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The American Livestock Breeds Conservancy

# NEWS

## Texas Longhorn, Morgan Horse, and Others Added to CPL

ALBC staff have been hard at work conducting a comprehensive census of livestock, and the results are clear in some of the changes to the 2013 *Conservation Priority List* (CPL).

### New Additions to the CPL

The most dramatic changes to this year's CPL are the additions of two iconic American breeds, the **Morgan** horse (traditional) and **Texas Longhorn** cattle. **Harlequin** rabbits, **Galiceño** horses, **Saipan** chickens, and **Icelandic** chickens also join the 2013 CPL in the Study category. Study is an important step that allows ALBC to confirm that a breed not only needs conservation, but is able to benefit from conservation. ALBC determines: 1) whether breeds have sufficient genetic integrity to qualify as breeds, 2) the international

status of the breeds, and 3) their status in America.

**Morgan** horses have a long and distinguished history in America, dating back to 1789 when the foundation sire for the breed, a colt named "Figure" (later known as "Justin Morgan") was born. During the 1900s, portions of the breed went through a major change in type from the original multi-purpose driving, working, and riding horse into a refined, elegant show horse. As registrations plummeted, the breed became a candidate for ALBC's CPL. The original (traditional) type of the breed is the portion of the breed of conservation interest, because the more modern types have experienced significant crosses to other breeds. ALBC therefore lists only that portion of the breed that traces pedi-

grees back to horses registered before 1930, with no outside crosses. The global population is estimated at 1,300 animals, most of which are not being actively bred.

**Texas Longhorn** cattle originate from Spanish cattle of the Southwest. Various efforts at registering this breed have taken different directions. Some of these insist on purity of the breed, others much less so. ALBC's focus on genetic conservation limits our interest to the pure portions of the breed; these are nearly all registered with the Cattlemen's Texas Longhorn Registry. This registry has done an excellent job of correlating breed type with underlying purity by blood type and DNA evaluation.

Although descended from horses of the Iberian Peninsula, the **Galiceño** breed is distinct from other Colonial Spanish strains in origin. The Galiceño ancestors hail from Galicia and northern Portugal, and are related to the Garrano horses of that region. Other Colonial Spanish horses

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**Morgans and Longhorns have been added to the Study category of the CPL.** Left: Texas Longhorn cow. Photo by Phil Sponenberg. Right: "Edgewood Geneva," Lippitt Morgan mare owned by Ash Royalty Lippitt Morgans. Photo courtesy of The Lippitt Morgan Horse Registry, Inc.

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Basic annual membership is \$35, and includes the quarterly *ALBC 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 ALBC.

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# We Need a Tagline!

ALBC does many things – help farmers, ranchers, and back-yarders select good quality stock, promote endangered livestock and poultry breeds, publish educational materials, rescue endangered populations, and more. Have you ever had a hard time quickly summarizing what your organization does? You might be interested to know that the ALBC staff have too!

In an effort to better build ALBC's brand, we are asking our members to help us develop a tagline for the organization. Taglines are usually a few words or a short phrase that often accompanies the name in places like brochures, the website, and publications, among others. A tagline is meant to quickly give the public a better idea of what a product, company, or organization is all about. Taglines should be short, descriptive, and perhaps most importantly, memorable. Organizational taglines often draw from mission statements or evolve from phrases often associated with the organization.

If you are wondering if you are qualified to submit a tagline for us to consider – you are! ALBC has a diverse, creative, and talented membership, so even if you have no marketing experience, your suggestion could help!

Please submit taglines (and any other marketing or promotional suggestions you may have) to Marketing & Communications Manager Ryan Walker at rwalker@albc-usa.org or mail to ALBC, PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

## In Memoriam

ALBC recently received the sad news of the passing of long-time member William D. Wagman at the age of 80. Bill spent the majority of his professional career as a professor in psychology. After his "retirement" Bill devoted himself to the study of conservation, organic farming, and husbandry at his Mater Manoeuvre Farm in Fort Littleton, Pennsylvania. There he and his wife, Althea, grew almost all of their own food from extensive organic gardens and raised Cornish chickens, pigs, and Beef Devon cows.

He researched and raised grass-fed cattle and taught other farmers about their virtues. He used goats to clean his fields, collected rainwater from his roofs to water his gardens, and sold electricity back to the power company long before these green initiatives were popular. He was a staunch advocate for protecting the earth from the burning of carbon fossil fuels. He tried to recycle everything, and his farm hosted classes for Pennsylvania Association of Sustainable Agriculture (PASA) and Penn State School of Agriculture. Bill's daughter Idalee resides on the farm and is continuing the breeding program.

## WIN A FLOCK OF HERITAGE CHICKENS!

Entry deadline October 18!



### HERITAGE CHICKEN STARTER KIT GIVEAWAY

- A starter flock of Buckeye cockerels and pullets, which have been grown out as part of a collaborative effort between Seed Savers Exchange and American Livestock Breeds Conservancy (ALBC)
- City Chicks by Pat Foreman
- Pocketful of Poultry by Carol Ekarius
- The Small-Scale Poultry Flock by Harvey Ussery
- One-year membership to ALBC
- A \$500 Tractor Supply Company gift card to buy starter materials for your heritage-breed flock

Win this prize package valued at more than \$800!



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# FROM THE DIRECTOR



**By Eric Hallman**

It seems like only yesterday that I was writing my first "From the Director" column. A year later, I am still learning but feel I have a firm grasp of what is required for ALBC to reach its potential. I can see how ALBC brings the history and success of the past thirty six years into the future. In my last column I wrote about *where* we are going – building programs that advance our mission over the next five to ten years. This month I'd like to focus on *how* we get there, specifically the basic infrastructure that ALBC requires to serve its mission.

ALBC is a non-profit membership organization. It is important to recognize that we exist because of our members and we do so with the financial support of our members. Together, we are partners in this mission. Over the years our members have seen both the value and the results from the work ALBC does to protect endangered breeds of livestock and poultry. In turn, ALBC relies on our members to support this work both financially and in deed. Your membership is what provides the foundation for ALBC and the benefits you derive from being a member should be reflected in the level of the dues you pay so that the organization continues to exist.

We have known for

the past couple of years that the costs of these benefits were not keeping pace with the "Basic" dues level. This has put a financial strain on the organization and we must realign the Basic membership dues to address this. After thorough analysis and discussion, we have determined that the Basic membership fee must increase from \$35 to \$45. This brings the dues back in line with the costs of providing the basic membership services.

