



# THE LIVESTOCK CONSERVANCY™ NEWS

Spring, 2017

Volume 34, Issue 2

Conserving rare breeds since 1977

## 40 Years of Conservation ... and 30 Years of Conservation Priority Lists

We've come a long way! The Livestock Conservancy was founded at a kitchen table in Vermont in 1977, and continued as a volunteer, grassroots organization for several years. The first paid employee, Libby Henson, launched both a literal and figurative journey of discovery for the fledgling organization. Henson's famous 18-month road trip of breed discovery followed closely in the footsteps of similar work in the U.K. by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust (founded by Libby's father Joe Henson), and marked the first step in the Discover, Secure, Sustain model of conservation. Farms discovered on that trip remain stalwarts of conservation today.

The effort to re-discover forgotten livestock breeds included the first breed census, and the first *Conservation Priority List* (CPL) was published in 1986. Hence, the principles by which we still conserve livestock today were founded in the first ten years.

Many of the breeds on that first CPL were ill-defined, and the CPL was refined over the next several years through breeds research. Fundamental principles were established – a long history in the United States, global census, and the continuing existence or extinction of foundation breeds. After 40 years, census and the CPL are proven tools for categorizing breeds and prioritizing conservation work.

### Changes through the Years

In the 1980s, breed definitions evolved by studying the animals and their breed histories. Through this research some breeds were consolidated. For example, it became clear that Wooden Leg and Tennessee Fainting goats were the same

breed. During this time the CPL changed frequently to accommodate the growing understanding of breeds in America. More recently, DNA studies have helped define breeds that have overlapping histories.

When breeds share common ancestry and histories, DNA analysis helps demonstrate whether or not they are genetically distinct from their closest kin. Breeds that were added due to DNA testing include Florida Cracker sheep, Newfoundland ponies, and Lincoln Red cattle. On the other side of the coin, the genetic distance among strains of Colonial Spanish horses is close enough that they are considered to be a single breed, even those strains that have distinct cultural identities.

Breeds such as Icelandic chickens and Arapawa goats were added to the CPL when sufficient numbers came to the United States, yet they remain endangered in their native lands. In a sense, these additions are troubling, because they represent genetics that are disappearing from their country of origin, and strong populations at home are always the best-case scenario for breed conservation. Imagine if we needed to rely on other countries to help conserve Cotton Patch geese, for example.

### Number of Livestock Breeds on the Conservation Priority List: 1986 to 2017\*

	1986	2016
Cattle	18	20
Goats	4	5
Pigs	10	9
Sheep	25	22
Donkeys	3	3
Horses	22	22

\* Rabbits were added to the mission in 2006.



***In this our 40th year, join us in celebrating the Conservation Priority List, the work of those who have censused breeds throughout these years, and the breed registries that maintain the vital records from which the list is drawn.***

Nevertheless, when the American population of rare breeds constitutes a significant portion of the global population, they are listed on the CPL and we strive to conserve them.

Poultry were added to the mission in 1987, and rabbits in 2006. Poultry and rabbits are approachable “gateway” animals for new farmers, in part because they can be raised on small properties for minimal expense. Today, poultry make up more than a third of the breeds on the CPL. The majority of these have progressed to the Watch category, because they are productive additions to homesteads and backyards.

When the “Recovering” category was added to the CPL in 2000, it was envisioned as a home for breeds that were no longer considered endangered. Over time this original concept was lost, probably because appearance on the CPL is taken to indicate that the breed remains rare, and these breeds continue to be monitored. More recently a true “graduation” process was established for breeds that no longer need to be monitored, when annual

*continued on page 4*

# Announcing: *Managing Breeds for a Secure Future, Second Addition*

The Livestock Conservancy is proud to announce our latest book which brings together the experience of three of our experts in breeding procedure. This up-to-date second edition of *Managing Breeds for a Secure Future* examines breeding and genetics at a level accessible to all. This new edition has been revised to cover emerging debates in animal breeding and includes domestic species such as dogs and horses.

Our authors – Phillip Sponenberg, Alison Martin, and Jeannette Beranger – skillfully use a clear discussion of theoretical genetics to explain its practical applications to a wide audience of livestock and domestic animal breeders. Specific examples are provided throughout to illustrate how decisions regarding breeding and management relate back to genetic theory.

Advice is given on all areas pertaining to the process of responsible breed management from selecting pairs and mating systems to registry functions and long-term management. Current topics of interest covered include: breeding for robustness and disease resistance, international movement of livestock, and pre-

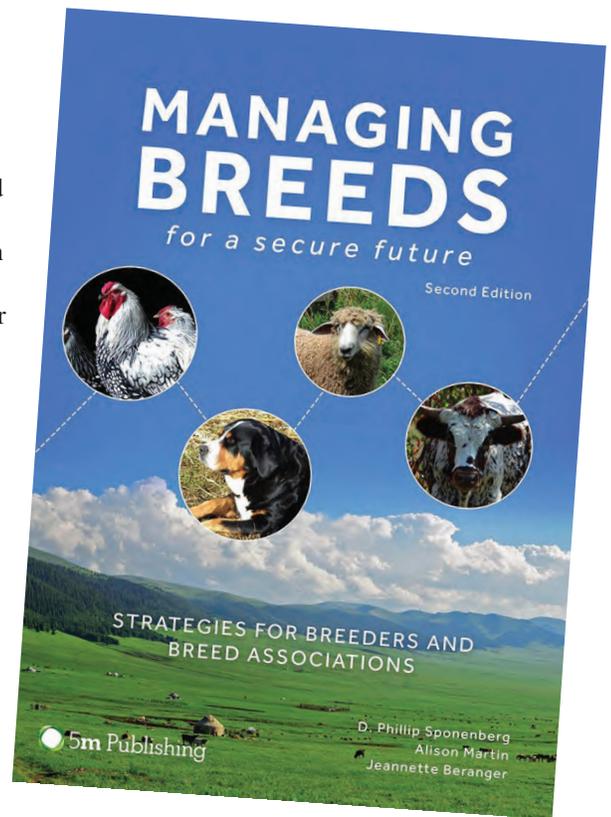
serving endangered breeds. Breed associations are also discussed in depth with particular emphasis on how reducing common conflicts can secure the future of breeds for generations to come.

