



Spring, 2014

Volume 31, Issue 2

Conserving rare breeds since 1977

THE LIVESTOCK CONSERVANCY™ NEWS

Rescue of Santa Cruz Island Sheep – An Early Success

By Alison Martin

One of the Conservancy's early rescues involved a population of Santa Cruz Island sheep. They serve as an example of how isolated island livestock populations can successfully be integrated into mainland agriculture.

Santa Cruz Island, located 23 miles off the Santa Barbara coast in California, is a large (61,779 acres) and rugged island in a chain of four coastal islands, with a mild climate, rainless summers, and frost-free winters. Starting in the 1500s, the Spanish mariners and settlers brought sheep and goats to the coastal islands of Santa Catalina, San Clemente, San Nicolas, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, and San Miguel.

On some islands, goats were favored (such as the San Clemente Island goat), on others, sheep. The first rancho on Santa Cruz Island was not established until the 1830s.

In 1865, Justinian Caire and a group of investors purchased Santa Cruz Island and established the Santa Cruz Island Company. Caire, raised in the high Alps of France, came to the Island to manage ranch operations. He soon prospered and bought out his partners, becoming sole owner of the island's nearly 62,000 acres and the pre-eminent sheep baron of the islands for over 30 years.

The sheep roamed freely, and Frederic Caire wrote, "in early days as many as 40 to 50 thousand sheep roamed the island;



Rescue team member Cathy Gorman holds one of the original Santa Cruz Island lambs. Photo by AMBC staff.

later the number was regulated to accord with the natural conditions determined by rainfall and feed reserves." Helen Caire, Frederic's daughter and Justinian's granddaughter, remembered fondly the annual roundup and shearing. Vaqueros were brought over from the mainland by the Company's schooner. The roundup was done on horseback to better cover the rough terrain. Beginning at the farthest outposts of the island, the vaqueros herded the sheep toward the corrals. Wing fences placed at strategic points helped keep the sheep going in the right direction. Slowly the bands of sheep joined together, with the vaqueros behind them. Finally all the sheep were united with a semicircle of horsemen close behind; they are driven toward the holding fields. After a break, during which a few lambs were roasted for the meal, the vaqueros remounted to start heading the sheep to the corrals near the shearing shed. Over the next days the sheep were shorn. Some were driven to the harbor and shipped via schooner to the mainland. The rest were driven back to



The rescue crew overlooks the rugged terrain of Santa Cruz Island in 1988. Photo by AMBC staff.

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The Livestock Conservancy News (ISSN 1064-1599) is published quarterly by The Livestock Conservancy. The Livestock Conservancy is a nonprofit tax-exempt corporation established to conserve and promote endangered breeds of livestock and poultry. The Conservancy is a membership organization that engages in research, education, and communication to promote these purposes.

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

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MISSING



**Please help us fill
our photo library!**

Photos Needed

The Livestock Conservancy has taken and collected thousands of heritage breed photographs over the years, but there are still some breeds that we have very few, poor quality, or no photos of. If you have breeds from the list below, photos of them, or permission to distribute photos for the Conservancy to use in promoting the breeds, on the conservancy's website, in presentations, etc., please share them with us. In addition to helping the Conservancy find photos for these rare breeds, you'll also be entered into the annual photo contest.

Most Urgent Photo Needs

We have NO photos for:

Chickens: Campine (Silver variety), Catalana, Manx Rumpy or Persian Rumpless, Sultan

Geese: Gray

Other Photos Needed

We very much need more photos of:

Cattle: Canadienne, Kerry, Lincoln Red, Texas Longhorn

Goats: Golden Guernsey

Pigs: Saddleback

Rabbits: Harlequin

Sheep: Barbados Blackbelly, Black Welsh Mountain, Clun Forest, Lincoln, Oxford, Romeldale/CVM, Santa Cruz, Shropshire, Southdown, Wiltshire Horn

Horses: Caspian, Cleveland Bay, Colonial Spanish (Wilbur-Cruce strain), Dartmoor, Exmoor, Fell Pony, Galiceño, Gotland,

Hackney Horse, Lipizzan, Morgan-Traditional, Mountain Pleasure/Rocky Mountain, Newfoundland Pony, Suffolk

Chickens: Ancona, Aseel, Cornish, Icelandic, Lakenvelder, Malay, Modern Game, Phoenix, Redcap, Rhode Island White, Saipan, Shamo, Yokohama

Ducks: Ancona, Dutch Hookbill

Geese: Pomeranian, Steinbacher

Turkeys: Chocolate, Jersey Buff, Slate

Heritage Breed Photo Contest

Enter your photos in the annual Heritage Breed Photo Contest and have a chance to win some wonderful yet-to-be-named prizes! The **contest ends October 15, 2014**, but photos are welcome at any time. Photos from all breeds on the *Conservation Priority List* are welcome for the contest.

Submission gives the Conservancy permission to use the photos for conservation purposes.

High-resolution (300 dpi or higher), digital photos are preferred if possible. Physical prints cannot be returned, but are welcome. Please send photos, credits, contact information, and questions to: rwalker@livestockconservancy.org (with "Heritage Breed Photos" in the subject line) or mail them to: The Livestock Conservancy, PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312. ❖

Student Memberships

Do you know a student who would be interested in heritage breed conservation? Get them a student membership! For just \$25, students will receive all of the perks of the Basic membership with the exception of receiving *The Livestock Conservancy News* and the *Breeders and Products Directory* only online. Students from pre-K through college are eligible for the student membership. To sign a student up, visit www.livestockconservancy.org or send the student's name, contact information, and the name of the school they currently attend with payment to The Livestock Conservancy, PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312. Cash, checks, money orders, or credit cards (VISA, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover) are accepted. Students must be currently enrolled or between semesters in an academic program at the time membership is purchased.

FROM THE CHAIR



By Karen Thornton

The Livestock Conservancy, formerly the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy, has been a passion of mine now for over 20 years. I vividly remember the first member meeting that we attended in Ohio, because my middle child broke out in chicken pox the day the conference was over. I have often thought how many children caught that virus from our daughter. Today's mobility allows diseases and viruses to spread with terrifying swiftness.

Many of our rare livestock gems are fragile in terms of numbers. While most are not under confinement, which can be a contributor to disease, they are not immune just because they are more hardy and resistant to certain diseases. Our mobility and desire to share our wonderful breeds exposes them to the same diseases conventional breeds face.

This past year porcine epidemic diarrhea outbreaks have reared their ugly heads in many states, with astonishingly high mortality rates in young pigs. Some years we are battling avian flu, other years West Nile virus and in some countries hoof-and-mouth disease still poses a threat. The severe impact to our economy and the possibility of losing our genetic seed stock is real.