The table at right shows the revised membership fees. Recognizing a growth in interest from younger breeders, we have added a student membership for \$25 with on-line access only (no mailings). In addition, we have raised the Sustaining member level to \$100. We are very fortunate that about a third of our members recognize the value of ALBC's work by already joining at the higher Sustaining membership level, with the additional funds supporting program activities.

The increase in membership dues levels is required to continue providing the best and most current information available through our newsletters, website, and by phone. Maintaining and updating these information sources takes staff time along with the costs of publication, mailing, printing, maintenance, and infrastructure. The Basic membership fees must cover these costs. Otherwise, we siphon off funds from critical conservation programs.

We are fortunate to have diversified and balanced sources of income. Revenues come from a several sources and we are not overly dependent on any one source. We receive about a third of our income from donations from individuals. Another

New Membership Levels	
Student	\$25.00
Basic	\$45.00
Sustaining	\$100.00
Group	\$100.00
Corporate	250.00

quarter comes through grants or gifts from foundations, state and federal programs, and corporations. About 20% comes from sources like special events, advertising, sponsorships, and book sales. Membership dues make up only 20% of the total income and just cover the cost of providing those benefits mentioned above.

Like many of you, we have been holding our breath and counting pennies the past few years, waiting for the economy to get better. ALBC has come through the financial crisis better than many non-profits. Realizing the economic downturn would negatively affect our ability to raise funds, ALBC took the proactive step to trim expenditures by 20%. These were tough decisions but we were guided by three principles: 1) take care of what we've built over 36 years, 2) continue to invest in the future of ALBC, and 3) minimize the impact on our members. We had to make some tough choices, even reducing staff. This fiscal austerity has served us well. We have operated within our budget, while at the same time developing and strengthening the infrastructure we need to move ALBC forward.

Arriving a year ago I was pleased to find a strong financial discipline and management in place. ALBC is very careful with how we use the resources provided to us. I believe we have strengthened our operations in the areas of budgeting and cash management. We have a clearer picture of where we are financially and can see ahead to where the challenges lie. Over the past year we have adapted and improved the infrastructure of the organization. With these in place, I feel confident that ALBC is well positioned to seize the opportunities before us.❖

**Congratulations to our 2013 Graduates!**

**Nigerian Dwarf, Percheron, & Katahdin**



The American Livestock Breeds Conservancy

# Additions to the CPL

*Continued from page 1*

of North America were brought from southern Spain and have a different mix of ancestral breeds. After a long history in Mexico, the Galiceño came to the United States in the 1950s. Recent genetic analysis supports their descent from Galicia. It is estimated there are only 200-300 of these horses in the United States and most are not being actively bred.

**Saipan** chickens are game-type birds; legend has it that they were originally brought to the United States by returning soldiers from the Pacific theater after World War II. They are reported to no longer exist in the Pacific Islands. Some of the flocks in the United States were crossed with other breeds, and it is not clear whether there is a sustainable population of the original breed.

**Icelandic** chickens, on the other hand, are a recent import to the United States with impeccable documentation of their origin. There have been several imports of this breed since the 1990's, so it is possible that the United States now has a sufficiently diverse population to contribute to conserving this cold-hardy landrace breed.

**Harlequin** rabbits were once known as Japanese rabbits, but in fact are French in origin and were imported to the United States in the early 1890s. Although they never achieved great popularity as a utility breed, they appear to be great mothers, and their adult size of eight pounds would make a smaller, but still rather nice carcass. There are likely fewer than eight large scale breeders of Harlequin rabbits in the United States and fewer than 100 annual registrations in the United States.

## Improved breed status

Several breeds improved their conservation status.

Dedicated breeders have been working with **Pineywoods** cattle to ensure their continued existence through breeding and promotion, and their efforts are paying off as the Pineywoods moves from Critical to

Threatened. ALBC Technical Advisor Phil Sponenberg takes a special interest in Spanish-origin breeds and has provided strategic breeding plans to breeders and breed associations in order to conserve the original bloodlines. He serves as registrar for this breed.

**Runner** ducks move from Watch to Recovering. These upright ducks trace their origins over 2,000 years ago to Asia, and they are valued in backyards and on homesteads as weeders and prolific egg layers. Runners come in many colors, including Black, Buff, Chocolate, Cumberland Blue, Fawn & White, Gray, Penciled, White, and many more.

## Breeds moving off Study

**Florida Cracker** sheep move from Study to Critical. Florida Cracker sheep descend from imports by the Spanish, were range-managed until well into the 20th century, and are exquisitely adapted to their region. Although for many years Florida Cracker sheep were clustered with Gulf Coast sheep, a recent genetic study (Kijas et al., 2012. PLoS ONE 7:e41508) indicated that the two breeds are as distantly related to each other as to the Spanish breeds from which they descend.

Two "breeds" listed under Study for several years have been removed entirely from the CPL. **Lamona** chickens were a breed developed by a USDA researcher in the early 20th century. Said to have been developed from White Leghorn, White Plymouth Rock, and Dorking breeds, the breed lost popularity after the 1950s and was reported extinct in the late 20th century. It was added to the Study category of



**Icelandic chickens have been added to Study. Cockerel owned by Jim Hall. Photo by Jeannette Beranger.**

the CPL in 2002. In the intervening years, ALBC has not been able to confirm any Lamona flocks of unbroken lineage to the original breed. **Naked Neck** chickens have also been removed from Study. The Naked Neck trait (a lack of feathering on the neck) is caused by a single gene. This gene is present in several chicken breeds around the world, and some of those breeds or strains are quite numerous.

## Disappointing news

Global populations can be more important than United States populations in determining breed status for imported breeds. This is definitely the case for several sheep breeds. Declining sheep production in the United Kingdom has caused us to move three breeds out of the Recovering category. **Shropshire** moves from Recovering to Watch, while **Black Welsh Mountain** and **Clun Forest** move to Threatened. These unfortunate declines in the sheep populations in their countries of origin make the North American populations even more important in the global picture.

## Success!

For the first time since introducing the "Recover-  
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**Diosa De Oro, "Dee Dee", Galiceño mare from Suwannee Horse Ranch. Photo courtesy of Rick Blaney. Galiceños have been added to the Study category.**



## Conservation Priority Livestock Breeds 2013

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

Breeds unique to North America are printed in bold. (F) Feral populations or breeds of feral origin.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Cattlemen's Texas Longhorn Registry.



