



# THE LIVESTOCK CONSERVANCY™

# NEWS

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*Conserving rare breeds since 1977*



## Microgrants Awarded

The Livestock Conservancy's microgrants program puts dollars into the hands of our most important conservation partners – the farmers who do the hard work, day after day, to steward genetic treasures for the security of tomorrow's food and fiber system.

Launched in 2019, with a generous grant from The Manton Foundation, the program awarded \$14,669 in its first year. The program was piloted among farmers in the Northeast through the "Next Generation Farming: Northeastern Heritage Livestock" grant, and four more donors stepped forward to support expanding the program. Stephen and Marie Minnich of Danville, Pennsylvania, and Pamela Hand and Will Hueston of Free Union, Virginia, enabled us to offer grants to farmers throughout the United States.

This year, The Livestock Conservancy awarded \$19,342.65 to eleven farmers, ranchers, and shepherds raising endan-

gered breeds of livestock. This brings the total to \$34,011 awarded in two years. More than 40 judges representing animal agriculture expertise throughout America reviewed the 168 applications. A national youth division was also added to encourage the next generation of livestock stewards.

"Small financial awards can make a big difference for heritage breeders," explains Livestock Conservancy Executive Director Alison Martin. "These recipients were selected by our judges as strategic investments in individual livestock conservation efforts across the United States."

Five Northeast grants were awarded in the second year of support from The Manton Foundation. Stephanie Hayes received \$2,000 for her Baca Chica Colonial Spanish Horse Preservation Project. The Johnson, Vermont resident will collect, test, and store semen for multiple breedings from a rare gene pool of Baca Chica horses including the only breeding colt from the foundation stallion of the Baca herd.

Sister Telchilde Hinckley requested \$800 to sustain the Dutch Belted dairy breed in New England. Her grant will be used to purchase semen in support of

genetic diversity for their small-scale, pasture-based hand milking operation at the Abbey of Regina Laudis in Bethlehem, Connecticut.

Andrew, Kathy, and Lily Van Ord were awarded \$2,000 to support genetic diversity in American Milking Devons through the purchase of a semen tank, liquid nitrogen, and straws from three different bulls. The Van Ords will develop a linebreeding program to increase stock availability for the rare breed at their Russell, Pennsylvania farm.

James McClay's grant for his Traditional Morgan Horse Breeding Program was awarded \$2,000 to fund fencing improvements for mare and foal run-outs, as well as a stallion paddock. The infrastructure will improve both access and safety for reproductive services at his New Haven, Vermont farm.

The Kennedy sisters from Mount Vision, New York, applied for funds to improve sheep flock management with new permanent perimeter fencing and received the Northeast youth award of \$1,969.90. With the time saved from moving their

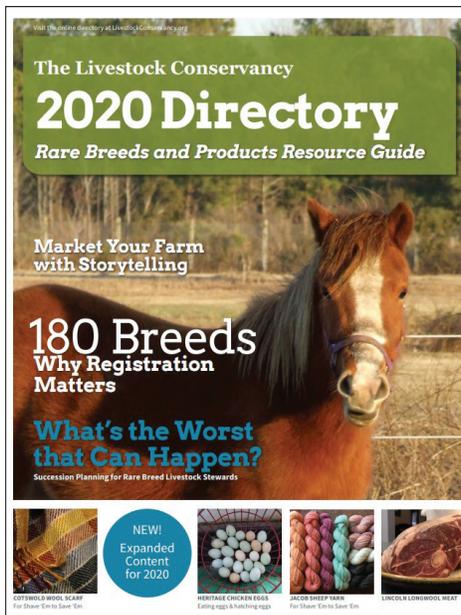
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# Coming to You: Our 2020 Directory

The 2020 Livestock Conservancy Directory: Rare Breeds and Products and Resource Guide has now been printed and been out. In addition to the Conservation Priority List and lists of breed associations, international organizations, and rare breed stock and products for sale, we've also included articles about why registration matters, how to market your farm with storytelling, and succession planning for rare breed livestock stewards.

If you haven't received yours in the mail yet, please let us know. You can contact us by phone at 919-542-5704 or by email at bsweeney@livestockconservancy.com.

The directory is a result of the partnership between The Livestock Conservancy and its breeders and product providers. Help us improve the quality of the directory by taking a few minutes to check your listing and to update your information. To make changes, log into your account on our website at [www.livestockconservancy.org](http://www.livestockconservancy.org) or mail the form in the back of the directory to the Conservancy at PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312.