Importantly, livestock is seen as the vector for human development of certain diseases. The intrusion of bureaucrats, politicians, and emotions can take over from a rational approach. This too affects the stability of our rare breeds. In the case of avian flu several years ago, some Iowa politicians were calling for the extermina-

tion of all fowl not under confinement. They were calling for limits in how near poultry and swine could be housed to each other when there was some evidence pigs were the transmission point to humans. I still remember when the National Guard was called out 15 years ago to guard a flock of sheep that had tested positive for scrapie that were being trailered from Pennsylvania to the National Animal Disease Center in Ames, Iowa. Approximately 260 sheep were put down.

Our mission to discover, secure, and sustain the populations of breeds on our *Conservation Priority List* includes protecting them from the real threat of epidemics and the ensuing hysteria that can lead to hasty measures that can be deadly to our livestock. Your first step is to protect you flocks and herds. Implement biosecurity measures to minimize contamination. Be aware of agricultural department announcements concerning outbreaks of diseases.

The Livestock Conservancy has in the past run articles on biosecurity and will be reviewing measures that you can take to help keep your animals safe. Local extension departments have information you can use in your specific area.

You work hard to raise your animals humanely and secure their numbers for future generations. Please take the time to educate yourself and update yourself on biosecurity measures as one more tool in your husbandry toolbox. ❖

For more information on biosecurity, visit the Conservancy's website at www.livestockconservancy.org/index.php/resources/internal/biosecurity, or write to The Livestock Conservancy, PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

Welcome to Our Newest Life Members!

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

**Drs. Stephen J. &
Marie E. Minnich MD**
Danville, PA

Ways you can give...

One Time Giving
Support The Conservancy's national conservation efforts with a one-time donation.

Monthly Giving
Easy to remember! Monthly (or annual, quarterly, weekly) giving is an effortless way to provide ongoing support.

Gift Memberships
Give your family or friends a gift membership to The Livestock Conservancy

Renew Your Membership
Don't miss a month! Your gift helps ensure the future of agriculture.

Memorial Donations
Remember loved ones by supporting a cause which has a lasting impact on our earth.

Tribute Donations
Honor someone with a gift to The Livestock Conservancy in their name.

Legacy Gifts and Estate Planning
Large and small, legacy gifts are vital to the success of the Conservancy's efforts to save a heritage livestock and poultry for future generations.

Sponsorships
Sponsorship provides an opportunity to showcase your products and services to over 1 million people the Conservancy reaches each year throughout the nation.

Silent Auction
Consider donating an item, service, or experience to The Livestock Conservancy to support the national conference and other educational workshops.

An Island for Cattle and Seabirds: Chirikof Island at a Crossroads

By William Schlegel

Coastal islands often support both wild-life and feral livestock with rare genetics. This is the case in Alaska's Aleutian Island chain. A number of the Aleutians are home to feral, semiferal, or managed populations of cattle, bison, horses, sheep, or reindeer, introduced within the last 200 years. The cattle on one Aleutian Island have come to the attention of the media. I speak of Chirikof Island, and the cattle that bear its name. You see, the cattle of Chirikof Island were originally introduced to feed workers for a fox farm on the island in the late 1800s. After a period of abandonment, the island was subsequently leased for ranching until the year 2000, when the lease was not renewed because of a change in jurisdiction. The island was no longer managed by the Bureau of Land Management, but by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), which chose not to renew the final lease. There was a final failed attempt to remove the cattle in the early 2000s, but ever since, the cattle have remained and have reverted to feral. To understand what is happening on Chirikof it might be best to go to another set of islands off the California coast.

A few years back, I was lucky enough to make it out on a field trip put together

by Santa Barbara Botanical Garden to Santa Barbara Island, one of the smallest Channel Islands off the coast of Southern California. California's Channel Islands have a history of agriculture, including rare livestock breeds, and like the Aleutians, in the 20th century these livestock came into conflict with rare and endangered native plants and animals. At the time of my visit to Santa Barbara Island, the native vegetation had been severely impacted by past farming and livestock rearing and water had to be hauled by boat for the animals. Native plants were coming back, but non-native annual grasses transported to the island during its agricultural era were thriving. So too was a species of invasive iceplant transplanted to the island by seabirds from the mainland.

Removing feral livestock from islands is an action which is being repeated around the world. Many islands were populated with livestock during the days of exploration and settlement, where they were often left unmanaged. Left to fend for themselves, these populations are subject to unique selective forces and genetic drift. Many descend from breeds that are today lost or uncommon.

Unfortunately, the pattern has also been that when a large herbivore is introduced to

an island without predators, its population exceeds its carrying capacity and over-grazing is the natural consequence. Many island plants are poorly adapted to grazing, and will go into decline if grazed. This is particularly an acute problem in biodiversity hotspots like California and the tropics. Isolated islands in these regions may not only hold high diversity, but may also harbor native plant and animal populations found nowhere else in the world. Even after removing introduced livestock, it is difficult for these native animals or plants to come back. By the same token, having evolved to live by the island's specific set of environmental and climatic rules, native island plants and animals often tend to be unique. Therefore islands represent a tremendous opportunity for ecological restoration, and many islands around the world have restoration programs.

In California, a choice was made to rescue some of the rare domestic breeds for conservation on the mainland (see the accompanying article on Santa Cruz Island sheep), and also to rehabilitate the islands to protect their native flora and fauna, much of which can be found nowhere else on earth. This ensured the future for both the livestock and the wildlife, and was possible only through collaboration between organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, The Livestock Conservancy, and university researchers.

On Chirikof Island, during the last effort to remove cattle, some genetic samples were taken. It seems the cattle of Chirikof Island are special, very special. A 2007 scientific paper by scientists at the US Department of Agriculture National Animal Germplasm Repository confirmed that they had a relatively small degree of genetic relatedness to other breeds of beef cattle. The Chirikof cattle were more like the cattle of Russia, the country which originally colonized and then sold Alaska to the United States. They determined this by comparing the Chirikof cattle DNA to that of rare Russian Yakut cattle, which showed a closer relationship than any other breed they had tested. Some of the cattle introduced to Chirikof Island must have descended from the animals of the early Russian settlers and missionaries of coastal Alaska. Not only did these Russian genetics make it to the island (and probably other Aleutian Islands as well), but they thrived there. Animals with Russian genes out-survived all other cattle intro-



The cattle of Alaska's Chirikof Island were originally introduced to feed workers for a fox farm on the island in the late 1800s. Photo courtesy of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.

ductions, which continued even into the 1980s. Though Chirikof Island cattle can be variable in appearance and even have a variety of coat patterns, they form a genetically discrete group or breed, with less within-breed variation than many other breeds. The Chirikof cattle are well known for cold tolerance and can live on grass year round. They are the result of natural selection for thriving on grass in a hostile climate.