This practical book offers a comprehensive examination of breeding practices aimed at livestock and dog breeders of all abilities and experience levels. Of particular interest to the rare breeds community is an expansive new chapter with specific breeding plan recommendations. Whether you're a novice to livestock breeding or a college professor assigning required readings, this book will become an invaluable resource to add to your library.

The first edition was published in 2007 by The Livestock Conservancy and has consistently been one of our top-selling books. ❖

*Hardcover, \$39.95*

*Expected to ship May, 2017*



**To pre-order your copy:** Visit Livestock-Conservancy.org, call 919-542-5704, or mail \$39.95 + \$5.00 shipping with a mailing address to: The Livestock Conservancy, PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

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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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# Viral Video = Big Exposure for the Conservancy

By Ryan Walker

On a Sunday afternoon in mid-March I pulled out my phone to skim the Conservancy's social media for any new comments. As the administrator for our social media accounts, I try to keep an eye on them pretty regularly in case we get questions about things we have posted or to see if we have been tagged in others' posts. It's a group effort, with several of our staff frequently interacting and posting things. After I checked the Conservancy's page, I jumped over to my personal social feeds to see what my friends and family were up to and catch up on some news. I follow quite a few farming and livestock pages, so I wasn't surprised to see a video pop up in my feed of a large Brahma rooster stepping out of a coop in Kosovo. I thought to myself, "That's a pretty big rooster," but didn't think much of it. Apparently the rest of the internet felt differently.

On Monday morning, shortly after arriving at the office, I received a call from a reporter at the TV show "Inside Edition." "You've seen the chicken video, haven't you?" the reporter said. "You're going to have to give me a few more details," I said. "I see a lot of chicken videos." As he described it, I recalled the Brahma video and it became apparent that the video made a *big* impression on average Twitter followers due to the bird's size. I then answered several of his questions about Brahmas and said I would keep an eye out for it on TV. I looked the video up online again and saw that many people were speculating on what type of chicken it was. Some guesses included: something created in a lab through genetic engineering, a lost variety of dinosaur, a rooster on steroids, the stuff of nightmares, and a small child or even a full-grown man dressed in a chicken suit. In reality, the Brahma rooster was about 2.5 to 3 feet tall but the angle of the camera and the fact that it was European and a little fluffier than American Brahmas made it look very large. Still, a really big rooster, but not quite a monster. Assuming that there might be more news outlets wanting information, we made a quick post on social media confirming that it was indeed a Heritage breed Brahma rooster.

Shortly after I made the post, we received another call from *USA Today*. Then CBS. Then Fox. Then the "Today" show.



**A Brahma chicken video from Kosovo went viral. Courtesy: Twitter.**

By the end of the day, we had been interviewed by most of the major news outlets, and most of the news stories either quoted the Conservancy or linked directly to our website for more information. Our website traffic increased by over 1,300% within a day of the video being posted. Hundreds of thousands of people learned more about Brahmas and other heritage breeds for about a week while the video was in the news. We also gained some new members during that week – welcome to you all!

Often referred to as the "King of All Poultry," the Brahma chicken is appreciated for its great size, strength, and vigor, and is well-suited for cold climates. By 1901 some individual birds were documented to have reached incredible weights of 13 to 14 pounds for hens and 17 to 18.25 pounds for cocks – though 10-pound hens and 12-pound cocks were the rule. This breed, together with the Cochin, fueled what became known as "Hen Fever" – a national obsession for poultry that hit both America and England around 1850. Brahmas are currently listed as Recovering on the Conservancy's priority list. Over 160 years later, they're still show-stoppers! ❖

*Ryan Walker is the Marketing & Communications Manager for The Livestock Conservancy and can be reached at [rwalker@LivestockConservancy.org](mailto:rwalker@LivestockConservancy.org). To learn more about Brahmas and many other breeds, visit [LivestockConservancy.org](http://LivestockConservancy.org). To watch the Brahma video mentioned in this piece, search for "Brahma Chicken Video" online.*

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International Heritage Breeds Week is an opportunity to advocate for conservation of heritage breeds in agriculture and to share with local, state, national, and international audiences what livestock conservation is all about and the impact it has on heritage breeds and agriculture every day. Help us promote International Heritage Breeds Week and Day by word-of-mouth, through social media, and to your local press. Visit [www.HeritageBreedsWeek.org](http://www.HeritageBreedsWeek.org) for more information.

# CPL: 40 Years

Continued from page 1

registrations exceed 5,000 or global numbers exceed 15,000.

Notable successes include Katahdin sheep, Nigerian Dwarf goats, and Orpington chickens. The utility of these breeds on small farms is now well established, and breeders who helped make this happen can take pride. For many breeds on the CPL, success means that they resisted probable extinction. Would Heritage turkeys, Mulefoot pigs, Milking Devon cattle, or San Clemente goats exist today if not for the work of The Livestock Conservancy and its dedicated members? Heritage swine and rabbits have been on the upswing for the last ten years. Most breeds of cattle have been static for several years, while equines have declined, and their future is bleak.

## Changes to the 2017 Conservation Priority List

In 2017, most breeds are holding steady and there are few changes to the CPL.

The **American Chinchilla** rabbit moved from Critical to Threatened. American Chinchillas have found a growing niche as a meat rabbit for homesteading. Hardy and gentle animals, they produce large litters and have good mothering instincts, and their fryers reach market weight quickly.

