farmers shepherding, hunting, to market and even ploughed the land, while the unhandled breeding herds continued to graze the Commons.

After the end of WWII, the late 1940s nearly saw the demise of Exmoor Ponies on the moor. Many were taken for food, leaving the population dramatically reduced, with only around 50 purebred ponies surviving. Thanks to Withypool resident and keen pony breeder, Mary Etherington, the farmers and moorland breeders were encouraged to work together to re-establish their herds. Free living herds were also established in Cumbria and Scotland, providing a reservoir of genetic variety.

The following 40 years saw a steady increase in numbers so that by the 1980s there were around 500 registered purebred Exmoor ponies, mostly in the UK. Their popularity increased apace, and there are now more than 3,000 registered Exmoor ponies worldwide.

Despite their increased numbers, Exmoor Ponies are still included as category two, endangered, on the Rare Breed Survival Trust (RBST) watch list and listed as critically endangered by The Livestock Conservancy. Fewer than 200 foals are registered most years and only around 500 mares are in active breeding situations. The breed has a relatively small gene pool and the overall genetic health of the breed, as a whole, is regularly monitored.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the majority of the Exmoor pony population was found on Exmoor itself. Today, a few hundred ponies roam the moor while the rest are scattered across the UK and other countries, including the United States and Czech Republic.

A BRIGHTER FUTURE

The EPS has worked closely with RBST and other organizations to ensure the future of the breed. EPS members and breeders Debbie Davy and Michael Dewhurst recently received the Marsh Christian Award, presented by RBST for conservation in genetic biodiversity. An exciting and innovative Ph.D. project at Glasgow University in Scotland was also funded by the EPS. Results will have an important impact on the ponies' future survival on the moor.

These days the Exmoor ponies turn their hooves to many activities. Some grace the show ring with great success, others are family pets, and some are active in competitive disciplines such as dressage, long distance riding and cross country. Some are now becoming conservation grazers. Their hardiness and grazing technique make the Exmoor Ponies ideal for helping to restore a variety of natural habitats.

The Exmoor Pony Society is celebrating its centenary in 2021 with a wide range of events. The Society will continue as a guardian of the breed as long as it is needed by the ponies. Learn more at www.exmoorponysociety.org.uk



RARE BREED EQUINE WEBINARS

Love rare equine breeds and want to know more about DNA testing, promoting and marketing your equine group, or how to train young horses to make them more attractive to buyers? Stay tuned for The Livestock Conservancy's Rare Equine Webinar series this summer.

Thanks to a grant from the NC Horse Council, we're excited to present an online webinar series this summer instead of an in-person conference.

Dates and times for the webinar series will be announced soon. Look for an email in your inbox. If you have any equine webinar topics to suggest, please let us know! Email info@livestockconservancy.org.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST LIFE MEMBER!

The Livestock Conservancy would like to give a special thanks to the following individuals who recently chose to support us and our conservation programs by becoming Life Members:

Gloria Basse
Damascus, VA

For more information about becoming a Life Member, contact Karen Elliott at 806-570-0874 or kelliott@livestockconservancy.org



Sandy West educates about Ossabaw Island pigs, courtesy of Ossabaw Island Foundation.

REMEMBERING SANDY WEST

By Don Bixby and Elaine Shirley

Eleanor "Sandy" Torrey West passed away on January 17, 2021, her 108th birthday. Sandy's parents purchased Ossabaw Island as their winter retreat in 1924 and built a Spanish style mansion overlooking the Sound.

Though very close to Savannah, Georgia, Ossabaw Island is a truly unique place. It remains one of the only unspoiled barrier islands on the East Coast and is important as a buffer against storms and as habitat for wildlife and marine turtle nesting. Sandy West recognized that this island was a treasure and worked unceasingly to preserve its wilderness for future generations.

She also realized that the Ossabaw Island pigs, introduced by Spanish adventurers as early as the 1600s, were unique as well. DNA studies suggest the foundation stock originated in the Canary Islands, and centuries of adaptation to the unique environment of Ossabaw Island make this population genetically distinctive. The status of this breed is "critical" on The Livestock Conservancy's Priority List.

Donkeys also roamed the island, descended from animals imported from Sardinia in the 1940s as pets for the Torrey children. The donkeys eventually joined the other animals living feral lives on the island. They represent an isolated population of donkey genetics differentiated from current Sardinian donkeys, which is one

of eight recognized donkey breeds, and considered "endangered" by the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Don Bixby, former director of The Livestock Conservancy, worked closely with Sandy for several years on pig and donkey conservation projects. He and his family were guests of Sandy's for several visits. The house was a virtual museum with extraordinary furnishing from the early to mid-20th century. In addition, there was a spectacular library and art collection created during the 1960s when Sandy and her husband provided a retreat center for writers and artists.

The impressions and memories that stand out from these visits include: Sandy sitting on the laundry room floor bottle feeding an orphan donkey; Lucky the pig, who was saved from a hawk as a piglet, opening the screen door and coming into the kitchen for treats; a deer licking the hand of our teenage son; being awakened in the morning by peacocks on our balcony; and a pair of braying donkeys chasing through the patio cookout. All of this took place in a semi-tropical jungle with sea turtles, conch shells, and horseshoe crabs on the beach, a heronry nest site, alligators, and all sorts of other birds and wildlife.