## Coming Soon...

The 2020 Conservation Priority List will be released cooperatively with several other rare breed conservancies around the world and published in the next newsletter issue.

## Welcome to Our Newest Life Members!

The Livestock Conservancy would like to give a special thanks to the following individuals who recently chose to support us and our conservation programs by becoming life members. For more information on becoming a life member, please contact Karena Elliott at 806-570-0874 or [kelliott@LivestockConservancy.org](mailto:kelliott@LivestockConservancy.org).

**Mark & MaLea Easterly**  
Lebanon, OR

**Jill Eaton**  
Lake Village, IN

**Karena Elliott**  
Amarillo, TX

**Robyn & Robert Metcalfe**  
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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.

The Conservancy welcomes articles, photographs, letters, and classified advertising for possible publication. Publication of articles or

advertisements is not necessarily an endorsement by the Conservancy. Articles from this newsletter may not be reprinted without permission.

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Colorado: Residents may obtain copies of registration and financial documents from the office of the Secretary of State, 303-894-2860, [www.sos.state.co.us/](http://www.sos.state.co.us/) re:Reg No. 20133007164  
Maryland: A copy of the current financial statement of The Livestock Conservancy is available by writing PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312. Documents and information submitted under the Maryland Solicitations Act are also available, for the cost of postage and copies, from the Maryland Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis MD 21401, (410) 974-5534.

North Carolina residents: Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 1-888-830-4989. The license is not an endorsement by the State.

Virginia residents: A financial statement is available from the State Office of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services upon request.

Washington: For additional information regarding the organization's activities or financial information, The Livestock Conservancy is registered with the Washington State Charities

Program as required by law and information may be obtained by calling 800-332-4483 or 360-725-0378.

Florida residents: (Registration # CH37293) A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

#### Livestock Conservancy Staff

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Deborah Niemann, Program Research Associate  
Angelique Thompson, Operations Director  
Brittany Sweeney, Marketing and Communications Manager

#### Advisors

D. Phillip Sponenberg, DVM, PhD, Technical Advisor

# FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

May this note find you and your loved ones healthy and well.

In these extraordinary weeks our families, communities, farms and jobs have been impacted in ways that none of us could have imagined. Yet, I'm heartened to see the farm community pull together in response. Despite social distancing, you

are reaching out, connecting, and supporting each other more than ever. And this, I am convinced, is how we will emerge strong on the other side.

That's why The Livestock Conservancy's dedication to rare livestock and poultry and for the farmers who raise them is unchanged. *We want to ensure that farm crises which arise during this time do not become breed crises.* Sharing topical information, securing genetic resources, advising breed associations, increasing cryopreservation, moving education online, and remaining available to you are ways we plan to meet your unique needs at this time. The new Heritage Breed Marketplace is now open (<https://bit.ly/Heritage-BreedMarketplace>). If you are a consumer, use the Marketplace and the online directory to find food and fiber products from farmers.

A master list of trusted resources to help farmers and consumers navigate this crisis is printed below and posted on our web site (<https://bit.ly/TLCCOVID19Resources>). Please check for updates often.

As we turn the ship we call The Livestock Conservancy, most of the work in progress is still full steam ahead. Shave 'Em to Save 'Em, microgrants, newsletters, and eNews are all operating on normal schedules. The Milking Devon and

swine reproduction projects are nearing completion, American Cream Draft horse research continues, and a study on Dexter cattle genetics will launch soon. The 2020 Conservation Priority List changes will be announced during International Heritage Breeds Week, May 17 -23, and I'm eager to join your virtual events that week.

We're also hard at work on financial plans for 2020-2021. Trying to predict expenses in a brave new world is challenging, especially with the program pivots needed. *You can support conservation during the pandemic by renewing your annual membership, engaging with us on social media, and making a special gift to The Livestock Conservancy.* Your loyalty and your generosity help farms, breed associations, and breeds that may fall into crisis.

Your concerns matter and we are still here to help. In the weeks ahead, please let us know how the pandemic is impacting you, and what emerging needs the Conservancy might be able to fill. Even as we work from home we are still answering the phones and emails and working to save rare breeds and support the farmers who steward these remarkable genetic resources.

Be kind, be generous, be well, and wash your hands.