The genetically unique nature of Chirikof cattle and their adaptations to cold and grass-only diets make them perhaps ideally suited to serve the need for hardy, cold-adapted, range-fed cattle. Producers in Alaska, Canada, and many Western states might benefit from such a hardy breed for grassfed beef. Some might find value in using Chirikof bulls in a crossbreeding program, while conserving their unique traits by maintaining a purebred herd to replenish their breeding stock. Grassfed beef has proven health benefits to consumers, and cattle genetics that perform well on grass are in demand. Chirikof cattle could potentially have a bright future in the beef industry. Research on the genetics of Chirikof Island cattle may unlock clues to cold tolerance and other fitness traits in cattle.

Chirikof Island and many of the Aleutian Islands are managed by the USFWS as part of the Maritime Wildlife Refuge. The USFWS does not have it as part of its mission to maintain feral cattle. They are charged with protecting archeological sites, native seabird breeding grounds, and native vegetation. An unmanaged cattle population, with no controls on herd size, grazing, or wetland access, will tend to trample stream banks, eat certain plants preferentially, and cause increases in bare ground. More bare ground could cause accelerated erosion rates and damage to archeological sites. All of this is damage the USFWS believes may be in progress on Chirikof Island and other islands in the Refuge. The USFWS recently held a public comment period, seeking input on how to approach the problem. The Livestock Conservancy, USDA's National Animal Germplasm Laboratory, locals, and concerned individuals such as myself have responded.

Local folks in Alaska would like the cattle left on the island. Some see having a healthy population of cattle on a remote island as an insurance policy against po-

tential devastating livestock diseases. Like many of us, they see cattle as food, as a resource for their subsistence. At least one local rancher has claimed an ownership interest in the herd. Locals would also like the opportunity to save and eat the meat of any animals slaughtered in the name of restoration.

My favorite solution to this conundrum is a return to livestock management. A new lease or partnership of some kind would allow cattle management to return to the island. The cattle could be fenced out of sensitive portions of the island to allow streams, wetlands, and archeological sites to heal. Fencing might also allow portions of the island to be used for nesting habitat by seabirds, either through rotational grazing or permanent cattle enclosures. Perhaps the cattle wranglers could participate in eradication of introduced foxes and rodents. Eradicating non-native foxes and rodents would enhance the restoration goals of the USFWS while allowing the rare cattle to remain in the environment where they have been allowed to evolve for the last hundred years.

Although a solution which allows the cattle to stay on the island might not be within the scope of the USFWS's current mission for Chirikof, it is not without precedent. The Wichita Mountain National Wildlife Refuge in Oklahoma has played a central role in the preservation of the historic Texas Longhorn breed. The Wichita Mountain effort was likely the first federal attempt at rare breed conservation on the planet. Begun in 1927, it saved the Texas Longhorn from extinction. A

similar mission could be appropriate for Chirikof Island, as the Chirikof Island cattle are a historically important remnant of the original cattle brought to Russian America by early settlers. Any such opportunity would also have to weigh the conservation of wildlife, native culture, and practical aspects of tourism to this remote island, and protecting and preserving both the Chirikof cattle breed and wildlife may not ultimately prove practicable.

The alternative option to ongoing management would undoubtedly mean the removal of Chirikof Island's cattle from their historic home. The worst-case scenario would be eradication without salvage, as happened not so long ago on a nearby island. In the 1980s, the USFWS determined that they should remove cattle from the Shumagin Islands. Most attempts to physically remove cattle from the island failed, so most animals were simply shot and left to rot. Ten animals were moved to Unga Island and under ownership by a native group, and now number 30-100 head.

Better options than simple slaughter may be available for Chirikof. A mobile abattoir is used for processing grass fed beef for a cattle ranching operation on nearby Sitkinak Island. The USDA Livestock Germplasm Repository and the Livestock Conservancy are interested in helping to salvage germplasm as well as live animals. Realistically, even for such a rescue mission to procure beef to feed people and germplasm to rescue the breed, substantial funding must be obtained. ❖

William Schlegel can be reached at wischlegel@hotmail.com.

Win a Flock of Heritage Chickens!

- A starter flock of 10 heritage breed Dominique chickens donated from eFowl and grown as part of a collaborative effort between Seed Savers Exchange and The Livestock Conservancy
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- A collection of guidebooks for raising chickens: *City Chicks* by Pat Foreman, *Pocketful of Poultry* by Carol Ekarius and *The Small-Scale Poultry Flock* by Harvey Ussery
- A 1-year membership to The Livestock Conservancy



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No purchase necessary. A purchase will not increase your chances of winning. Open to legal residents of the U.S. or Canada (excluding Quebec, where the Promotion is void). Entrants must be 18 years of age or older. Sweepstakes begins 4/9/14 and ends 9/15/14. See official rules online at www.MotherEarthNews.com/Chicken-Starter-Kit | Sponsor: Mother Earth News, 1503 SW 42nd St., Topeka, KS 66609. The \$500 Tractor Supply gift card will be usable at any Tractor Supply Co. location in the U.S. or online. (Canadian stores are excluded.)

Horsin' Around at the Fair

By Susan Suber

As a member of Cornerstone Morgan Horse Club (cornerstonemorganclub.com) I became aware that the Traditional Morgan horse I loved and that had once been *the* horse of choice in the first half of the 20th century had found its numbers in sharp decline in favor of its “show” bred counterpart. Initially I had not given much thought about such things, but this hit home and made me want to learn more. The Cornerstone Morgan Horse Club became involved with The Livestock Conservancy, supporting through sponsorship and helping gather information about the declining numbers of the Traditional Morgan horse. The Livestock Conservancy has recently listed the Traditional Morgan horse as Critically Endangered. That designation encouraged me to join The Livestock Conservancy and offer my services as a volunteer.

While reading the Conservancy's website in early April, I opened the list of Events. To my utter delight I found that the Mother Earth News Fair was to be in Asheville North Carolina the weekend of April 12 and 13, 2014. Asheville is only about two hours from home. Unfortunately that was just two weeks away. I was sure that any spaces available would have been snatched up long ago. After all....this was one heck of a Fair and Asheville, North Carolina, was a perfect venue.