The American Chinchilla was adopted into the Standards book in 1924 and in its early days was a true American success story. Americans Edward Stahl, Jack Har-



**The American Chinchilla rabbit has moved up from Critical to Threatened. Photo by Jeannette Beranger.**



**After extensive searches in the United States and Great Britain, all the information that has surfaced points to Ancona ducks having been created in America. Photo by Sara DuMars.**

ris, and others decided to add more size to the Standard Chinchilla rabbit for better meat yield and larger pelts. The advantages of this new breed were recognized immediately, and more than 17,000 American Chinchilla rabbits were registered in 1929 alone. The breed declined after 1945, along with most other rabbits. It is heartening to see this breed's fine qualities recognized once again.

The **Ancona** duck will be now designated as an American breed. For many years its origin was speculated as being British. After extensive searches in the United States and Great Britain, all the information that has surfaced points to the breed having been created in America. The strongest piece of evidence comes from an article published in the 1913 edition of the *Water Fowl Club of America Yearbook*. In it, W. J. Wirt of Ridge View Farms in Knowlesville, New York announced the development of a new breed of duck he calls the "Ancona," named after the Ancona chicken, that was developed from a combination of several standard breeds of duck. Shortly after the appearance of this article, Anconas began to be entered into poultry shows in the Northeast. The February 1915 issue of *Poultry Item* magazine and the 1915 *American Poultry Yearbook* announcements include two first-place wins for Ancona ducks in a Boston show by Willdum Duckery of Rowley, Massachusetts. All of this evidence points to an American origin in the early years of the 20th century.

The Ancona is a hardy, adaptable, all-purpose duck. It is an excellent layer and

can lay more eggs than many popular dual-purpose chickens. The Ancona also grows relatively quickly and produces lean, flavorful meat. Anconas are well suited for situations where they can forage for some of their food, and under normal conditions they do not tend to stray from home.

**Barbados Blackbelly** sheep moved from Recovering to Watch. This hair sheep breed evolved on the island of Barbados in the Caribbean from crosses of African hair sheep with European wool breeds brought to the island during the Colonial period. Sheep imported from Barbados in the 1970s form the foundation for purebred Barbados Blackbelly sheep in the United States. Earlier imports were crossed with Mouflon and other breeds to create the horned American Blackbelly. That 20th century composite is sometimes confused with Barbados Blackbelly, but does not appear on our CPL.

This year's change in conservation status reflects the difficulty in obtaining accurate sheep census from Barbados, where loss of habitat and crossbreeding with other sheep are thought to have eroded the population. There may now be moves toward greater conservation efforts in Barbados. A brand new Barbadian registry documented 700 sheep in January 2017; however, accurate total numbers remain unknown.

Barbados Blackbelly sheep thrive in hot, humid environments that are challenging for most sheep. They have also proven adaptable to colder climates. Characteristics appealing for pastured or range production include year-round lambing,



**Barbados Blackbelly sheep have slipped from Recovering into Watch. Photo by Becky Lannon.**

prolificacy, ability to thrive and reproduce on marginal forage, and disease- and parasite-resistance.

Some of the strains of **Colonial Spanish** horses resume individual listing on the *Conservation Priority List*. Some strains have active conservation breeding programs separate from the other strains, and breeders find it useful to have these indi-

vidually listed. A few of these strains are numerous enough that maintaining them in long-term isolation is realistic, although each will require close monitoring of genetic lines and rates of inbreeding. Strains with relatively small numbers, however, are unlikely to succeed with conservation in complete isolation over multiple generations. This means that the overall Colo-

nia Spanish breed, consisting of individual strains as well as carefully chosen strain crosses, remains an important focus for conservation efforts, because these strains are all close cousins within that one breed.

**Clydesdale** horses moved from Watch to Threatened. Interest in horses as recreational and working animals has declined significantly for several decades, as have global equine populations. Annual registrations of Clydesdales in the US are now estimated at roughly 250 per year, and the global population has fallen below 5,000. Canada, the

United Kingdom, and the United States are the most significant homes for Clydesdale horses.

Clydesdales were traditionally used for all types of heavy hauling. Their attractiveness and size led to use in promotional hitches, and their use by the Anheuser Busch Company dates to the end of prohibition in 1933. All who have seen them on television or in person know that Clydesdales combine strength and style. While many of today's taller Clydesdales are marketed for exhibition, there is renewed interest in more compact horses for farm and ranch work and as riding animals for trail and Renaissance fairs. ❖



**Clydesdale horses move from Watch to Threatened. Annette Barnes poses with one of her Clydesdales from Redd Barney Ranch in Reno, Nevada. Photo by Jeannette Beranger.**

## WAYS YOU CAN GIVE...

### One-Time Giving

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

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

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Remember loved ones by supporting a cause which has a lasting impact on our planet.

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

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Large and small, legacy gifts are vital to the success of the Conservancy's efforts to save 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.



## Conservation Priority Livestock Breeds 2017

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

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

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

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

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

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

Breeds unique to North America are printed in bold.

<sup>1</sup> Dual Purpose Milking Shorthorns that qualify for the "Native (N)" designation, identifying them as pure, old line, dual purpose Milking Shorthorns, as verified by the AMSS office.

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



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**Conservation Priority Equine Breeds 2017**

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

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

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

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

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

	Critical	Threatened	Watch	Recovering	Study
Donkeys	American Mammoth Jackstock Poitou			Miniature Donkey	
Horses	American Cream <b>Canadian</b> Caspian Cleveland Bay Dales Pony Galiceño Hackney Horse <b>Morgan – Traditional</b> <sup>2</sup> <b>Newfoundland Pony</b> Shire Suffolk	Akhal-Teke Clydesdale Colonial Spanish <sup>1</sup> Baca-Chica Banker Choctaw Florida Cracker Marsh Tacky Santa Cruz Wilbur-Cruce Dartmoor Exmoor Irish Draught Lipizzan	Fell Pony Gotland Mountain Pleasure/ Rocky Mountain	Belgian <sup>3</sup>	

Breeds unique to North America are printed in bold.