— Alison Martin

## COVID-19 Resources

We recognize the considerable weight placed upon our farmers and other essential personnel during this uncertain time. You are our most important partners for rare breed conservation and we want to support the work you are doing to help our country in this time of need. We remain dedicated to protecting endangered livestock and poultry breeds from extinction, even during this pandemic. Below are some helpful links for farmers and consumers as we navigate our changing future. (You can find them as live links at <https://bit.ly/TLCCOVID19Resources>).

### Buying and Selling Local Meat and Products

- Heritage Breed Marketplace: <https://heritagebreedmarketplace.com/>
- Heritage Breeders and Products Directory: <https://livestockconservancy.org/index.php/heritage/internal/breeders-directory>

- USDA list of farmers markets across the US: [www.ams.usda.gov/local-food-directories/farmersmarkets](http://www.ams.usda.gov/local-food-directories/farmersmarkets)
- Farmers Market Coalition: <https://farmersmarketcoalition.org/farmers-markets-covid19/>
- Direct Sales Software Platforms list from the Young Farmers Coalition: <https://livestockconservancy.org/images/uploads/docs/Farm-direct-sales-software.pdf>
- Meredith Lee's resource list for consumers and farmers: [www.mereleigh-food.com/accessing-local-meat-during-covid19-and-beyond](http://www.mereleigh-food.com/accessing-local-meat-during-covid19-and-beyond)
- Food Animal Concerns Trust Local Vendor Directory: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/57d30c09893fc08d22e87aaf/t/5e8f31f7408bde73997b5c26/1586442764007/Food-Vendor-Directory.pdf>
- Niche Meat Processing: <https://www.nichemeatprocessing.org/>

- Fiber Artists Market: <https://fiberartist-market.com/>

### Webinars and Online Learning Opportunities

- Food Animal Concerns Trust Webinars: <https://foodanimalconcernstrust.org/webinars>
- Cornell Small Farms Classes: <https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/online-courses/>
- 2020 Piedmont Regional Goat & Sheep Conference Webinar Series: First Aid & Lambing/Kidding on YouTube <https://youtu.be/40VUTaQTlto>

### Emergency Resources, Grants and Relief Funds

- American Farmland Trust Farmer Relief Fund: <https://farmland.org/farmer-relief-fund/>
- Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT) has a new mini-grant program for livestock and poultry producers: <https://foodanimalconcernstrust.org/mini-grants>

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# Microgrants Awarded

*Continued from page 1*

flocks among temporary pastures, the girls plan to develop a heritage sheep-focused 4-H club. Monica and Pauline will also purchase rare breed promotional signs for their Jacob and Oxford sheep with their award.

“Much of the critical work of conserving heritage livestock breeds is accomplished by dedicated breeders often caring for relatively small numbers of their chosen breed(s),” comments Marie Minnich. “Microgrants provide much needed funds to support the efforts of these breeders, often at critical times. We feel fortunate to have the capacity and the opportunity to offer direct support to these breeders and their conservation efforts.” Minnich and her husband, Stephen, support the six Livestock Conservancy grants that are available throughout America.

In the national division, the youth recipient was Liam Beheler of Attica, Indiana, who received \$1,459.62. His request for a chicken tractor and coop will help him breed his Dominique and Nankin poultry to better match breed standards while also improving predator control at his family’s Swallows’ Roost Farm.

Other national winners were Joe and Shelly Trumpey of Sandy Acres Farm in southeastern Michigan. The Trumpeys will use their \$2,000 grant to add a new boar bloodline to their Mulefoot swine herd, and improve pastures and grain storage.

Steve Edwards of Smithfield, Virginia, received \$1,072 for Gwaltney Frontier Farm, a nonprofit which administers Mill Swamp Indian Horses in Virginia. Edwards’ microgrant for fencing will improve rotational grazing among his rare breeds which include Colonial Spanish horses, San Clemente goats, Hog Island sheep, American Mammoth Jackstock donkeys, Bourbon Red turkeys, and Ossabaw Island pigs.

The Last Frontier Poultry Association of Eagle River, Alaska, will use their \$2,000 award to establish exhibition opportunities for heritage poultry in Alaska. They can now double their inventory of show cages, secure an American Poultry Association (APA) licensed show judge (none reside in Alaska), provide awards, and distribute educational materials that support conservation.