To my surprise a quick email and phone call to Mother Earth News led me to one



Steve Suber introduces Traditional Morgan horses to children at the fair. Photo by Susan Suber.

open stall due to a cancellation. I immediately snatched it up! I have never been to a Mother Earth Fair and had so many questions! The staff (Ashley) was so helpful....so helpful in fact that they offered me another stall or two if I could fill them up! I thought to myself, “Oh my....the Fair is only one week away. Who else can I call on such short notice to join me to represent our vanishing breed?” A fellow Cornerstone Morgan Horse Club member Kathleen Fisher, answered my call. What a trooper she, her husband, Jerry, and her mare Journeys Made To Order were. Kathleen jumped in with both feet and never stopped running. We would actually meet for the first time at the Fair. Until the fair, we were only “friends” on Facebook and club members, just names on a list.

We have several Traditional Morgan horses and chose to bring our nine-year-old chestnut mare, Stella Fallingstar. She

has been with us for two years but has basically had the choice job of pasture ornament. She does her job extremely well! She came to us along with her half-sister, Claire, two years before. Neither had any training, nor experience off their respective farms. I had done a bit of ground work, lunging, manners, trailer loading and hoof trimming but actually riding had been delayed. She is a steady mare, smart, good natured, and a pretty redhead to boot. She became the chosen one.

A lot of work done quickly (I work best under pressure) was my immediate future. A trip was scheduled to our veterinarian to pull a Coggins test and issue a health certificate to cross state lines. I contacted our Cornerstone Morgan Horse Club members for pictures of Morgan horses at work, pulling sleds and farm equipment. Story boards were put together. Cornerstone materials were gathered for display, along with banners, tablecloths, crayons for the younger set (I thought I saw a few oldsters with said crayons!) and coloring pages. Kathleen was readying her trailer, and her husband, who it seems isn't a “horsey” kind of guy but a good husband nonetheless, indulging his wife Kathleen, jumped right in to help. Their mare, Journey Made to Order, had to get her paperwork in order as well. The list was a long one for us both with little time to get everything done. We were both so excited. A couple of kids going to the fair! We counted the days!

Mother Nature must have made a deal with Mother Earth News as the weather was absolutely *perfect!* The first really nice weekend of Spring was her gift to us. We arrived with our husbands and horses



Visitors stopped by the Cornerstone Morgan Horse Club table at the fair. Photo by Susan Suber.

Friday evening and settled our mares in the barn with fresh shavings, hay, and water. They seemed to make friends instantly, just as Kathleen and Jerry were instant friends to Steve and me. What a wonderful way to meet new friends. All our materials were unloaded and waiting for us the next morning.

Saturday came quickly. We had our tables set up, our displays in order, and our Morgan horse mares brushed and combed. Steve and I decided to get a quick bite before the gates opened at nine o'clock. The restaurant is located in a large exhibition building on a rise in the center of the Agricultural Center. Standing there with my cup of coffee looking towards the entrance, I could not believe my eyes. You could see Interstate 26 backed up for miles! Throngs of people stood waiting for the gates to open. As the gates opened it reminded me of scurrying ants, ants everywhere, running to see their favorite exhibits or presentations. It was amazing. We quickly rushed back to Kathleen, Jerry and our Morgan horses.

All day long throngs of people stopped by. Everyone wanted to pet our horses. The children climbed the rails and thrust their hands into nostrils, eye sockets and fuzzy ears. Stella Fallingstar took it like a pro. It turns out she just loves children and enjoyed all the fuss. So many questions! So many comments! There were so many opportunities to educate and enlighten the public as to the history, use, and care of the Morgan horse. How delighted and exhausted we were by the end of the night. After putting the Morgan horses up for the evening we all quickly returned to our trailers (we have living quarters in our horse trailers) a short distance from the barns. We made a quick sandwich and collapsed into our beds knowing the morning would come all too quickly.

Sunday morning arrived with the same beautiful weather and promise of another exciting day. As the Fair opened at nine o'clock I was quite sure the morning would be easier as the Bible belt calls most folks into their respective churches in the morning. That proved to be true for most but still a fairly steady stream of folks, young and old, paid tribute to our traditional Morgan horses throughout the morning. We decided it would be a good time to take turns and actually see a little bit of what the Fair had to offer, quickly strolling through exhibits. All of those

In Remembrance

The Livestock Conservancy is sad to announce the passing of a beloved friend, long-time conservationist, and Board member, Deborah Burgoyne Hamilton.

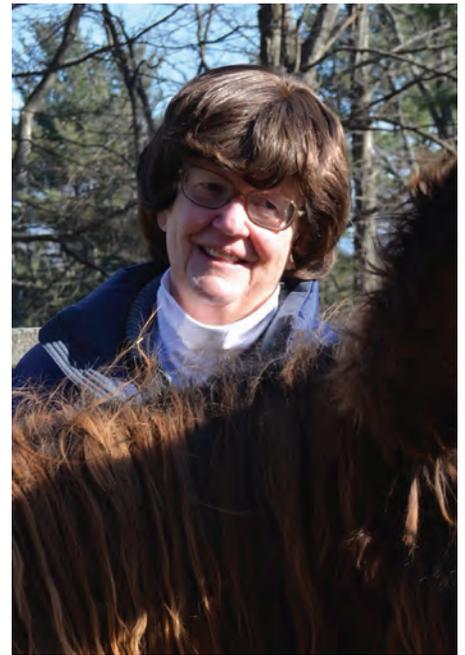
Debbie was born on July 10, 1943, in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and died peacefully on Friday, May 9, 2014. She spent her youth in Darien, Connecticut and graduated from Stephens College in Columbia, Mississippi, where she studied theater. She attended and worked at the Santa Fe Opera during three summers. Later she worked at Yale, New Haven Hospital. She then worked at the Fairfield Hunt Club in Fairfield, Connecticut, where she was a riding instructor for 15 years. She was a longtime member of Ox Ridge Hunt Club in New Canaan, Connecticut. She also studied dressage extensively in Europe.

In 1998, she moved to Hartland, Vermont, and founded Hamilton Rare Breeds Foundation, a non-profit specializing in the preservation of horses, donkeys, and ponies.

She loved art, classical music, opera, flowers, and antiques. She loved animals all her life, particularly horses, dogs, and Dales Ponies. With the help and direction of Pat Hastings, she successfully bred and raised the very rare Poitou donkeys on her Hartland farm. She loved to travel in Europe and was especially fond of England.

Debbie never tired of relating how much she adored Vermont and her beloved farm and pets. She so appreciated the beauty and peacefulness of Vermont. The last 16 years of her life have been devoted to her animals and farm. Her contagious enthusiasm was felt by many in the equine community.

Contributions may be made to Hamilton Rare Breeds, P.O. Box 282, Hartland, VT 05048.



who wore exhibitor badges seemed to have a special connection with one another and stopped to talk, ask questions about your exhibit and encourage one another. The fairgoers were a vast assortment of young families, grandparents, hipsters, and the curious. Everyone was pleasant and happy to be at the Fair learning and sharing with like-minded individuals. No one was disappointed.