## Conservation Priority Equine Breeds 2013

**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
Asses	Poitou	American Mammoth Jackstock		Miniature Donkey	
Horses	<b>American Cream</b> <b>Caspian</b> <b>Cleveland Bay</b> <b>Colonial Spanish Strains<sup>1</sup></b> Banker <sup>2,4</sup> (F) Belsky <sup>2</sup> Cerbat <sup>2</sup> (F) Choctaw <sup>2,3</sup> Florida Cracker <sup>2</sup> Marsh Tacky <sup>2</sup> New Mexico <sup>2,5</sup> Pryor <sup>2</sup> (F) Santa Cruz <sup>2</sup> Sulphur <sup>2</sup> (F) Wilbur-Cruce <sup>2</sup> Hackney Horse Newfoundland Pony Shire Suffolk	Akhal-Teke Canadian Colonial Spanish – Combined <sup>1</sup> Dales Pony Dartmoor Exmoor Lipizzan	Clydesdale Fell Pony Gotland Irish Draught Mountain Pleasure/ Rocky Mountain	Belgian Friesian	Galiceño Morgan – Traditional <sup>6</sup>

Breeds unique to North America are printed in bold. (F) Feral populations or breeds of feral origin.

<sup>1</sup> 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 strain registries.

<sup>2</sup> Colonial Spanish horse strain that also contributes to the combined population.

<sup>3</sup> Includes Cherokee and Huasteca influenced horses.

<sup>4</sup> Includes Shackleford, Ocracoke, Corolla, Carrot, Core, Hatteras, and Cedar horses.

<sup>5</sup> Includes Mt. Taylor, Baca, McKinley, but not New Mexico Horse Project horses.

<sup>6</sup> Includes horses whose pedigrees are absent of outcrosses after 1930.



## Conservation Priority Poultry Breeds 2013

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

Breeds unique to North America are printed in bold.

<sup>1</sup> Araucana and Ameraucanas are often confused with each other and may be sold interchangeably.

# Additions to the CPL

Continued from page 4

ing" category to the CPL in 2000, ALBC is pleased to announce that three breeds will be promoted off the Conservation Priority List. New criteria were established for this move: Breeds are no longer in need of continuous monitoring if the annual registrations exceed 5,000 or their global numbers exceed 25,000. This degree of success puts these breeds on par with other livestock breeds that ALBC monitors from time to time in species audits that we conduct every ten years.

**Percheron** horses are a versatile draft horse that has gained popularity in several countries. Breeding and conservation of Percherons in North America and by the National Stables in France has improved their status, and the global population exceeds 32,000. (For more about the National Stables, see "French Connections" by Jeannette Beranger in the Sept/Oct 2011 issue of the *ALBC News*.) We are grateful for the strong conservation efforts in the country of origin, and applaud the work of American breeders in promoting the breed. **Katahdin** sheep represent a composite of several hair sheep breeds and have enjoyed a great deal of market success. In 2011, the breed association



**Saipan rooster and hen. Saipans are now in the Study category. Photo by Ralph Wright.**

saw more than 6,500 new registrations! The success of this breed demonstrates an important example of why conservation is important – hair sheep and the Katahdin in particular surged in popularity when wool markets declined. The **Nigerian Dwarf** goat leaves the CPL as a true conservation success. What was then known as the

American Minor Breeds Conservancy (AMBC) reported on Nigerian Dwarf goats when the first herdbook (by the International Dairy Goat Registry) opened in 1982. Within a few years three herdbooks were competing for breeders' attention, and efforts to locate foundation animals were intense. By 1988, AMBC was able to report that the Nigerian Dwarf was considered one of the fastest growing breeds in popularity. Originally raised as companion and show animals, Nigerian Dwarf goats have proven their worth on

small farms as prolific dairy animals. New registrations in 2011 through the American Dairy Goat Association numbered 5,900.

Those who breed and promote these three breeds deserve a heartfelt congratulations on the success of their efforts. We hope that many more breeds will join them in years to come.❖

## The Census Process

In 1994 ALBC published "Taking Stock", the first-ever comprehensive census of livestock in North America. In so doing it set the standard for future conservation, both at home and throughout the globe. Census data formed the basis of the Conservation Priority List (CPL), the tool that drives conservation programs with clear, science-based direction. We have conducted censuses for individual species in the intervening years, but in 2012 we once again launched a comprehensive census of livestock. At the end of 2012 we had obtained U.S. census information for 80% of endangered breeds and about 50% of non-endangered breeds. We are also getting global population estimates on many breeds so that we can prioritize breeds in a global context.

The impact of up-to-date data is clear in this year's changes to the CPL. It was through this work that we discovered the decline in several breeds including the Morgan horse breed. From the global census numbers, we decided to keep a closer watch on several sheep breeds, and can declare success for the Percheron horse, thanks to the conservation efforts here at home and in France and elsewhere in Europe.

Census is a labor-intensive task. We rely on data from breed registries, associations, and clubs. For breeds that don't have registries, the task becomes even greater as dedicated staff, volunteers, and breed clubs must call as many breeders as possible to get accurate estimates. For example, Ina Ish, a long-time breeder of traditional Morgan horses, has the best information about the population size because she and others have pored through the American Morgan Horse Association herdbooks and Lippitt Morgan Breeders Association herdbooks and phoned individual breeders to ask about their breeding herds. The Dominique Club of America has undertaken a census of the Dominique breed which will provide valuable information for conserving America's oldest breed of chickens. Any breed clubs wanting to conduct their own census can contact ALBC's technical staff for guidance and learn how to get started. Your breed's future is in your hands, and understanding population numbers really does count!

## Welcome to our Newest Life Members!

ALBC would like to give a special thanks to our members who have most recently chosen to support ALBC and its conservation programs by becoming life members.

**Linda H. McKittrick**

Tucson, AZ

**Shelley Schorsch**

Jenkintown, PA

**Marcia V. Stucki**

Galesburg, MI

**Philip Larson & Heidi Stucki, DVM**

Galesburg, MI

If you would like to learn more about becoming a life member, please contact Ryan Walker at 919-542-5704, ext. 102, or [rwalker@albc-usa.org](mailto:rwalker@albc-usa.org).