<sup>1</sup> The strains listed are those with strain-specific active conservation breeding programs. Other strains contribute to the overall breed.

<sup>2</sup> Includes horses whose pedigrees are absent of outcrosses after 1930.

<sup>3</sup> Includes Brabant, the European ancestor of the American breed, that is a distinct type and now globally rare.



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## Conservation Priority Poultry Breeds 2017

**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 Crevecoeur <b>Holland</b> La Fleche Malay Modern Game Nankin Redcap Spanish Sultan Yokohama	Aseel <b>Cubalaya</b> Faverolle Houdan Icelandic Lakenvelder Old English Game <b>Rhode Island White</b> Russian Orloff Sebright Spitzhauben	Ancona Andalusian <b>Buckeye</b> Buttercup Catalana <b>Chantecler</b> Cornish <b>Delaware</b> <b>Dominique</b> Dorking Hamburg <b>Java</b> <b>Jersey Giant</b> Langshan Minorca <b>New Hampshire</b> Phoenix Polish <b>Rhode Island Red – Non industrial</b> Shamo Sumatra	Australorp Brahma Cochin Leghorn – Non-industrial <b>Plymouth Rock</b> Sussex	Araucana <sup>1</sup> Large Fowl American Game Manx Rumpy or Persian Rumpless Saipan
Ducks	Aylesbury Dutch Hookbill	Buff or Orpington Magpie Saxony Silver Appleyard	<b>Ancona</b> Campbell <b>Cayuga</b> Rouen – Non-industrial Swedish Welsh Harlequin	Runner or Indian Runner	<b>Australian Spotted</b>
Geese	<b>Cotton Patch</b> Roman Shetland Steinbacher	<b>Pilgrim</b> Pomeranian Sebastopol	African <b>American Buff</b> Chinese Toulouse (Dewlap)		Gray
Turkeys	<b>Beltville Small White</b>	Black <b>Royal Palm</b> <b>White Holland</b>	<b>Bourbon Red</b> <b>Bronze</b> <b>Narragansett</b> Slate <b>All Other Varieties<sup>2</sup></b>		

<sup>1</sup> Breed identity in poultry breeds is challenging. Many breeders of all kinds (exhibition, production, hatchery) are diligent in breeding standard-bred birds. Other breeders in each category resort to crossbreeding to achieve their goals, and yet promote their birds as standard-bred. The Livestock Conservancy is unable to validate each breeding program, but buyers are encouraged to ask if birds offered for sale are pure-bred and meet breed standards.

<sup>2</sup> Varieties that are distinct but not APA recognized include Chocolate, Jersey Buff, Midget White, Lavender, and a host of other distinct color varieties. Does not include broad-breasted varieties, because they are not endangered.

# Today's Traditional Morgan Horse

Courtesy of Cornerstone Morgan Horse, Inc.

Beginning with a history of what led up to Cornerstone Morgan Horse's breed preservation project only seems right. It began years ago, created by ever-increasing concerns. Breeders and traditional Morgan enthusiasts began to gather seriously in the 1990s.

A big concern was the diluting of the Morgan gene pool. But, what exactly does that mean? To use an analogy, let's look at something that is often diluted. Diluting paint colors comes to mind. By adding white drops to a vibrant blue paint, the original color loses its vibrancy.

From the very beginning, founding horse Justin Morgan himself, some white drops were added to Justin Morgan's original blue, figuratively. He was the lone progenitor and starting point so it had to be done. But, thankfully, soft blue drops were added back by means of thoughtful crossing of daughters, and half siblings, etc. The Morgan Horse Registry was begun at a point in time and it allowed for careful and well-documented crossing to outside mares of good quality. It was closed in 1948. By that time, the breed was still quite blue but not as vibrant.

Time went by. Then dilution began again. Saddlebred blood was allowed in through means many have stated to be quite controversial. The figurative 'color' really diluted then. And the disturbing part was that it was fashionable to have as many Saddlebred crosses as was possible. The Morgan 'color' was being greatly changed. Once that happens, how does the blue color – or in this case, the pure genetics – return? How could it? There are no 'vibrant blues' to breed back to anymore.

Basically, Justin Morgan had been diluted to the point that his wonderful genetics were critically endangered. Some breeders began to verbalize alarm at the continued infusion of non-Morgan blood. The label of "Foundation" was slowly but clearly being defined by a small group of long-time breeders and researchers. As a like-minded group, they began research-



**Traditional Morgan horses are listed as critically endangered by The Livestock Conservancy. Photo by Pam McDermott.**

ing the losses to the breed and gathering as many mares and stallions as possible that fit the criteria of "foundation". These individuals are of the bluest color left in the breed, as clearly defined on [www.foundationmorganhorse.com](http://www.foundationmorganhorse.com).

At first, we all went through a grieving period as we uncovered the genetic losses to the Morgan breed. There was some anger in our grief as we realized what had transpired over the years. Anger is not productive, though, and we have slowly risen above it.

The economic downturn since 2008 has made preservation efforts slow way down. That has added an additional burden on our efforts. In the years since then, we have lost a great number of breeders. Some left due to old age and some to economic circumstances. There is a heightened need among breeders to keep breeding but to do so very carefully. It is vital that there is mentoring and ongoing education as to genetics. We are working with such a small gene pool now.

As well, there has been a concern of gathering quantity over quality. As we diligently preserve the 'blue' genetics, we are conscious of the quality that Justin Morgan originally begat: form-to-function conformation, great physical endurance, a sane and sensible mind, and a people-loving spirit. These are the essence of the Morgan breed that make it the treasure so loved by many. Those distinct Morgan

attributes are carried forward by strong genetics.

In order to strengthen the traditional Morgan numbers, we need to sell so we can breed more. Mares need to stay in production so they won't become barren. Even though the horse industry took a huge dive and prices fell on trained saddle horses, it still costs a given amount to raise and properly train each horse.