Lynn Moody received funding for infrastructure that will support the conservation and promotion of Santa Cruz Island sheep. Her \$1,977.13 microgrant will fund barn updates at her Blue Oak Canyon Ranch to provide shelter, shade, and a site for shearing. The updated barn will also house

This year, 168 microgrant applications were received and many deserving projects were unable to be funded due to limited financial resources for this program. If you would like more information about funding a microgrant with a gift of \$2,500 or more, please contact Karena Elliott, Development Director for The Livestock Conservancy at [kelliott@livestockconservancy.org](mailto:kelliott@livestockconservancy.org).

workshops such as fleece skirting events. Pasture improvement and expansion will ease grazing pressure on her San Miguel, California flock.

Travis Wright’s \$2,000 microgrant will conserve rare bloodlines of Leicester Longwool sheep at Roundabout Farm through a three-generation linebreeding program. Located in Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin, the Shave ‘Em to Save ‘Em fiber provider will secure foundation genetics at risk of being lost in the Leicester Longwool breed.

Congratulations to our 11 grant recipients. We salute your conservation efforts to protect and preserve rare and endangered livestock breeds. Your projects will help more breeds graduate from the Conservation Priority List. ❖

*Applications for 2021 microgrants will open in summer 2020. Watch the Conservancy’s website for details.*

## COVID-19 Resources

*continued from page 3*

- The National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) ATTRA program has resources for farmers, ranchers, market gardeners, extension agents, researchers, educators, farm organizations and others affected by the pandemic. [www.Attra.ncat.org/topics](http://www.Attra.ncat.org/topics)
- CARES Act Emergency Resources for Farm Businesses Paycheck Protection Loan Program: [www.uschamber.com/co/run/business-financing/coronavirus-emergency-loans](http://www.uschamber.com/co/run/business-financing/coronavirus-emergency-loans)
- Brimont Hardship Assistance Fund: [www.ccof.org/ccof-foundation/brimont-hardship-assistance-fund](http://www.ccof.org/ccof-foundation/brimont-hardship-assistance-fund)
- Carolina Farm Stewardship Association posted an article about COVID-19 Re-

lief Funds Available to Farmers Starting April 3: [www.carolinafarmstewards.org/covid-19-relief-funds-available-to-farmers-starting-apr-3/](http://www.carolinafarmstewards.org/covid-19-relief-funds-available-to-farmers-starting-apr-3/)

- RAFI-USA will be issuing emergency mini-grants to North Carolina farmers impacted by COVID-19: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdCiknAA89yeGNwCd1WBjIVThk01yVQij5wMCKCGKpdaO0esg/viewform>

### Species-Specific Resources

- National Hog Farmer: [/www.nationalhogfarmer.com/business/managing-markets-farm-business-during-covid-19](http://www.nationalhogfarmer.com/business/managing-markets-farm-business-during-covid-19)
- Center for Dairy Excellence: [www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/covid-19-farm-resources/](http://www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/covid-19-farm-resources/)
- American Horse Council: [www.horsecouncil.org/covid-19-resouces/](http://www.horsecouncil.org/covid-19-resouces/)
- Shearing Operations - Protocols in response to COVID-19: [https://c8e3i7k7.stackpathcdn.com/wp-](https://c8e3i7k7.stackpathcdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2020-COVID-19-shearing-operations-protocols-in-response-to-covid-19-from-western-australia-March-27.pdf)

[content/uploads/2020/03/2020-COVID-19-shearing-operations-protocols-in-response-to-covid-19-from-western-australia-March-27.pdf](https://c8e3i7k7.stackpathcdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2020-COVID-19-shearing-operations-protocols-in-response-to-covid-19-from-western-australia-March-27.pdf)

### National Resources

- USDA: [www.usda.gov/coronavirus](http://www.usda.gov/coronavirus)
- USDA Farmers.Gov: <https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus>
- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/>
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: <https://www.hhs.gov/>
- U.S. Small Business Administration: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USSBA/bulletins/280e196>

### COVID-19 and Animals

- CDC: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#anchor\\_1584390773118](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#anchor_1584390773118)
- AVMA: <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19>

# Thank You

By Ryan Walker

I joined the staff of the Conservancy just under nine years ago when my wife Katie, whom some of you have met, was beginning work on her PhD up the road from the Conservancy's headquarters at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill. Her goal was to become a professor and we knew that there was a good chance we would eventually move, but our staff welcomed me anyway, something for which I am immensely grateful.