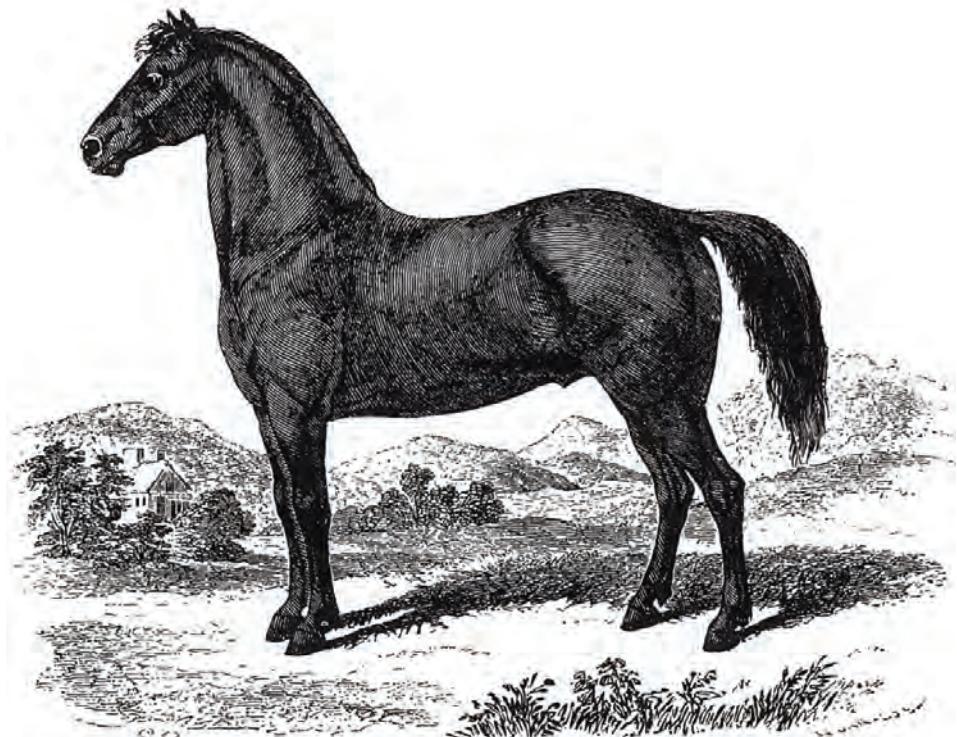
# It Is Important To Save this Horse

By Jane Myers

*Editors note: The Lippitt Morgan is blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. and there are other Morgans that are included in ALBC's Morgan—Traditional category on the CPL.*

Most of you have probably seen, or at least heard of, the 1970s Disney movie, "Justin Morgan Had a Horse," a Hollywood version of the origin of the Morgan Horse. It was not intended to be a documentary. While it is entertaining, some of the facts are not all as presented in the movie. For instance, Figure, a.k.a. Justin Morgan the horse, was not a two-year-old "thrown in" to settle a debt. On the contrary, Justin Morgan, the man, went to Connecticut to purchase Figure as a three-year-old colt. He was a sensation and had already bred many mares that season.

Figure was a wonderful, versatile, anomaly of his time. He could out-work, out-pull, and outlast all others in New England. He remained sound and hardy throughout his long life. The New England hardships did not affect his easy keeper qualities. And to put it into perspective, Figure was foaled in 1789, the



1857 woodcut of "Figure", Justin Morgan's horse, from the book **Morgan Horses** by D.C. Linsley.

year George Washington became our first President.

This horse singly founded America's first breed of horse – the Morgan. This was done by careful and intensive inbreeding/line breeding to set type. It has preserved the type, nervous system, fearlessness, work ethic, soundness, and hardiness in the Lippitt Morgan today, for nearly 230 years!

## The Lippitt Morgan

The Lippitt Morgan became defined as a family of very high percentage Morgan horses in the early 1970s by a small group of people who realized that this wonderful gene pool, our closest link to Figure, was being bred out with other horses and dwindling the concentration of the best Morgan blood. Today's Lippitt Morgan carries approximately 23% or more of the original Figure's blood. That is almost as much as a grandson or granddaughter of the Original Morgan Horse! No other family of Morgan horses can attest to this.

You cannot "breed up to" a purebred Lippitt Morgan by crossing a purebred Lippitt with a 1/2, 3/4, 15/16 or any other combination other than a purebred Lippitt Morgan. There would always be one line that didn't meet the criteria of a purebred Lippitt. That is, that all Lippitts trace on ALL lines of their pedigree to our Cornerstone stallion, Ethan Allen 2nd, and derive from 25 Foundation Stock, which includes

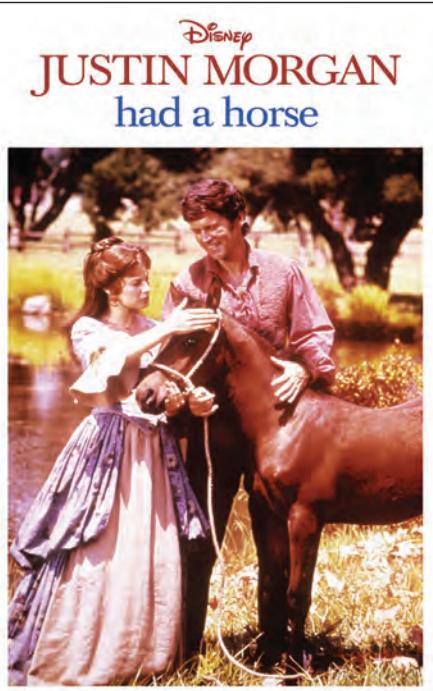
8 stallions and 17 mares. Ethan Allen 2nd was himself a highly line bred Figure stallion who represented the type and qualities of a pure blooded Morgan.

Today's Lippitt Morgans still look, move, and act like the original Figure of 230 years ago. They possess the same vibrance, gentleness, work ethic, nervous energy, and beauty, and are very people oriented. As with all our Heritage farm animals, Lippitts were bred for usefulness. A hot- or ill-tempered horse was not desired. Their nervous energy should never be confused with being "hot". They love having a job!

Today this horse is critically endangered, and has been declining in numbers for several years. One reason is the transition to the show Morgan, which often has very little Morgan blood at all, often less than 6%, due to years of outcrossing with Saddlebred, Standardbred, Hackney and range mares. The Lippitt Morgan has no outcrossings in the 20th and 21st centuries. If you see a buckskin, palomino, cremello, perlino, or gray Morgan, it is not a Lippitt. Lippitts are only bay, brown, chestnut, and black, and usually have few or no white markings.

Our numbers are dismal. In the seven-year period 1998-2004, we averaged 80 foals per year. In the next seven years,

*continued on page 11*



Disney's **Justin Morgan had a horse** (1972). Image courtesy of iTunes.

# In a Lather about Red Wattle Soap

By Donna O'Shaughnessy

For those of us who raise the Red Wattle, the following anecdotal story is familiar. Apparently the pioneer woman of days past was not so fond of our own beloved heritage hog, stating somewhere along the Chisholm Trail that the Red Wattle just wasn't...fat enough. And so, sadly, the Red Wattle lost favor among those first frontier ladies who needed chubby hogs to make soap, to render lard, in other words, to survive. Chances are that the Red Wattle of the Prairie just wasn't fed the type of diet our own hogs are blessed with. I'm sure the mothers of the past weren't "wasting" nutrient-rich hay, grain, and raw milk on their piggies when kitchen scraps were available.