Sandy West was a force of and for nature. She will be greatly missed and long remembered. We all owe a debt of gratitude to her vision and energy for saving a magical place and its treasures.

PASS IT ON



AMBASSADOR GOAT

By Mary Ellen Nicholas
(Nov/Dec Newsletter 1998)

When I first bought Bentley, my first Nigerian Dwarf and first goat in over 35 years, I had no idea what the future held. I had decided I'd like to own a goat again, but I did not want to raise and milk them. The idea of a Nigerian Dwarf appealed to me immediately. And so it was that I bought a wild little kid named Bentley.

That once-wild goat is now two years old and one of the best-known Nigerian Dwarf goats in the country. Through the use of positive reinforcement, popularly known as "clicker training," Bentley has learned to obey 23 different commands and is constantly learning new ones. He comes when called, rolls over, plays dead, fetches and is getting pretty good at soccer. Because of his numerous tricks, Bentley gets lots of social invitations ... and we are off on another adventure.

Taking Bentley out in public gives me the opportunity to educate the public about goats in general, dispelling myths such as the ideas that goats smell bad and eat tin cans. People always ask a lot of questions about Bentley, which gives me the chance to highlight the Nigerian Dwarf breed. Promoting the Nigerian's gentle, personable nature gives breeders a market for their excess bucks in the form of pet wethers.

As a breed, the Nigerian Dwarf is currently the subject of much debate, and its future may indeed rest on the outcome of these discussions. But everyone involved seems to agree on one thing: this is a productive, personable, colorful, intelligent, and highly desirable little goat. It is these qualities that I will continue to promote, with Bentley, the ambassador goat, in tow.

Mary Ellen Nicholas, who passed away in 2020, was best known for her conservation of American Mammoth Jack donkeys. She also celebrated Nigerian Dwarfs with her partner Bentley, the Ambassador Goat.



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5-05 321d 14,399m 3.6% 530f 3.0% 442p
Bred by Vandenbinks, owned by Bohreviv



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



Looking for wool in all the wrong places?

The North American Shetland Sheep Breeders Association can help you source breeders for your fiber and stock.

Contact : www.shetland-sheep.org

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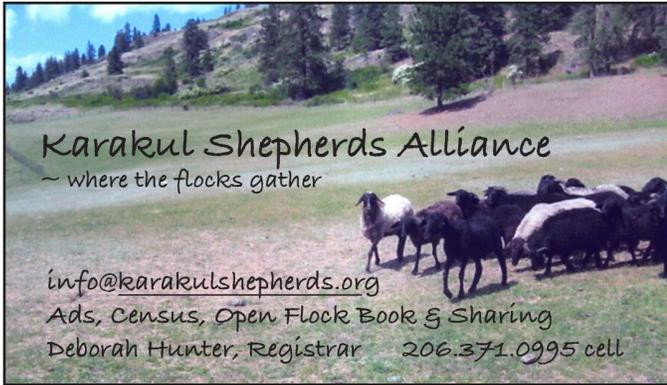


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www.AmericanTeeswaterSheep.org



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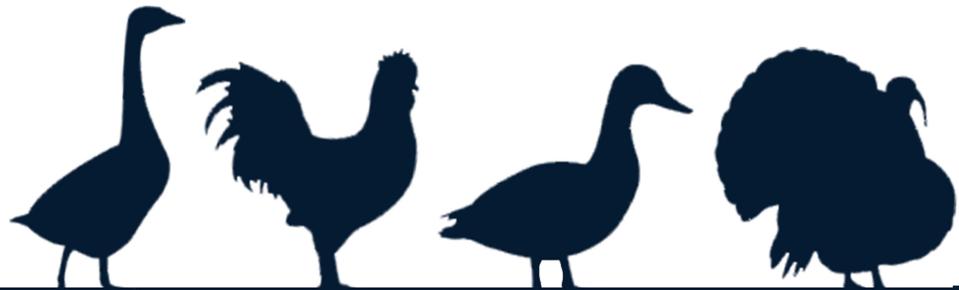
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THE LIVESTOCK CONSERVANCY 2021 POULTRY CENSUS

The Livestock Conservancy is excited to launch the 2021 Poultry Census, sponsored by Murray McMurray Hatchery. This critically important project will focus on breeding populations of domestic poultry (purebred breeds or landraces), including chickens, ducks, geese, and turkeys. The census will enable us to understand how poultry populations are faring in North America and guide future conservation efforts.

Many heritage breed poultry are historically significant and represent irreplaceable genetics

that may be essential to the future of agriculture. Even as backyard poultry keeping becomes more popular, many of the less common or more challenging breeds are in real danger of extinction.

We invite anyone who manages breeding flocks, small or large, to complete the 2021 Poultry Census. The greater the participation, the more precise the picture of poultry populations in North America. Responses will remain anonymous, but you may opt to share your contact information with us. This will help identify breeders who hold flocks

of high conservation value, which are important to the long-term genetic diversity of endangered poultry breeds. A detailed summary of census results will be shared following analysis of collected data.

Start counting your chickens, ducks, geese, and turkeys today!

**Fill out the survey online at
<http://bit.ly/2021PoultryCensus>**

**For a printed survey, email
info@livestockconservancy.org
or call 919-542-5704.**