I came to the organization from Texas with a good amount of agricultural experience, but the revelation that livestock and poultry breeds could be endangered did not occur to me until the moment I saw the job posting. Like many of you, when I read the mission of the organization, everything 'clicked' and I quickly discovered the importance of the work that our organization undertakes. I saw an opportunity to help raise awareness, not only to the general public, but to other people in agriculture who had, like me, missed out on hearing our message.

We have seen many changes in our communications since I joined the staff, including an ever-expanding presence on social media, a new logo, exciting opportunities with the press, and perhaps the most visible change, the shortening of our name to The Livestock Conservancy. But even with these changes and many more, we have never strayed from our mission of saving our rare breeds from extinction.

I can tell you objectively that our staff are fully committed to this work. They continually inspire me with their dedication to our cause and their ability to help our members and breeders carry out effective conservation. These people are far more than coworkers or friends – to



Ryan with a team of oxen at Conner Prairie in 2011. Photo by Jeannette Beranger.

me they're family. In addition to the staff, our Board of Directors is one that most nonprofits dream of. I am so impressed with our diverse collection of experts from around the country who are always looking out for the best interests of the organization, our members, and our breeds.

And finally, I want to commend you, our members. You are the reason that any of our work gets accomplished. Whether you're doing the hands-on work of breeding and raising rare breeds or you choose to support our efforts through your membership and donations, you are the key to maintaining diversity in animal agriculture. Without you, the work of generations of agriculturalists would be lost forever. Thank you for serving as stewards of our breeds and of our organization.

A couple of months ago, Katie achieved her goal and was blessed to be offered a position as an Assistant Profes-

sor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. While the current world looks much different because of the COVID-19 situation than we had envisioned, we are excited to be moving to Nevada this summer. I will soon be leaving the staff, but will forever remain a member and I am fully committed to helping the Conservancy any way that I can. I hope you will join me in welcoming my successor, Brittany Sweeney, as she takes the helm at communicating our mission to the world. Again, I want to thank you all for your help, collaboration, and mentorship throughout my time on staff, and I look forward to (eventually) seeing you at Livestock Conservancy events in the future.

Yours in Conservation,  
Ryan Walker

*If you would like to stay in touch, you can reach me at [rjwalker57@gmail.com](mailto:rjwalker57@gmail.com) or look me up on Facebook or LinkedIn.*

- World Organization for Animal Health: <https://www.oie.int/en/scientific-expertise/specific-information-and-recommendations/questions-and-answers-on-2019novel-coronavirus/>
- International Livestock Research Institute: <https://www.ilri.org/zoonoses>

## Other Helpful Resources

- NC State Extension resources for farmers and consumers: <https://foodsafety.ces.ncsu.edu/covid-19-resources/>

- Carolina Farm Stewards resources for consumers and farmers: <https://www.carolinafarmstewards.org/coronavirus-resources/>
  - Cornell Small Farms Program: <https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/>
  - Farmer Veteran Coalition: <https://farmvetco.org/>
- Also check your state's Department of Agriculture website.  
*Thank you for being a valued part of*

*The Livestock Conservancy community. We hope you will continue to stay safe, healthy and well. ❖*

Stay Up-to-Date on Our Work.



Follow Us on Social Media!

# Year One of SE2SE

By Deborah Niemann

One year after the official launch of Shave 'Em to Save 'Em, the program has made tremendous progress in signing up fiber artists and fiber providers. More than 1700 fiber artists have signed up. We have almost 3900 members in our Facebook group and more than 1100 members in our group on Ravelry, a social media platform specifically for fiber artists.

We've been featured on four podcasts for fiber artists and in ten traditional media outlets, such as magazines, newspapers, and television, including articles in the March/April 2020 issue of *Countryside & Small Stock Journal* and the Spring 2019 issue of *SpinOff*. Two more magazine articles are in the works – one in a farm magazine and one in a knitting magazine.

In addition to raising awareness about the availability of wool from sheep on the Conservation Priority List, another goal of the program is to educate shepherds about how to sell their wool. At the Mother Earth News Fairs in Oregon and Pennsylvania fiber artist and author Deborah Robson and shepherd and author Deborah Niemann presented day-long workshops. Each of the workshops was attended by about a dozen shepherds who brought fleeces for evaluation. After doing a one-hour talk on what makes a good fleece, Robson evaluated the fleeces so that shepherds could feel, see, and smell exactly what Robson was talking about.