Over time, due to the diligent work of dedicated breeders, the breed regained its popularity. After our first home-grown, Red Wattle bone-in pork chops were quickly devoured by my husband and me, we decided that fat or the lack of was not the issue. We personally found the fat content of Red Wattle meat no less than perfect. And like so many others who want to share the goodness of the Red Wattle with the world so as to have it removed one day from the Critical category of ALBC's *Conservation Priority List*, we decided to actively promote the breed, at first through

direct sales of its meat products but in the last couple of years through something more unusual, handcrafted artisan soap.

Handmade soaps are growing in popularity, often seen at farmers markets, small boutiques, and world famous spas, but those made with lard are rare and those made with Red Wattle lard even more so. At first my soap customers were suspicious of my creations, fearful they would leave their showers smelling of bacon or feeling greasy or that the soap would cause them to make odd pig noises under the water spray, but after taking a few samples home they were hooked.

Soap made with Red Wattle lard and lye, just like the pioneers might have done if they were able to provide ample pasture and feed to their hogs, results in a hard, white, moisturizing bar with thick creamy lather. It cures quickly and is usable one or two weeks before most cold process soaps.

Lard from the Red Wattle has a very mild smell that takes well to the addition of essential oils like lavender, geranium rose and clary sage, holding the fragrances in the bar for an extended period. The lard melts easily and blends fully with the other base oils I use in my soap recipes such as olive, sweet almond and babasuu. It is an excellent substitute for Coconut oil which



**"Black and White" Red Wattle soap made with powdered charcoal. Photo by Donna O'Shaughnessy.**



**"Java-Wood" Red Wattle soap made with coconut, olive, and sweet almond, castor oils and coffee butter. Photo by Donna O'Shaughnessy.**

is often used by soap makers due to its hardness and great lather.

Red Wattle lard lathers just as well and rinses clean after it goes through the chemical saponification process that occurs when adding lye water to base oils. The finished bars will keep for over a year maintaining all their excellent cleaning abilities. Laundry soap can also be made from a cured bar of Red Wattle soap just by grating it into tiny pieces and adding equal amounts of washing soda, borax and baking soda.

I even make shampoo bars with my Red Wattle lard but my favorite and most requested recipe is called "Cro-Bar" made with Red Wattle lard and Guinness beer, scented with a little Cinnamon Oil. It appeals to men hands down. and the bars generally fly off the store shelves, hopefully to be used in the shower and not served as a treat at the next Super Bowl party.

We sell our soap bars on-line, through a few small local shops and in our retail farm store on our property, where it is just another value-added item that customers can purchase as they also select some of our Red Wattle bacon, sausage, or brats.



**Donna's Red Wattle soap for sale at the 2013 Rare Breeds Show at Garfield Farm in LaFox, Illinois.**



**"Blue Grass" Red Wattle soap made with orange, lavender, bergamot and lemongrass essential oils. Photo by Donna O'Shaughnessy.**

Selling soap allows us the opportunity to teach folks that one way of preserving our heritage breed hog is to make good use of all it has to offer, such as yummy bacon, succulent sausage, feet, heart, liver, and, of course, packages of fat which can easily be rendered into lard.

The retail price of our soap is \$5.00 for a large 5 oz bar, about 30% less than most soap makers ask for their bars. But even at that reasonable price I make a profit of about \$3.00 per bar. The remaining \$2.00 goes towards the other oils I use, the essential oils for scenting, plus herbs and clays for coloring. Each batch of soap takes approximately one hour to make and six weeks to cure.

The actual process of making soap with Red Wattle lard cannot be safely taught in a brief article but those interested can find soap-making classes offered in their area by contacting their local Extension office or the Hand Crafted Soap Makers Guild at [www.soapguild.org](http://www.soapguild.org). Abundant resources can also be found at your local library, or if you learn best visually, check out the multitude of videos on YouTube. Be careful, though, as not all those who make soap are qualified to teach about the making of soap. Lye can burn and safety precautions such as using gloves and goggles must be followed. ♦

*Donna O'Shaughnessy and her husband, Keith Parrish, own South Pork Ranch LLC in Chatsworth, Illinois, a certified organic dairy, beef, and hog farm. For more information about Donna's soaps see her blog [midlifefarmwife.blogspot.com](http://midlifefarmwife.blogspot.com) or their farm's website, [www.south-pork-ranch.com](http://www.south-pork-ranch.com), or contact her at [opies99@gmail.com](mailto:opies99@gmail.com).*

## Action Alert on the Choctaw Hog Rescue

As you may have heard, ALBC has recently discovered an extraordinary opportunity to conserve a population of critically endangered Choctaw hogs in Oklahoma. Choctaw hogs have been listed on ALBC's Conservation Priority List for several years, but because of the small size of the population, only recently have we been able to determine the true population status for the breed. Our technical staff traveled to Oklahoma recently to document the last remaining Choctaw hogs and our research indicates that there are only 100-150 hogs left in the entire breed, making them one of the most endangered animals in the world.

Because of this, we need to act quickly to set up a conservation program in order to ensure the population survives and the genetics for this unique breed are not lost. Many of you have donated to help us with this rescue – thank you! We have raised about half of the funds needed to fully implement the rescue project and are still accepting donations. Donations from individuals or companies of materials such as fencing, electric fencing, ear tags, etc. are also welcome. For more information on needed material donations, please contact Jeannette Beranger at 919-542-5704 or [jberanger@albc-usa.org](mailto:jberanger@albc-usa.org).

To view a video about the hogs, see more pictures, and make a donation, please visit the ALBC homepage at [www.albc-usa.org](http://www.albc-usa.org). Donations can also be mailed to ALBC, PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312. Any support you can provide to help save this breed is greatly appreciated!



**One of the last remaining Choctaw hogs. Photo by Jeannette Beranger.**

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## It Is Important To Save this Horse

*Continued from previous page*

2005-2012, we averaged fewer than 32. One year we know of only 26 foals. Of those 26, a full quarter are not to date registered with AMHA (American Morgan Horse Association). We lose horses not only through not breeding many to start with, but through not registering them, therefore losing a quarter of our small gene pool. Sadly, this has been identified as a trend for many years past, and as evidenced by the number of mature, unregistered (*lost*) Lippitts – approximately a quarter of each year's foals are in this category.

The Lippitt Morgan Horse Registry, Inc. was formed approximately two years ago to ensure the preservation of this endangered gene pool of the purest of Morgan blood available to us today. The Lippitt Morgan Horse Registry is a non profit registry, whose only purpose is to register and preserve the Lippitt Morgan.