Happily, we are becoming more united in our preservation efforts. At present we unite under Cornerstone Morgan Horse, Inc., which is made up of dedicated Morgan lovers. The Cornerstone Morgan Horse, Inc. is a club, evolving into an educational non-profit that encompasses all of the traditional Morgans. We are a membership that encompasses all of the traditional "foundation" Morgans. Cornerstone acts as an umbrella for all of the family lines that go back to Justin Morgan on the top-most line of pedigrees (sire-line). Included in the definition of Foundation is a cut-off date that keeps any out-crossing eliminated in order to preserve and bring forward Morgan 'blue' genetics.

With the research that was done, it was decided that it was vital to include Morgans of high percentage in this preservation project, as so many carried otherwise lost bloodlines of great importance. After much discussion ensued a 97.5% pure threshold was decided for "High Percent-

*continued on next page*

# Morgan Horse

*Continued from previous page*

age Foundation” Morgans, or HPF. These are slightly diluted from the Foundation level that can no longer get bluer, but just by 2.5%.

What can you do to help? Thanks to The Livestock Conservancy, we have additional and much needed help. By becoming listed on its *Conservation Priority List*, we have gained a greater audience.

How did that occur? First, a far-sighted Cornerstone member pointed us toward the possibility of inclusion of the Morgan on that list. Then our work began. A small group of members began researching the number of foals born in the previous ten years who fit the “Foundation” criteria. One of those members went to The Livestock Conservancy and communicated our concerns and our findings. The Foundation Morgan, referred to as the Traditional Morgan, gained a place in the CPL. Then, another Cornerstone member went to Mother Earth News and asked to be included in their yearly sustainable earth fairs as a component of the Conservancy’s heritage breeds exhibit.

But that was another starting point and not the end of the story. Now what can you do to help? There are many ways!

See if a Morgan would fit into your lifestyle, whether it be horse competitions, farm chores, riding the trails, or family fun. Perhaps you are keenly interested in helping humanity. Morgans have proven to be wise and loving therapy horses. Some of you may even have the passion to enter the world of breeding Morgans. If so,

## Welcome to our Newest Life Member!

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

**Barbara Grasseschi**  
Healdsburg, PA

For more information on becoming a life member, please contact Ryan Walker at 919-542-5704, ext. 102, or [rwalker@LivestockConservancy.org](mailto:rwalker@LivestockConservancy.org).



**Cornerstone Morgan Horse, Inc. includes and promotes all of the family lines that go back to Justin Morgan on the topmost line of pedigrees (sire-line). Photo by Pam McDermott.**

we still have a number of older and truly skilled members who understand all that it entails. They are open and eager to mentor new breeders serious to learn.

Specifically, how does one find their own traditional Morgan? One way to start is by contacting the Cornerstone Morgan Horse at [www.cornerstonemorganclub.com](http://www.cornerstonemorganclub.com). Any of the list of officers would be more than happy to help. We can send you a current list of owners in your area.

We have such a small number of mares left that we keep very close control of where they go. One idea that has been presented lately is to lease a broodmare, bred to the owner’s stallion. In 18 months you can take home a wonderful Foundation Morgan foal of your own!

Also, Foundation and HPF geldings are usually available. The gelding is the valued culmination of a breeding program and a true ambassador to the breed. He is the one who can be a treasured family member and lifelong partner. A traditional Morgan gelding has the potential, by its genetics, to remain physically and emotionally stable well into his twenties.

After reading of our history, please know that there is more to learn. There is a vast library of information being preserved by a dedicated Morgan owner at [www.foundationmorganhorse.com](http://www.foundationmorganhorse.com). We thank you for your interest! ❖

## International Heritage Breeds Week – Ways to Participate

- Adopt-a-Classroom for a farm visit or take animals to the classroom.
- Hold a coloring or poem-writing contest for students.
- Adopt-a-Legislator by inviting them to visit local farms or set up a visit to their state office.
- Adopt-a-Nursing Home and consider taking heritage breed animals with you.
- Show off your breeds at a Farmer’s Market.
- Host a Celebrity who is familiar with heritage breeds or farming to speak about their experience with heritage breeds – and film it!
- Set up a display at your local library.
- Hold an IHBD Breakfast for local government and business leaders with a keynote about heritage breeds.
- Organize a fundraiser and donate money to conservation organizations like The Livestock Conservancy and/or a breed club or association.
- Hold exhibitions at local public areas to introduce the public to heritage breeds. Include examples of products like wool, cheese, or eggs, as well as information on how these products are produced.
- Share photos and information on Social Media . Use #HeritageBreedsWeek to let us know how you’re participating!

Find more info and ideas at  
[www.HeritageBreedsWeek.org](http://www.HeritageBreedsWeek.org)

# Entebbe: A Miracle 33 Years in the Making

By Richard Broker, River Oaks Cattle Co.

Once upon a time there was a great Watusi bull called Ankole #5. But wait a minute, I'm getting ahead of myself. Let's start at the beginning.

Genetic studies show that all modern-day domestic cattle are descended from a herd of wild ox known as aurochs. These animals roamed across Europe and Asia over 10,000 years ago. Over the years, some of these animals were domesticated and through the breeding process, evolved into the start of our modern day cattle. Through modern science the livestock industry has continued to improve the breed.

The Schulz family, Christoph, Walter and Jurgen, were licensed wildlife collectors in Tanganyika, formerly German East Africa. The Schulz family was granted a governors license to collect game such as giraffe, elephant, rhino, zebra, etc. In 1925, to exhibit something never seen before in zoos, they discussed the idea to collect a small herd of Watusi cattle. European zoos were in shambles due to World War I, therefore they were eager to obtain exhibition animals, especially rare and unique animals never before seen by their population.

The Schultzes had seen these majestic animals in previous trips to this region. Developing a relationship with tribes in this area they learned these animals were considered sacred. These cattle produced rich milk that was vital to the survival of the tribe. They also represented wealth to the kings of these tribes – the more cattle, the greater the power. Watusi cattle were even used for the purchase of wives for the kings and were therefore known as the Cattle of Kings.