In the afternoons, Niemann presented three sessions on marketing. She talked about value-added products and how you can increase the value of the wool with each step of processing. In the second hour, she discussed where you can sell wool, from farmers markets and fiber shows to online options, including your own website and third-party websites such as Etsy. In the final hour, she covered social media marketing and the pros and cons of the various platforms, as well as what to post.

All of the sessions were video recorded and used to create online courses that can be accessed for free at <https://livestock-conservancy.teachable.com/>. As of March, 585 people had signed up for the free classes with 304 signed up for "Marketing



Tara Lowery debuted a special Shave 'Em to Save 'Em 15-breed layered skirt at the New York State Sheep and Wool Festival in Rhinebeck last October. It involved 73,439 stitches (minus the sewing together), 103 triangles, 713 stitches per triangle, over 150 hours of work, and a fair bit of money invested in yarn.

The layers, from the top: Black Welsh Mountain, Desert Weyr; Shetland, Wing and a Prayer Farm; Dorset Horn, Ellen Sakornbut; Karakul, Ellen Sakornbut; Tunis, Ellen Sakornbut; Navajo Churro, Ellen Sakornbut; Cotswood, Robin Nistock Nistock Farm; CVM/Romeldale, Prado de Lana; Florida Cracker, Homespun for Ewe, Bracken Moss Farm; Jacob, Bracken Moss Farm; Gulf Coast, Home Field Advantage Farm; Lincoln, Prado de Lana; Clun Forest, Timberwolf Farm; Southdown, The Sassy Ewe, Sue Ann Carpenter; Leicester, Blackberry Fields Farm. *Photo by Ryan Walker.*

Your Fiber Products" and 347 enrolled in "From Farm to Fiber Folks."

Not only do the statistics look excellent overall, the personal impact on shepherds has been dramatic. Many have said that they've sold out of wool for the first time

ever, and some have said they will be increasing the size of their breeding flocks to help meet demand for the wool.

"I have learned a lot about fiber artists and the language that they speak," says Laura Williams. "The majority of the fiber folks have been gracious, helpful, and happy to share their knowledge with the shepherd (me). I think my sales are about the same, but I have sold wool to a larger audience. I have traded fleece with other shepherds and it has been very interesting to see the difference in wool between breeds. I added a few Leicester Longwools to the farm. They are very different from my main flock of Crackers. They have waddled their way into the fiber of the farm and I find their differences fascinating."

Kate Curren Hagel said, "I've had to buy other shepherds' yarns because my fleeces sold out before I could get them to the mill. (Poor me!) And I have joyfully increased my breeding with a confidence that I didn't previously feel. I can't thank you enough!"

In a thread in Ravelry called "Going back for seconds (or thirds)", fiber artists talk about their new favorite wools:

"I already went back for more Romeldale and put in a request for a whole GCN fleece from Dove's next clip. My favorite part of the process beyond the encouragement to try different fibers is connecting directly with shepherds to make purchases directly whenever possible," said user LiselleVelvet. "SE2SE also provided encouragement to get a whole Shetland fleece rather than a sample size (ok, not a huge arm twist there), and I will definitely go back for more of the Down breeds once I have a chance to sample them all and choose favorites based on final projects."

"My 'new' go-to fiber is Clun Forest. I really do love it. In our area I'm already hooked on Jacobs and CVM. We actually have quite a few providers of these two. I know I will also go back to Shetland again. So I've now expanded our local markets at least double," said Ravelry user kthutch.

A dozen fiber artists responded to a similar question in the Facebook group, with several saying that they have already purchased several wools a second time, or that they have already purchased their new favorite wool multiple times. So, it appears that we are already meeting the goal of creating new long-term customers. ❖

# A Good Egg: Advice for Raising Layer Ducks

By Jeannette Beranger

When people think about taking the plunge into having their own backyard egg production, almost always the first thought is to get some chickens. What most folks don't realize is that there's another option – ducks! Once common on American farms, they are an often forgotten resource for eggs. They are an especially great option for people with chicken egg allergies. Duck eggs are much larger and have an undeniably richer taste than chicken eggs, making them an exciting addition to anyone willing to explore their culinary possibilities.