We have no members and no membership fees. Our fee for DNA-testing and registering is a flat \$45, regardless of the age of the horse, as long as it meets the criteria. There is no penalty for registering an older horse. We also provide farm prefixes for \$25. TLMHR provides everything a DNA-based registry should. Our DNA testing is done through Texas A & M University. We have no salaries, and no members (although we have Friends of the Registry who support our work), and only a Board of Trustees, whose job is to maintain the function and integrity of the registry, and to preserve and protect the Lippitt Morgan Horse. ♦

*If you have any further questions regarding the Lippitt Registry, the Lippitt Morgan, or where to find one, contact Jane Myers, Secretary, TLMHR, Inc., at 573-819-3875 or visit [www.thelippittmorganhorseregistry.org](http://www.thelippittmorganhorseregistry.org) or email: [ashroyalmorgans@gmail.com](mailto:ashroyalmorgans@gmail.com).*

# The Glorious Guernsey

By Kay Wolfe

As with most rare and endangered livestock, the Guernsey breed has been replaced by a much more productive animal. Productivity is only one measure of a livestock's value, though, and is rarely the number one criteria for small farms. Taste, health, and sustainability are much more important for home use or small local dairies, and that is where the Guernsey outshines the commercial Holstein.

The American Livestock Breeds Conservancy lists the Guernsey in the "Watch" category. There are only a handful of other true dairy breeds listed as more endangered. Although all breeds of cows produce milk, the dairy breeds have been bred specifically for that purpose and are very different from beef breeds or multi-purpose cows. With the drought and high feed prices, the Guernsey is at risk of fading into our past and taking its unique milk and genetics with it if we don't act now.

## Miss Sally

The fate of the Guernsey breed matters to me, I must confess, because I am in love with a girl named Sally. She was a dream of mine for very many years before being shipped 2,000 miles to arrive on my 53rd birthday. I was thrilled but a little nervous too. We had raised Jersey cross dairy cows and beef cows but never something as fine as pretty Miss Sally. She was a bred two-year-old heifer due to calve in just four months.

Sally quickly became part of the family. My husband built a stanchion measured to fit her and began feeding a small amount of grain each day to get her used to standing in her stanchion. By the time the calf arrived uneventfully early one morning, she had already learned to come when called and stand patiently in her stanchion while we milked her. She also learned to keep her feet still, and wait until she was out of the barn to pee or poop. She was amazingly calm no matter what we needed to do to her and is simply a joy to be around.

Sally isn't just well behaved at milking time; she is safe and respectful at all times and will follow us in hopes of getting some scratches or petting. We thought we



**"Sally," Kay's prized Guernsey cow. Guernseys are listed as "Watch" on the CPL.**

were just lucky to get such a docile girl but now that we have even more Guernseys we know it is simply the way of the Guernsey. You can search far and wide, but in my opinion, you would have a difficult time finding a better family cow than the intelligent and dedicated Guernsey.

## History

The Guernsey was developed on the Isle of Guernsey centuries ago where they became the Island's major export and were tightly regulated. As a result of wanting to protect their national treasure, the Island outlawed the importation of live cattle in 1819 and oversaw the breeding of the local herds for generations to ensure their quality. They were so successful in breeding a dairy cow that produced a superior product that Dr. J.R. Crewe of the Mayo Foundation (the forerunner to the Mayo clinic) wrote in a 1929 article how raw milk from grassfed Guernsey cattle was successfully used in his treatments for many of his patients. To him, it was more than milk – it was medicine.

The first Guernsey cattle made it to the U.S. shores in the early 1800's and the American Guernsey Cattle Club was formed in 1877. As a result, the Guernsey quickly became one of the most favored dairy breeds prior to the demise of small dairy farms in the late 20th century. Small dairies were everywhere and the name Guernsey meant quality, so to prevent mislabeling, the American Guernsey Cattle

Club adapted the trademark "Golden Guernsey Products" in 1924 to ensure customers were getting the real thing.

In addition to the dairies near urban areas, most small farms had a "family cow", and that was usually a Guernsey or a Jersey (closely related to the Guernsey). After World War II, farming went through a revolution where farms had to get big or get out. That began the decline of small self-sufficient farms and the beginning of huge, government-subsidized, corporate dairies that were forced to push production in order to survive. As a result, the main breed of dairy cattle became the Holstein while the population of other dairy breeds started falling. As a result, our heritage breeds of dairy cows are now rare indeed.

## Guernsey Standard

Guernseys are a medium size horned cow of extreme dairy type that comes in various shades of golden fawn with white patches. It's hard to find something more lovely than a pasture of these beauties grazing on a nice spring morn. As pretty as they are, their beauty is surpassed by their intelligence and loving personalities. They have a sweet disposition and are very affectionate toward humans, making them perfect around children or in a small farm setting. Guernseys are easily trained and are patient, forgiving animals that seldom spook. They are hardy and fare as well in subtropical climates as in cold Wisconsin dairies.

They are economical producers based on feed conversion but their claim to fame is their golden-colored milk. If you are looking to start a grass-based dairy, you would do well to go with the Guernsey since they are exceptional at being able to prosper on high quality grass. We have been raising Guernseys for years now, have had no trouble getting them to settle with artificial insemination (AI), and have never experienced calving problems.

The docile Guernsey temperament is part of the reason they are so rare in commercial dairies. Since Guernsey cattle are known for their cream, commercial dairies like to keep a few Jerseys or Guernseys to up the percent of milk fat in their collective milk tanks. But the Holstein is much bigger and more aggressive than a Guernsey, so the Guernsey often gets pushed around and kept away from the feed bunk. In an all-Guernsey dairy, though, you'll not have a problem with aggressive animals.

#### **Guernsey Milk**

Guernsey milk is far superior in flavor, cheese-making ability, and vitamins and nutrients with high butterfat, protein, and beta-carotene content. According to the American Guernsey Association, the average Guernsey cow can produce 14,667 pounds of milk, 659 pounds of butterfat and 510 pounds of protein during each lactation. It is unknown how the Guernsey creates their milk's distinctive yellow color and flavor, but they somehow have the ability to take the carotene from the grass and pass it on in their milk. Butter from a grass-fed Guernsey is naturally bright yellow and is the reason margarines are dyed yellow today. As in that old saying, imitation is the greatest form of flattery. It was the Guernsey that made people expect butter to be yellow.