The afternoon was shorter, closing at five pm. Things rounded up quickly after four pm. We made a plan to vacate at a trot and were able to load up and beat the traffic making record time home. The Mother Earth Fair, a first for Asheville, was a huge success! The attendance estimate for the weekend was supposed to be 10,000 people. It was estimated that at least that many arrived on Saturday alone with another 5,000 people on Sunday, maybe more. If any of you are within a reasonable drive of Asheville, I strongly suggest that this venue is a perfect one for Livestock Conservancy members and the threatened breeds you strive to promote. I am so glad

I found this venue on the Conservancy's website and made that phone call. If no one knows you are there, no one will come knocking at your door. There are still two more Mother Earth Fairs planned for 2014. The Puyallup, Washington, Fair just wrapped up May 31-June 1, 2014, but the Fair in Seven Springs, Pennsylvania, on September 12-14, 2014, and the Fair in Topeka, Kansas, on October 25-26, 2014, are still to come. You and your breeds will be so glad you decided to attend. We are already looking forward to next year and making plans to bring more Traditional Morgan horses and offer various demonstrations. We will be horsin' around all weekend long. Come join us! The Fair makes memories for young and old alike. Those memories are planted and someday some of those memories will take hold and bring people back to America's first registered horse breed, the Traditional Morgan Horse. That is my goal. With the help of The Livestock Conservancy and Mother Earth Fair, that goal will be reached. All we had to do was horse around. ❖

CRITICAL BREED Highlights

This is the third of a four-part series highlighting the most critically endangered breeds on the Conservancy's *Conservation Priority List*. More information can be found on our website at www.livestockconservancy.org, or by contacting the breeds' respective breed associations.



DUTCH BELTED CATTLE

Use: Dairy

Adult Weight: 900 - 2000 lbs

Temperament: Docile

Experience Level: Novice - Intermediate

Notes: Long-lived, excellent milk producers

Breed Association: Dutch Belt Cattle Association of America, www.dutchbelted.com



FLORIDA CRACKER CATTLE

Use: Beef

Adult Weight: 600 - 1200 lbs

Temperament: Docile, Active

Experience Level: Novice - Intermediate

Notes: Temperament variable by herd, beef production on poor range, some are dwarf

Breed Association: Florida Cracker Cattle Association, <http://crackercattle.org>



MILKING SHORTHORN - NATIVE CATTLE

Use: Triple

Adult Weight: 1200 - 2000 lbs

Temperament: Docile

Experience Level: Novice - Intermediate

Notes: Average over 15000 lbs milk per year, forage well, efficient

Breed Association: American Milking Shorthorn Society, www.milkingshorthorn.com



COLONIAL SPANISH HORSES (STRAINS)

Use: Endurance, Riding, Hunting, Driving

Adult Weight: 700 - 900 lbs

Temperament: Even, Gentle Disposition

Experience Level: Novice

Notes: Some are gaited, have long stride

Breed Associations:

American Indian Horse Registry, www.indianhorse.com; Baca Horse Conservancy, www.bacahorseconservancy.com; Carolina Marsh Tacky Association, www.marshtacky.org; Corolla Wild Horse Fund, www.corollawildhorses.com; Foundation for Shackelford Horses, www.shackelfordhorses.org; Horse of the Americas, www.horseoftheamericas.com; Pryor Mountain Mustang Breeders Association, www.pryorhorses.com; Southwest Spanish Mustang Association (Choctaw), www.southwestspanishmustangassociation.com; Spanish Barb Breeders Association/Wilber-Cruce Mission Horse Registry, www.spanishbarb.com; Spanish Barb Horse Association, www.spanishbarb.com; Spanish Mustang Registry, www.spanishmustang.org; Sulphur Horse Registry, <http://sulphurhorseregistry.com>; Sulphur Springs Horse Registry, www.sulphurspringshorseregistry.com



SUFFOLK HORSES

Use: Draft

Adult Weight: 1800 lbs

Temperament: Gentle

Experience Level: Intermediate

Notes: Strong, easy keeper, only chestnut in color, selected only for agriculture

Breed Association: American Suffolk Horse Association, www.suffolkpunch.com



GUINEA HOGS

Use: Meat and cured products

Adult Weight: 200 lbs, male; 150 lbs, female

Hanging Weight: 100 lbs

Temperament: Docile

Breed Association: American Guinea Hog Association, www.guineahogs.org



OSSABAW ISLAND HOGS

Use: Lean Meat

Adult Weight: 300 lbs, male; 200 lbs, female (varies among lines)

Hanging Weight: 105 lbs

Temperament: Active

Breed Association: Ossabaw Island Hog Registry, www.livestockconservancy.org



ROMELDALE/CVM SHEEP

Use: Dual
Adult Weight: 160 - 275 lbs
Temperament: Docile
Experience Level: Novice - Intermediate
Notes: Prolific, long lived, wide range of colors
Breed Associations: American Romeldale CVM Registry (ARCR), www.nationalcvm-conservancy.com; American Romeldale/CVM Association (ARCA), www.arcainc.org



CHANTECLER CHICKENS

Use: Eggs, Meat
Egg Color: White to Tinted
Egg Size: Medium
Market Weight: 5 - 6.5 lbs
Temperament: Active
Characteristics: Good foraging ability, hardy, especially in extreme heat conditions
Breed Associations: Association for the Preservation of Chantecler Fowl; Chantecler Fanciers International, www.chanteclerfanciersinternational.org



REDCAP CHICKENS

Use: Eggs
Egg Color: White

Egg Size: Medium to Large
Market Weight: 6 - 7.5 lbs
Temperament: Active, alert
Characteristics: Great egg layers for warm climates, huge rose comb
Breed Association: N/A



MODERN GAME CHICKENS

Use: Ornamental
Egg Color: White
Egg Size: Medium
Market Weight: about 5.5 lbs
Temperament: Friendly, Curious
Characteristics: Not good in cold weather, needs plenty of exercise
Breed Association: N/A



ANCONA DUCKS

Use: Meat, Eggs
Egg Color: White, Tinted, Blue-green, Spotted
Egg Size: Large
Market Weight: 5-6 lbs
Temperament: Docile, Active
Breed Association: N/A



AMERICAN BUFF GEESE

Use: Meat
Egg Color: White

Egg Size: Large
Market Weight: 14 - 16 lbs
Temperament: Docile, Curious
Breed Association: N/A



ROMAN GEESE

Use: Meat, Watchdog, Ornamental
Egg Color: White
Egg Size: Large
Market Weight: 9 - 10 lbs
Temperament: Calm, some males are aggressive
Breed Association: N/A



BELTSVILLE SMALL WHITE TURKEYS

Use: Meat
Egg Color: Pale cream to medium brown with spotting
Egg Size: Large
Market Weight: 10 - 17 lbs
Temperament: Variable from docile to aggressive
Breed Associations: American Poultry Association, www.amerpoultryassn.com; Society for the Preservation of Poultry Antiquities, <http://sppa.webs.com>; The Exhibition Turkey Fanciers, <http://exhibitionturkeyfanciers.weebly.com>

Santa Cruz Island Sheep

Continued from front page
their territory.