In 1927 the search began for a load of exotic animals to be shipped by the Holland African Ship Line to Hamburg, Antwerp, and Rotterdam. It took a lot of organization to get these animals shipped. The Schultzes game ranch, located near Arusha, which had been lost in World War I, had to be rebuilt so the animals collected could be retained in a quarantine station. A government-approved veterinarian had to test for specific diseases prior to shipping. This testing found a high percentage had tuberculosis so they were removed to a slaughterhouse as required by local law. Two years passed before a total of 21



**Entebbe, the only living son of Ankole #5. Photo by Richard Broker.**

head was collected and approved to ship. Only 21 head (7 bulls and 14 cows) could be shipped because this was all the room available after loading zebras, giraffes, rhinos, elephants and all the other zoo animals in the shipment. Stalls had to be built, so materials were obtained in the port of Durban, South Africa, and stalls were constructed during the voyage to Mombasa. At this time there were no cattle on the tropical coast of Africa so all food and drinking water required had to be put on board in Durban. Cattle first had to be transported overland by truck to Kilindini Harbor, the port of Mombasa. Special ramps had to be constructed to get the animals out of the trucks and on to the ship.

The voyage required the shipment to make stops in Antwerp and Rotterdam before arriving in Hamburg, the destination of the Watusi cattle. Upon arrival at Hamburg, the cattle were not allowed to be unloaded. All German states had a law that no African cattle could be imported. After several days of searching for a location permitting importation of African cattle, it was discovered the state of Saxonia had no such law. The zoo in Leipzig offered to receive the cattle and hold them in quarantine for 15 days.

The actual distribution of the Watusi is not certain. We do know a few of these animals were obtained by zoos in England and Sweden. World War II was devastating

on all zoo animals and it is a wonder any of the Watusi survived. After the conclusion of the war, Watusi entered North America, first into Canada and later into the United States in the early 1970s.

The Okanagan Game Farm, established in Kaleden, British Columbia, Canada in 1967, obtained a small group of Watusi and had them on display for thousands of people to see. They professionally bred, cared for and promoted their Watusi cattle.

Sometime in the late 1970s Richard Patterson in Sisters, Oregon obtained a breeding group of Watusi from the Okanagan Game Farm. In this group was a well built, chocolate Watusi with lots of horn. This bull, along with some cows, was purchased by the Rare Animal Survival Center in Ocala, Florida. Then in 1979, Dean Drake of Canyon City, Colorado acquired this young bull. Drake had a small herd of Watusi bulls and was exhibiting Watusi cattle at many livestock shows and selling semen.

At this point, Watusi cattle were selling for \$25,000. It is known that one animal from the Rare Animal Survival Center sold for \$55,000. There were no organizations for registry and no Watusi auctions. Soon, however, the Ankole Watusi International Registry was established. Major management problems developed and another registry, The World Watusi Association,

*continued on next page*

# A Peek at Coefficients of Inbreeding, both Historic and Contemporary, Worldwide vs. North America

**Submitted by International Cleveland Bay Registry, LLC / Milinda Ellis**

*Editor's Note: The following article provides an example of how the International Cleveland Bay Registry monitors Coefficients of Inbreeding. More details about how to monitor and manage inbreeding in rare breed populations can be found in Managing Breeds for a Secure Future, 2nd Edition, available from The Livestock Conservancy (see page 2).*

In recent years, the Cleveland Bay Horse Society of North America (CBHSNA) has been conducting research on inbreeding, kinship, and genetic bottlenecks in the North American Cleveland Bay (CB) population. It has been felt for a long time that the North American CB population was "isolated." While such information is available from other sources, it only provides an overview of the genetic health of the breed worldwide. If horses were able to hop a plane and "globetrot" as easily as we humans, there could probably be better dissemination of genetic material around the world. Since that's not feasible, for a number of reasons, we have decided to play the hand we're dealt and do everything we can to help improve the genetic health of the CBs in North America. The International Cleveland Bay Registry (ICBR) has committed time and resources to assist in this research, sharing its findings with the CBHSNA and its membership.

## **Coefficients of Inbreeding (CsOI): 19th through 21st centuries**

In early July, we began calculating coefficients of inbreeding on the known pure CB population (considered as such by their human contemporaries). Those calculations were broken down into two sections before posting on Facebook. The first section addressed pure CBs foaled during the 19th century and the second section addressed those foaled during the 20th. To be included in the calculations, each horse had to have some semblance of pedigree both top and bottom. Those horses were then divided into groups based on [likely] decade of birth and then averaged the COI of those horses for which it was >0.00. (The horses showing an inbreeding

coefficient of 0.00 were those with partial parentage information but not enough to perform calculations due to numerous gaps – old pedigrees frequently omitted information on dams, grandams, etc.)

The 19th century group consisted of 3,980 horses. This information was compiled using published data from all three Cleveland Bay societies, including the Yorkshire Coach Horse Society. Quite a few horses were registered there but not with the CBHS, some were registered in both, and some were registered in all three. The results are as follows:

Decade	N=	CsOI >0.00	Avg COI
1800-1809	9	3	6.40
1810-1819	25	9	1.25
1820-1829	64	9	7.39
1830-1839	53	9	1.28
1840-1849	115	44	1.73
1850-1859	56	30	4.6
1860-1869	77	60	2.87
1870-1879	293	165	4.11
1880-1889	2087	1620	3.26
1890-1899	1201	1117	4.08

Using the same parameters as for the 19th century horses, the 20th century calculations are as follows. There were 2235 horses included in this batch:

Decade	N=	Avg COI
1900-1909	430	5.19
1910-1919	85	7.26
1920-1929	93	6.81
1930-1939	98	8.62
1940-1949	111	10.14
1950-1959	61	12.06
1960-1969	90	13.87
1970-1979	298	13.58
1980-1989	416	16.17
1990-1999	553	17.54

Running calculations for the 21st century became a bit more ticklish. There is some question as to what year some horses were foaled (see 2010e), many still have not been recorded anywhere, etc. The ten generation CsOI for the years 2000 through 2015, inclusive, were calculated. Considering the 703 horses in this list, I got the following average CsOI per [presumed, if not verified] year of birth. The

overall average for this group = 17.30%.