According to [www.thecattlesite.com](http://www.thecattlesite.com), when compared to average milk (i.e. Holsteins), Guernsey milk has 12% more protein, 30% more cream or milk fat, 33% more vitamin D, 25% more vitamin A and 15% more calcium while using 20-30% less feed per gallon of milk than larger breeds. Not only that, but most Guernsey have the Kappa Casein "B" gene which means their milk produces more cheese per gallon than others. Of importance to us is the fact that most Guernseys also have the A2 beta casein protein which some believe is healthier than the A1 protein.



**Guernsey calf by Kay Wolfe.**

#### **Local Artisan Dairy**

Times change, and in fact we often come full circle. The Guernsey breed excelled at small, local, grass-based dairies 100 years ago and can fulfill that niche today. Demand for raw milk and local food is on the rise. Just as Guernseys cannot compete with the Holstein in pounds of milk production, the Holstein cannot compete with the Guernsey in taste or grass-based, high-nutrient, A2/A2 milk. Heritage breeds perform best when they are raised and used the way they were intended, which means the Guernsey will not only produce for you on grass, but she

will flourish as long as you manage your pastures correctly. If your family is looking for a way to earn a living from your land while meeting a need in your community, a grass-based dairy producing raw or locally pasteurized milk may be the answer.

#### **Conclusion**

The Guernsey is a heritage dairy cow that thrives in sustainable dairies or on your small farm as a family cow. She is hardy, produces even in high temperatures, and converts grass into high protein, high butterfat milk packed with lots of minerals and vitamins. While all that is important, the best thing about Guernseys is their exceptional golden milk that, in my opinion, tastes better than any you've ever tried. Yes, they are rare and hard to find but are certainly worth the cost and effort.❖

*For more information on the Guernsey breed or with help locating one for your farm, contact the American Guernsey Association at 1224 Alton Darby Road in Columbus, Ohio 43228 or visit them on their web site at [www.usguernsey.com](http://www.usguernsey.com).*

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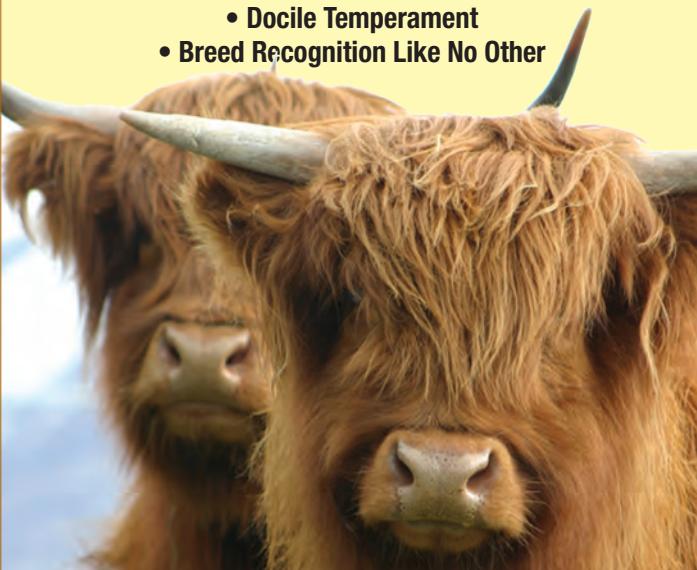
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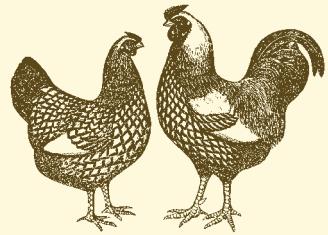


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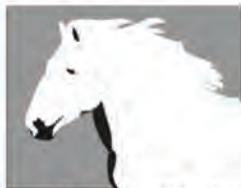
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[wjdmorgans@centurytel.net](mailto:wjdmorgans@centurytel.net)

**Registrar Deborah Siegrist**  
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For an informational brochure and breeder directory, send US\$8.00 to:

**The English Shepherd Club, Inc.  
2146 380th St.  
Grafton, IA 50440**

✓ herder      ✓ guardian  
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The English Shepherd Club, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization whose mission is to preserve, support, and promote the English shepherd breed. For more information visit [www.englishshepherd.org](http://www.englishshepherd.org)

## NAVAJO-CHURRO SHEEP ASSOCIATION

Established 1986

Website: [www.navajo-churrosheep.com](http://www.navajo-churrosheep.com)

Registrar:  
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P.O. Box 1994  
El Prado, NM 87529  
[churrosheep@mac.com](mailto:churrosheep@mac.com)

Business Office:  
c/o Michel Jones  
1029 Zelenski Rd.  
Goldendale, WA 98620  
[drycreeknc@centurylink.net](mailto:drycreeknc@centurylink.net)

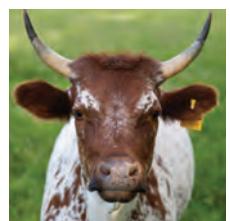
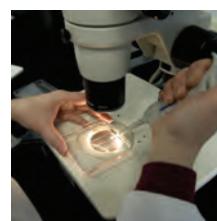