Justinian Caire's sheep, which came to be known as Santa Cruz Island sheep, likely descended from the predominately Spanish sheep raised in that area in the 1800's. These may have been churro sheep, related to the present day Navajo Churro breed. In the 1850's, French Merino sheep were added to the island. Later Caire added Rambouillet rams. This blend of the rugged native sheep with fine wool Merino and Rambouillet adapted and evolved. In the 1930's, descendant Pier Gherini described the sheep as follows, "The wool is in the fine wool category. The sheep are smaller, quicker, and more of a range type animal. The ewes lamb on the range and are excellent and very protective mothers. Any effort to have shed lambing, as is done in many mainland operations, would be chaotic."

Santa Cruz Island is also an ecological paradise. It is home to over 600 plant species, 40 of which are restricted to the Channel Islands, and 8 occurring only on Santa Cruz. A diverse animal and bird population is also found there. These island plant and animal communities came under increasing pressure when ranching activities were abandoned and the sheep were left to become feral. After The Nature Conservancy acquired a large portion of Santa Cruz Island in the 1970s, their studies concluded that the sheep would



- ◆ Strong belief in conservation
- ◆ Willing to work with other breeders
- ◆ Willing to forego immediate profit
- ◆ Western or Southwestern ranch
- ◆ Long-term commitment

Reward: A chance to make a significant impact on one of the first breeds rescued by The Livestock Conservancy!

Contact Research & Technical Programs Director Alison Martin for more information.

have to be removed. The economics of the situation seemed to indicate that eradication by shooting was the best alternative, and an eradication program was begun in 1980. This reduced the population of feral sheep on the 88% of the island owned by The Nature Conservancy from approximately 21,500 sheep to less than 100 in 1987.

By the time the American Minor Breeds Conservancy (AMBC; now The Livestock Conservancy) learned of the eradication program and concluded that some remnant of the feral population should be conserved, it was too late to have any influence on the program's direction. However, in late 1987 an opportunity arose to capture some lambs from a sec-

tion called "No Man's Land" which had not to that point been cleared of sheep.

AMBC asked Dirk Van Vuren, a graduate student in systematics and ecology at the University of Kansas and a former consultant to The Nature Conservancy, to be the project coordinator. A team was assembled from The Nature Conservancy and AMBC volunteers, and The Nature Conservancy generously provided vehicles, housing, firearms, two-way radios, shelter and bedding for captured lambs, and other logistical support during the stay on the island.

The operation was conducted January 11-15, 1988. The procedure involved locating a group of sheep, shooting the mothers, and then attempting to capture the lambs. As the lambs were three to five weeks old, they were quite energetic and agile, and the chases over rugged, precipitous terrain often lasted over an hour. The only lambs caught were those that made mistakes. In all, five ram and seven ewe lambs were captured and brought back to the mainland.

There, they were divided into five small breeding groups and distributed to the care of five California AMBC members: Albert Bray, John Belfy, Pam Crause, Joe McCummins, and Marian Thormhalen. In the next six months, The Nature Conservancy provided an additional six lambs, perhaps some of those that had eluded capture in January. From this original rescue, Conservancy member Marion Stanley coordinated analysis of wool and milk samples taken from some of the mothers, and a breeding protocol was adopted to increase the numbers of Santa Cruz sheep as quickly as possible and to ensure all twelve founder sheep are represented in subsequent generations as equally as possible.

Over the years, dedicated breeders have carefully conserved the progeny of these founder sheep and later additions from the island. Today, the population remains critically endangered, but after 25 years remains an example of successful conservation of a rare breed that would otherwise have disappeared from the earth. ❖

Alison Martin is the Conservancy's Research and Technical Programs Director and asks you to let the Conservancy know if you are aware of any isolated pockets of potentially rare breeds, like Santa Cruz sheep, we may not be aware exist. She can be reached at amartin@livestockconservancy.org or (919) 542-5704, ext. 105.



Santa Cruz sheep at Legacy Farm in Corbett, OR. Photo by Sonja Straub.

Wakeup Call

By Kendy Sawyer

In the last year, my perspective on raising Milking Devon cattle has changed. I had been promoted the triple-purpose aspects of the breed, but not based on my own practices. However, when Livestock Conservancy member Alban Bone, a fan of Milking Devons, called to congratulate me on winning the poster contest at the 2012 conference, he also gave me a wakeup call. He pointed out that I didn't milk my cattle, they did no draft work, and I hadn't even eaten any of my own cows yet. He said I was propagating lawn ornaments – and he was right.

I quit my job to have more time to spend with the cows. I began milking (with Nils Berglund coaching me by phone and e-mail) and making cheese. I started three teams of heifers in the yoke, and I sold shares in two beeves we processed. The heifers and I have participated in a Civil War reenactment encampment, a living Nativity tableau, and we pulled firewood out of the forest at the Biological Woodsman Week in Virginia. The cows and I are going to be a fixture at our local living history museum. Now I think of myself as a steward, not just an owner and a breeder.

The real goal isn't the activities that I am able to do with the Milking Devons; these are just ways to make the breed a



A child dressed in Civil War regalia meets a kid-size team of Milking Devon cattle at a reenactment.

little better known and more recognized and appreciated. The real mission is to find the next generation of stewards – farm families that are going to use the Milking Devons for milk and for meat and in the yoke.

John Boone called the Livestock Conservancy office recently looking for a Milking Devon cow to milk and was at my farm within days. He milked, the family drank milk, the boys played with the heif-

ers, and in pretty short order I delivered a yoke of heifers to his farm. I sold him and his son the pair of heifers that were absolutely my keepers, the best I'd bred or trained so far, and I'm really happy. Daisy and Larkspur IV are going to continue in the yoke, cultivating a garden and working in the woods. When they're older, they'll produce Milking Devon calves and they'll be milked. Some of their calves will be going to the freezer.

I feel like the reason for saving Milking Devons is to have them available for farm families like the Boones. I'm really grateful to the Livestock Conservancy staff for helping the Boones find Milking Devons. ❖

Longtime Conservancy member Kendy Sawyer owns HineSite Milking Devons and can be reached at ksawyer.2009@gmail.com.