Year	Avg COI
2000	17.88
2001	18.28
2002	18.38
2003	17.61
2004	17.82
2005	17.48
2006	16.98
2007	17.35
2008	17.48
2009	17.5
2010	16.55
2010e	17.27
2011	16.10
2012	16.09
2013	16.18
2014	15.13
2015	15.04
2016	unavailable

An analysis was made of the purebred population in North America. This set was comprised of 483 individuals born from 1900 to 2015, inclusive, with the average COI for the group being 12.09%. The analysis showed the following, arranged by decade of birth:

Decade	Number of individuals	Coefficient of Inbreeding
1900-1909	122	3.42
1910-1919	0	N/A
1920-1929	4	10.45
1930-1939	19	8.92
1940-1949	57	10.98
1950-1959	2	14.5
1960-1969	1	13.6
1970-1979	9	9.85
1980-1989	26	14.9
1990-1999	67	16.73
2000-2009	129	16.86
2010-2015	47	16.57

An additional analysis was made regarding horses that carry a minimum of 75% CB blood but are not considered "pure" for whatever reason. These are horses automatically rising through the ICBR "Tier A" and/or could be considered for the CBHS Grading Register. There are at least 28 horses in North America that fit this criteria and are believed to be capable of breeding (e.g., sexually intact, not af-

flicted by a sex-chromosome abnormality, etc). These horses could be used to introduce hybrid vigor or in some cases, may carry genetic material of some bloodlines which no longer exist in the purebred population and therefore may be an option for line breeding. The average COI of this group is 7.62% and includes horses (both M and F) born from 1998 to 2015. Of the horses initially included in this group, 20 are actively breeding. Of those 20 “active breeders,” 18 carry 75% CB blood and the other two carry 87.5% CB blood.

Other issues contributing to high rates of inbreeding include “popular sires” and low numbers of mares being bred – for whatever reason.

The most popular stallion for whom we could ascertain “stats” was Prince George. He sired 314 offspring directly, with a total of 1,006 descendents over four generations. He appeared in the pedigrees of these 1,006 horses a total of 1,155 times, which means that if you look at some of the individual pedigrees, he may show up two or three times. At ten generations, he shows 6,116 descendants and he appears 66,801 times in those pedigrees. In one of those 10 generation pedigrees, Prince George appeared 32 times (!!!), and he has descendants in the current breeding population. In “second place” was the stallion Sportsman, who sired at least 246 offspring. Sportsman was registered in the CBHS and Yorkshire Coach Horse studbooks, before being sent to North America and entering the American Cleveland Bay Society studbook.

Among 20th century stallions, Storth House Temptation sired at least 104 offspring (76 of whom were pures). In North America, the record (so far) goes to Ramblers Renown, who sired at least 97 offspring (11 of whom were purebreds). In the active breeding population (North America only), “top dog” honors go to Knaresborough Fusilier. Fusilier has 35 purebred offspring to his credit, with 21 of those alive and residing in North America. Of those 21 offspring, 15 are potentially in the “active breeding purebreds” population, and two offspring carry a minimum of 75% CB blood. The latter are referred to as “Tier A” horses.

Then, 3,912 “pure” mares were analyzed to identify the most-prolific, along with the age range within which each was a member of the active breeding population. (See chart above).

# of foals	# mares in group	Age: first foal (avg)	Age: last foal (avg)	Avg. years producing	Median start/end ages
15	1	3	21	18	3/21
13	5	3.8	21.6	17.8	3/22
12	5	3.8	20.8	17	4/20
11	14	4.5	18.86	14.36	4/18.5
10	18	4.06	18.72	14.67	4/18
9	16	4.56	18.56	14	4/18
8	34	5.29	16.12	10.82	4/15.5
7	66	5	16.27	11.27	5/16
6	71	5.17	14.87	9.82	5/15
5	104	5.99	14.49	8.49	5/14

The most-prolific mare, Depper 42, was foaled in 1880, well before hormonal supplementation or veterinary-assisted conception was available. The other groups stacked up as follows: 4 foals (n=169), 3 foals (n=234), 2 foals (n=381), 1 foal (n=1229). Maiden/Yeld mares = 1565.

What can one take from this? It appears that the later a mare goes into production, the earlier she’ll “age out” of the active breeding population, *on average*. These numbers are not static. Hopefully, more mares will enter the active breeding population. One must consider, though, that statistically a mare has a better chance

of reproducing if bred younger rather than later. Because of this, one must weigh this type of information against the desire to actively compete their mare at a younger age versus breeding her. Without more horses “hitting the ground,” the chances of the breed surviving are pretty slim. ❖

*Information regarding the active breeding population in North America is published in the CBHSNA’s newsletter “The BayWatch.” Questions may be directed to the International Cleveland Bay Registry (ICBR) by emailing icbr.registrar@gmail.com.*

## Entebbe

*Continued from page 11*

was founded. Once these two registrations started, the cattle values soon dropped.

Dean Drake had acquired five foundation pure bulls. To keep track of these bulls he named them Ankole #1, #2, #3, #4, and #5. Many of the great Professional Bull Rider bucking bulls with Watusi genetics were a result of these bulls in which Dean Drake sold semen.

One of the bulls Drake had acquired was the chocolate bull, Ankole #5, by far the best of the bunch – best conformation, best genetics, best color, best horn size and shape and best attitude. The best quality of all that is he passed these qualities on to his offspring. He was soon proclaimed the greatest bull of his breed at that time.