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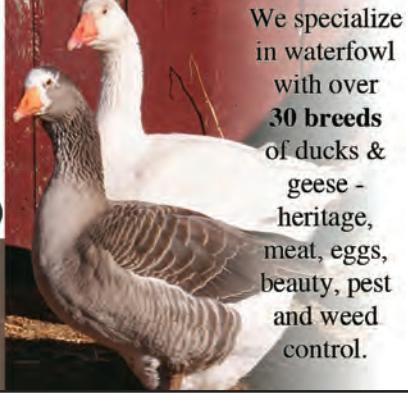
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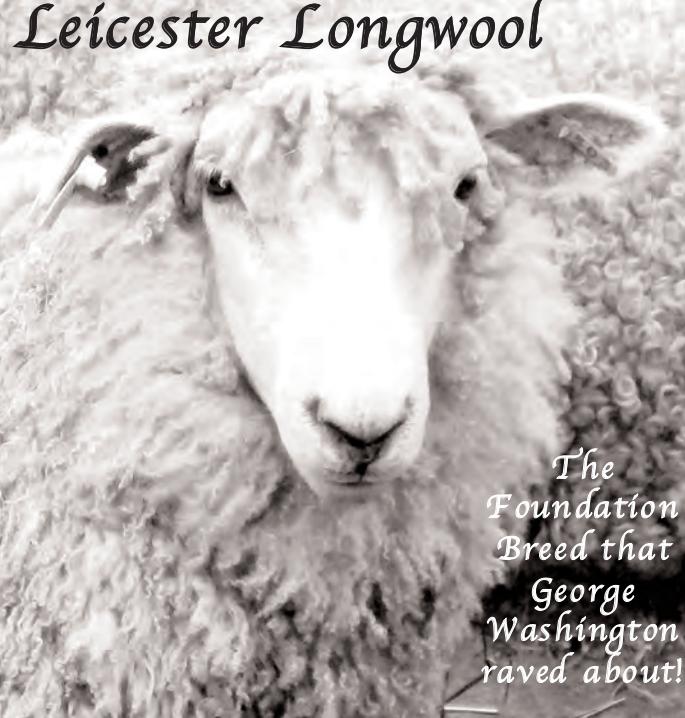
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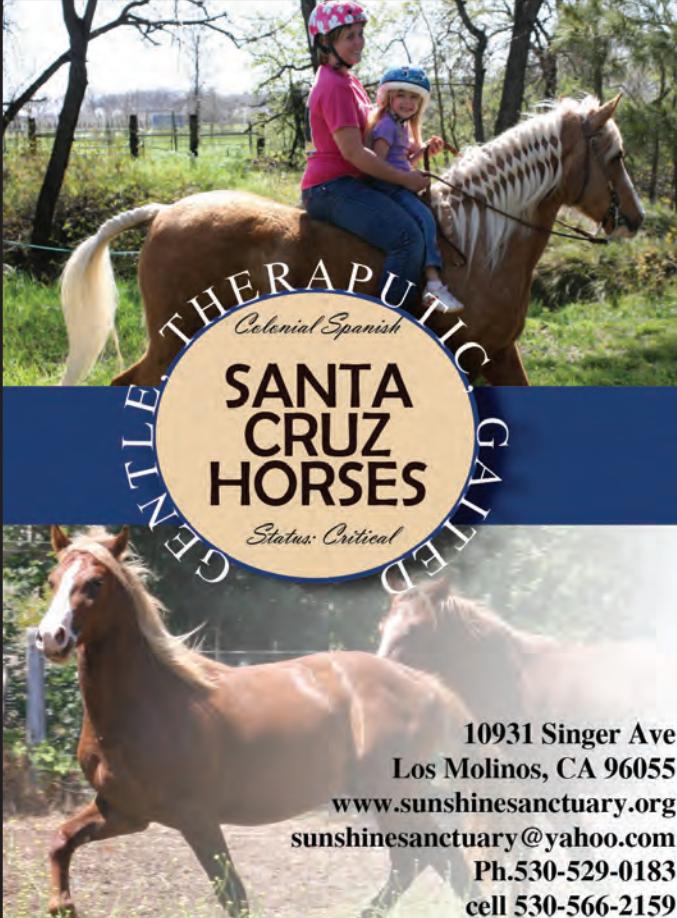
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## Miscellaneous

Poultry and livestock books and pamphlets, old and modern; also collectibles, medals, stamps, etc. Free price list. Lee Poleske, PO Box 871, Seward, AK 99664.

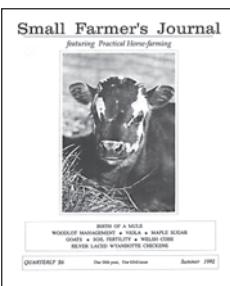


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## DATED MATERIAL

# CALENDAR

++ denotes ALBC participation

++++ denotes ALBC event

See the ALBC website for a more extensive list of events. ALBC encourages event organizers to submit events related to conservation, farming, sustainability, rare breeds, and more to the ALBC Calendar. Send your submission to [rwalker@albc-usa.org](mailto:rwalker@albc-usa.org) or mail to PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

### June

**++June 1-2 – The Mother Earth News Fair** will be held in Puyallup, WA. 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](http://www.motherearthnews.com/fair) for more info.

**June 8 – The Annual SVF Visitors Day** will be held at the SVF Foundation in Newport, RI. Take a self-guided tour through the historic Swiss Village, peek into the facilities and meet the SVF laboratory, veterinary and animal care staff, attend live cryogenics and sheep shearing demonstrations, or try a local heritage breed burger from Julian's Omnibus, a double-decker food truck. More info: (401) 848-7229 or [info@svffoundation.org](mailto:info@svffoundation.org).

**June 8-15 – Dairy Goat Awareness Week**

**June 20-22 – American Highland Cattle Association 62nd Annual National Convention** will be held in State College, PA. Farm tours, beef industry speakers, networking, great opportunity for veteran and novice breeders alike. All welcome; pre-registration required. For more info: (303) 659-2399, [info@highlandcattleusa.org](mailto:info@highlandcattleusa.org) or [www.highlandcattleusa.org](http://www.highlandcattleusa.org).

**++June 21-23 - The Jr. American Red Poll Association National Show** will be held at the Guilford County Agricultural Center in Greensboro, NC. For more info: ARPA 765-425-4515, [ARPA@americanredpolls.com](mailto:ARPA@americanredpolls.com).

**June 28th or 29th – Boar Semen Collection Workshop (either day)** geared toward heritage breed swine conservation is being held by the SVF Foundation at the University of Pennsylvania's Swine Center. This in-depth training session has been developed to provide the hands-on skill set needed for a swine practitioner or small scale producer to collect and handle semen from a boar on the farm, perform initial analysis and processing, and ship semen to be used either for fresh artificial insemination (AI) by a fellow breeder, or to a facility for cryopreservation. Contact Sarah Bowley at [sarah@svffoundation.org](mailto:sarah@svffoundation.org) or (401) 846-8670 for additional info or to register.

### July

The American Dairy Goat Association Na-

tional Show will be held at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds in St. Paul, MN. Visit [www.adga.com](http://www.adga.com) for more information.

### August

**August 2-4 – The Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference** will be held in Kissimmee, FL. Visit <http://small-farms.ifas.ufl.edu> for more information.

**August 17 – The Texas Draft Horse and Mule Association Annual Meeting** will be held in Temple, TX. Contact Alan Fry at (936) 885-1108 or [akfry@yahoo.com](mailto:akfry@yahoo.com), or [www.tdhma.org](http://www.tdhma.org) for more information.

### September

**September 7-8 – The All-American Dairy Show Dairy Oxen Demo “Pulling Power from the Past”** will be held in Harrisburg, PA. More info: [www.allamerican.state.pa.us](http://www.allamerican.state.pa.us).

**++September 20-22 – The Mother Earth News Fair** will be held in Seven Springs, PA. This family-oriented sustainable lifestyle event features dozens of practical, hands-on demonstrations and workshops on everything from beekeeping to using solar electricity. Visit [www.motherearthnews.com/fair](http://www.motherearthnews.com/fair) for more information.

**September 21 – FAMACHA Certification & Parasite Management for Small Ruminants** will be held at Three Cheers Farm in Clarion County, PA. Visit [www.pasafarming.org](http://www.pasafarming.org) for more information.