Kendy Sawyer and her Milking Devons pulling firewood at the Biological Woodsman Week in Virginia.

A Gourmet's Guide to Dining on a Grassfed Red Poll Bull

By Nelson Hoy

Lizzie Biggs and I at Berriedale Farms published this "Gourmet's Guide" on dining on a grassfed Red Poll bull for the purpose of stimulating thoughts and discourse among heritage livestock graziers, because every now and then a farmer or rancher must execute a humanitarian harvest of an older animal. This "Gourmet's Guide" was originally written for Berriedale Farms' grassfed and -finished Red Poll cattle business, but it reasonably may be adapted to other breeds of cattle and to goats, hogs or sheep. Note that this guide is a work-in-progress and comments are always appreciated.

Humanitarian Harvest

Lakota, our herd sire, has torn his stifle – a critical ligament in his rear leg. Every step that he has taken for the last 2-1/2 months was painful. Lizzie and I philosophically are committed to our animals for their lifetime and so, we will not sell an animal we have raised here at Berriedale Farms at auction into the livestock marketplace and an unknown treatment and fate.

So it was with regrets that we decided to harvest Lakota. He has been fed a generous diet of alfalfa hay every morning and timothy hay every evening for the last 75 days. Lakota was harvested on Tues-

day and our abattoir tells us that he was a beautiful animal with a lovely carcass. The primal quarter cuts have an adequate covering of back fat, but there will be less intramuscular fat than a typical Berriedale Farms Red Poll "cream-puff". This initial assessment of the carcass quality suggests that we should ask the abattoir to dry-age this grassfed bull for a full three weeks and that our cutting instructions for the butchers should place a premium on the more tender cuts of steak for grilling, the more tender and fattier roasts for braising, and allocating the chewier steaks, roasts, and scraps for ground beef-burger. Lizzie and I will taste-test the steaks, roasts, and

Network Power!

By D. P. Sponenberg

The Livestock Conservancy has once again witnessed the power of the network in saving rare breeds. Over the years (now decades!), I have come to have deep appreciation for the community of folks who are interested in rare breeds. One recurring theme, here and internationally, is that simply having a way to get the word out can stem the tide of breed extinctions. Accurate communication is often a sufficient magic key to a secure future for many breeds.

The latest success was the interest shown in the Albaugh herd of Native Milking Shorthorns that needed to be downsized due to drought in Nevada. This breed is in dire straits globally, and the population in North America is essential to its survival. This is an important herd,

representing some of the finest Native Shorthorns in the country, and losing a portion of it over the scales would have been a disaster.

After learning of the situation on Wednesday, April 16, The Livestock Conservancy quickly assembled a communication plan to help place the cattle in the hands of new stewards and help avoid them going to auction. Although this type of assistance is beyond that usually provided by the Conservancy, the importance of this herd warranted intervention.

An email blast to thousands of Conservancy members, social media posts, and phone calls were made to anyone who might be able to help. Within hours, tens of thousands of people knew about the endangered cattle and were helping spread the word.

The next Monday afternoon, Mr. Albaugh called back thrilled to inform the Conservancy that the entire herd had been

placed with new stewards and the years of conservation work and meticulous selection that had gone into improving the breed would not be lost. There is even now a waiting list for future calves!

As is true whenever working with a powerful tool, caution is always warranted! For conservation organizations, this means strict and fair guidelines as to what qualifies as a breed, and what qualifies as a genetic rescue. The Livestock Conservancy has always tried to have objective criteria for these situations, and has applied these consistently. The result is that the organization is a trusted partner in conservation, and when we holler "RESCUE!" the response is usually quick and effective.

Stewards of every breed on the *Conservation Priority List* can learn from these network successes. Each breed needs its own network, and each can also benefit from the national network across breeds that is available through the Livestock

Conservancy. Stay involved, and actively participate in this wonderful network that has once again shown its value in effective breed conservation. ❖

D.P. Sponenberg, DVM, Ph.D. is a Professor of Pathology and Genetics at Virginia Tech, in Blacksburg, Virginia. He is a long-time member and serves as Technical Advisor to The Livestock Conservancy. He can be reached via email at dpsponen@vt.edu.



The Albaugh Milking Shorthorn herd in Nevada was recently reduced due to drought. Photo taken in 2011 by Jeannette Beranger.



Berriedale Farm's Red Poll bull Lakota.

the ground beef before a single pound goes out the door. We know from experience, however, that lean grassfed beef requires greater care on the grill and in the oven, with more finesse than applied by the average backyard grilling warrior – i.e., no salt, not too hot coals or flame, and best served medium rare. Our anticipation is that Lakota will be fine eating – full-flavored and healthfully lean.

Culinary Skills Lost

Americans, the English, French, Argentinians and Aussies have been feasting upon grassfed and -finished beef for centuries. Since shortly after World War II, however, Americans have been increasingly dining upon corn- or other gain-finished beef and we have been increasingly in a hurry when cooking and eating. So many of us have lost touch with our mothers' and forefathers' culinary skills. Corn-fattened beef is forgiving of abuse on the grill. Grassfed beef is not forgiving and it can easily be dried out and toughened. Corn-fattened beef is rather bland in taste and so, it benefits from five-star sauces and marinades. Grassfed beef has a more full-bodied flavor imbued by a variety of grasses, legumes, herbs and shrubs – fancy or spicy sauces mask these natural flavors. Similarly, salt enhances flavor in corn-fed beef, but salt draws natural juices from grassfed beef and toughens the meat. The bottom line for a gourmet cook is that grassfed beef requires more culinary finesse and more time.

Bulls, Bisons & Deer

All things being otherwise equal, grassfed bull meat will be leaner than grassfed steer meat. Testosterone causes the bull to burn fat before it can become deposited as intramuscular fat. So the challenges in cooking a grassfed bull will be greater than cooking a grassfed steer. A grassfed bull on a small family farm has a sire's responsibilities for romancing the lady cows, strolling across mountain pastures and here at Berriedale Farms, climbing hills from which he may survey the Cowpasture River Valley. So, he has better muscle tone than a Kansas feedlot steer. Our best guess is that cooking a grassfed bull will be a very similar culinary challenge to cooking a bison or a deer. And "lean" bull meat may mean firmer and chewier meat cuts.

Grassfed Beef Steaks

Berriedale Farms will instruct the butcher to cut the more tender steaks, including: filet mignon steaks, rib eye steaks, New York strip steaks, flat iron steaks, and tri-tip steaks from this grassfed bull. The tougher cuts of steak will be used to make roasts or ground beef-burger. Here are our suggestions on how to cook grassfed bull steaks:

1. Marinade the bull steak for tenderness with maple syrup, bourbon, and crushed garlic.
2. Do not salt the grassfed bull steak while cooking the meat.
3. Place one Berriedale beef sausage link, defrosted and split lengthwise, on top of the steak.