Drake refused all offers to sell this bull, but Darol Dickinson purchased a few straws of frozen semen from Ankole #5 in 1981. At this time, Darol owned over one third of the Watusi cattle in the United States. Shortly after Darol’s purchase of the semen from Ankole #5 this great bull died during an exhibit in a crazy turn of events. Darol had placed this semen in

storage. In 2014 one straw of this semen was placed in the Buffalo Bill cow Afro Keezena. Afro Keezena’s dam was by Liar’s Lake Country Boy and out of a Fortune II cow. On April 7, 2015 a beautiful African-colored bull calf was born by artificial insemination thanks to Ankole #5. This calf, Entebbe, is a miracle 33 years in the making.

On October 4, 2016, our farm, River Oaks Cattle Co., acquired Entebbe, the only living son of Ankole #5. To say we are excited about Entebbe is an understatement. We especially want to thank the Darol Dickinson family of Barnesville, Ohio for making this possible. ❖

*The author may be contacted at River Oaks Cattle Co., 943 Leaman Rd., Robbins, NC 27325, 910-464-5244.*

*For more information about Ankole Watusi cattle, contact:*

*Ankole Watusi International Registry, Dr. Elizabeth Sue Lundgren, 22484 W 239th St, Spring Hill, KS 66083, 913-592-4050, WATUSI@aol.com, www.awir.org*

*World Watusi Association, PO Box 201, Walnut Springs, TX 76690, 254-797-3032, info@watusi.org, www.watusi.org*

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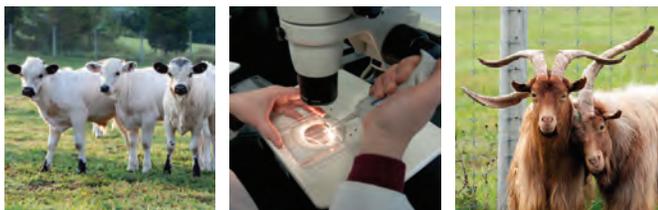


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## CALENDAR

★★ 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](mailto:rwalker@livestockconservancy.org) or mail to PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312.*

### May

**May 6-7 – The 44th Annual Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival** will be held at the Howard County Fairgrounds in West Friendship, MD. Visit [www.sheepandwool.org](http://www.sheepandwool.org) for more information.

★★ **May 21-27 – International Heritage Breeds Week** will be held worldwide to raise awareness of endangered Heritage breeds of livestock and poultry. The week of awareness was first launched by The Livestock Conservancy in America in 2015. It culminates with Heritage Breeds Day when many farms, ranches, and organizations will hold local events such as farm tours, workshops, or lectures to raise awareness in their communities. Visit [www.HeritageBreedsWeek.org](http://www.HeritageBreedsWeek.org) to learn more.

### June

★ **June 1-25 – The 15th International Red Poll Congress and Tour** will be hosted by the American Red Poll Association and held throughout the central United States in OH, IN, IL, MO, KS, KY, TN and NC for 25 days. To make reservations and for more information, visit [www.americanredpolls.com/](http://www.americanredpolls.com/)

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★ **June 8-10 – The World Pork Expo** will be held in Des Moines, IA. Each year, 20,000 pork producers and other professionals make World Pork Expo the world's largest pork-specific trade show. Visit [www.worldpork.org](http://www.worldpork.org) for more information.

**June 10 - The SVF Annual Visitors Day** will be held in Newport, RI. Take free self-guided tours through the historic Swiss Village, peek into the state-of-the-art facilities and meet the SVF laboratory, veterinary, and animal care staff, visit Chip, a rare Tennessee Fainting goat, learn about other endangered breeds, attend live cryogenics and sheep shearing demonstrations, and shop SVF's selection of farm products and heritage breed meat. Visit [www.svfoundation.org](http://www.svfoundation.org) or call 401-848-7229 for more information.

### September

**September 21-24 – The Annual Spanish Barb Horse Association Meeting** will be held in Faywood, NM. Visit [www.spanishbarb.org](http://www.spanishbarb.org) for more information.

**September 28-30 – The American Red Poll Association 73rd National Meeting and Sale** will be held at Murray State University, Hutson School of Agriculture in Murray, KY. For more information, call Kaye Gilbert at 765-425-4515 or visit [www.americanredpolls.com](http://www.americanredpolls.com).

**September 30-October 1 – The Vermont Sheep & Wool Festival** will be held in Turnbridge, VT, celebrating small farms and natural fiber. Over 70 vendors offer fleece and yarn, fiber animals, handspinning and fiber crafting equipment and supplies, handcrafted wool items and local meat and cheese. The

Festival includes contests, fiber arts classes and demonstrations, shepherd workshops, herding and shearing demos, fleece sale and more. Visit <http://vtsheepandwoolfest.com/> or email [vtsheepandwoolfest@gmail.com](mailto:vtsheepandwoolfest@gmail.com) for more information.

### October

**October 14-15 – The 2017 Cleveland Bay Horse Society of North America Annual General Meeting** will be held at Colonial Williamsburg, VA. Further details will be posted as available. Contact [info@clevelandbay.org](mailto:info@clevelandbay.org) with any questions.

**Late October – The Great Goat and Sheep Gathering** will be held. Please visit [www.nargasa.org](http://www.nargasa.org), email [nargasa.org@gmail.com](mailto:nargasa.org@gmail.com), or call Yvonne at 406-403-4070 for updates and to register for the Gathering.

### November

★★ **November 9-11 – The Livestock Conservancy's National Conference** will be held in Williamsburg, VA. More information coming soon!

### 2017 Mother Earth News Fairs

★ **Burlington, VT:** June 10-11  
★ **Albany, OR:** Aug. 5-6

★ **Seven Springs, PA:** Sept. 15-17

★ **Topeka, KS:** Oct. 21-22

These family-oriented sustainable lifestyle events feature dozens of practical, hands-on demonstrations, including heritage breed livestock exhibitions. Visit [www.mother-earthnewsfair.com](http://www.mother-earthnewsfair.com) for more information.