4. Sear the bull steak (and sausage) for 120 seconds on each side and three minutes at the most.
5. Grill the grassfed steak at a much lower temperature and not over hot coals or direct flames.
6. Cook the grassfed bull steak medium-rare or at the very most, medium.
7. Learn how to use thumb pressure to determine the doneness of the cut of meat.

Grassfed Beef Roasts

Berriedale Farms will instruct the butcher to cut for us only the more tender and fatty roasts, including sirloin tip roasts, chuck blade roasts, brisket roasts, shoulder or arm roasts, and spare ribs. Here are our suggestions on how to cook grassfed bull roasts:

1. Do not salt the grassfed bull roast while cooking the meat.
2. Brown the grassfed bull roast, basting it with butter or olive oil – but do not cook it while browning.
3. Braise the grassfed roast at a low temperature for six hours or more, perhaps, with red wine. A low temperature is 150 degrees Fahrenheit – not 350.

Alternatively, slow-cook the grassfed bull roast in a crock-pot, perhaps with red wine.

See the Berriedale Farms website and a "Recipe for Berriedale Country Beef Stew".

Grassfed Ground Beef-burgers

Berriedale Farms will instruct the butcher to make ground beef-burger out of all the tougher cuts, including: eye of and bottom round roasts, rump roasts, mock tender steaks, hanger steaks, skirt steaks, flank steaks and leg shanks, and additionally, to mix in all of the ground beef from one Berriedale Farms fat Red Poll steer. Here are our suggestions on how to cook grassfed ground beef-burgers:

1. Season the grassfed beef-burger with real maple syrup, black pepper, and crushed garlic.
2. Do not salt the grassfed ground beef-burger while cooking the meat.
3. Cook the grassfed beef-burger rare, medium rare, at the very most, medium.

Lessons Learned Over the Grill

I am not a gourmet cook, but I do pretty well with grassfed beef. Several lessons learned while cooking with Cowboy Charcoal include:

1. Salt dries out the natural juices in grass-
- continued on next page*

A Gourmet's Guide to Dining on a Grassfed

Continued from previous page

- fed beef and toughens it.
- Meat thermometers are the primary cause of over-cooked beef.
- Five-star seasonings and marinades mask the natural full-bodied flavor of grassfed beef.
- Highland County's Grassfed Beef Marinade or Glazing per pound of beef is made with two tablespoons each of real maple syrup and Kentucky Bourbon,

- plus two large garlic cloves crushed.
- Grassfed beef that is too rare for some-one's taste can be cooked some more.
- Backyard weekend warriors invariably grill grassfed beef with red-hot coals, licking flames and lots of sizzle, and thereby, make it tough and dry.
- Grassfed beef that is over-cooked should be tossed to your hound dog.

Again, the bottom line for a gourmet cook is that grassfed beef requires more culinary finesse and more time. Lizzie and I believe that these culinary guidelines will help ensure, although not guarantee, a fine eating experience with a grassfed, full-

flavored and healthfully lean older bull. Comments and suggestions are more than welcome. ❖

Contact: C. Nelson Hoy, Berriedale Farms, 10245 Cowpasture River Road Williamsville, VA 24487, (540) 925-2308, BerriedaleFarms@gmail.com, www.BerriedaleFarms.com, www.Facebook.com/C.Nelson.Hoy

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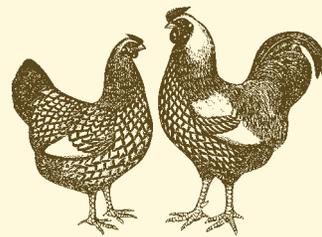
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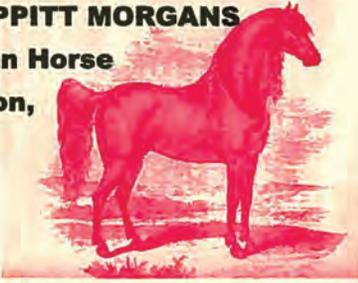
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DATED MATERIAL

CALENDAR

★★ denotes Livestock Conservancy event

★ denotes Conservancy participation

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

June

★ **June 20-21 – The Slow Meat Conference** will be held in Denver, CO. Slow Meat is a Slow Food USA symposium designed to produce a menu of action for meat in America, from field to fork. Visit www.slowfoodusa.org/slow-meat-2014 for more information.

June 21-22 – The Vermont History Expo will take place at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds in Tunbridge, VT. Over 100 local historical societies; 50 museum and heritage organizations; authors, musicians, genealogists, crafters and other talented professionals offer workshops, parades, Revolutionary and Civil War re-enactments, performances and demonstrations,

including a Heritage Animals Exhibit. Visit <http://vermonthistory.org/community-resources/vermont-history-expo> for more information.

June 25-30 – The National Guernsey Convention will be held in LaCrosse, WI. Contact Rich/Barb Schomburg at 608-786-1196, email rschomburg@centurytel.net or visit www.usguernsey.com for more information.

June 28 – The Cherry Fair and Early American Craft Show will be held at the historic Alexander Schaeffer Farm in Schaefferstown, Lebanon County, PA from 10am-5pm. Skilled traditional artisans and demonstrations, early American entertainment, food, heritage breeds of livestock and poultry on display. \$5/person admission; supervised children under age 12 are free. For more information call (717) 949-2244 or visit www.hsmuseum.org.

July

July 12-19 – The American Dairy Goat Association National Show will be held at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, KY. Email branch@adga.org or visit www.ADGA.org for more information.

★ **July 18-20 – The Seed Savers Annual**

Conference and Campout will be held in Decorah, IA. This event brings together experts and amateurs to share seed saving knowledge and stories. SSE has recently partnered with The Livestock Conservancy to incorporate a rare breed component to the annual program, which will include a lecture on heritage chickens this year. Visit www.seedsavers.org/Education/2014-Conference for more information.

August

August 1-2 – The Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference will be held in Kissimmee, FL. This event is designed specifically for beginning, small family, mid-size, and transitional farmers of Florida. Contact Derek Barber at dbarber@ufl.edu, call (368) 752-5384, or visit www.smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu for more information.

★ **August 1-2 – The Savory Institute's Annual International Conference** "Putting Grasslands to Work" will be held in London, England. Partners and collaborators from around the globe will gather and contribute to this special event. Grasslands and all their under-appreciated beauty and value will be the spotlight, fostering conversations around the unifying language of the land that bridges all cultures. For more information and to register, visit <http://london.savoryinstitute.org>.



Save the date! More information at www.livestockconservancy.org