During the early 20th century duck farming was a booming business, but as American tastes changed towards more refined poultry meats and eggs, chickens soon reigned supreme in the marketplace. Today, according to father and son team John and Marc Metzger of Metzger Farms, ducks are thankfully on the rise once again. A leading hatchery of waterfowl based in California, Metzger Farms has seen a rise in the duck market for the past eight to ten years with producers ranging from backyard enthusiasts to small businesses providing eggs for farmers markets and grocery stores. Prior to joining the family business, Marc spent time working abroad in Korea where he experienced many Asian culinary dishes that included intense flavors from duck eggs. This inspired him to launch the company toward expanding their business by adding a



**A blue Indian Runner duck holding his head high. Photo by Jeannette Beranger.**



**Khaki Campbell ducklings in the brooder. Photo by Jeannette Beranger.**

second facility, Olinday Farm, to produce sustainably produced cage-free duck eggs for sale to an ever-expanding number of fine restaurants and markets throughout California and beyond.

## **It doesn't take much to keep ducks happy**

Ducks are among the easiest of fowl to raise on the farm. They are typically very robust and disease resistant. Ducklings are easy to brood so long as they have a draft-free enclosure with good footing to prevent legs from splaying. As adults they need minimal housing, mostly for protecting them from four-legged or winged predators, not the elements. You can choose to have a permanent or mobile coop depending on the availability of land, keeping in mind that ducks are happiest when ranging on fresh grass and forage. The duck house can be lined with pine shavings or straw that can eventually be turned into valuable compost for the garden. Their enclosure should provide ample room for wandering and be well drained with no puddles that invite pathogens to take residence in the pen. Shade within the enclosure is particularly important for the warmer months of the year. In chilly weather ducks typically handle the cold well, but icy conditions call for extra effort to make sure they have good footing and that they can get off the ice to avoid frost-bitten toes. A simple layer of straw can do the trick. Surrounding your duck yard with

four- to six-foot-tall fencing will ensure the ducks stay where you want them to be. Portable electric poultry mesh is a versatile and popular option for many.

Ducks do not necessarily need a pond, but they are, after all, waterfowl. They do need to at least have enough water to dip their heads and be able to spread water over their feathers so they can keep themselves in top condition. For the larger, heavier bodied birds, deeper water will be needed to prevent leg problems and to ensure they can breed properly. Many duck owners use baby pools as an inexpensive option to a pond that is easy to maintain and keeps the ducks happy no matter what their size. The key is to make sure the pool is kept clean and the water changed daily.

Good nutritious feed is important to the health of the flock. Ducks need a higher protein feed than chickens, so be sure they are fed a diet appropriate for the species. Access to ample fresh water is another essential component of maintaining good condition in your birds. One great bonus of duck keeping is that they are voracious insect eaters and can make quick work of slugs, spiders, and other insects on your property.

## **Choosing a breed**

There are a good number of duck breeds to choose from but if looking for layers, some are better than others. One thing to keep in mind is that although

*continued on page 9*

# A Tribute to Phil Case: A Legacy Continues

By Lucy Leaf, with contributions from Kevin Matthews

In December, 2019, Phil Case passed away, following a heart attack at age 87. A long-time Akhal-Teke breeder and the first importer to the United States, he survived his wife, Margot, by ten years, continuing his management of Shenandoah Farm, also called the Akhal-Teke Stud, right up to the end.

“The story of the Akhal-Teke horse in North America begins with Phil and Margot Case,” according to fellow Akhal-Teke breeder Kevin Matthews. “And it’s a pretty amazing story.”

Following his early retirement from the pulp and paper industry, which had taken them both all over the world, Phil and Margot learned about the Akhal-Teke from a coffee-table book about horse breeds. They were struck by the purity of this ancient breed, their profound beauty and unique character. From an engineer’s point of view, Phil equated their unique conformation with agility and performance potential. Margot, a lifelong horseman whose lineage included bold female riders, saw a horse that might even turn the heads of her ancestors. But few people had ever heard of this Akhal-Teke, whose numbers were declining worldwide.

The Cases set themselves a goal: to introduce the Akhal-Teke to North America. At a time when Russia was still part of the Soviet Union, they navigated the extensive red tape necessary to attend the government-sponsored Prodingtorg horse sale in Moscow, the only avenue they could find in 1978 to purchase an Akhal-Teke.

Traveling to Russia to purchase horses was a bold move with many unknowns, including language barriers and how to get the horses to the U.S. From a group of 16 purebred Akhal-Tekes made available to foreigners (for needed hard U.S. currency), the Cases purchased three: a stallion and two mares, all three or four years old. After a boat trip to the Netherlands, the horses were held for over a year before meeting U.S. quarantine requirements to fly to the U.S. One of the mares died in a stall accident during that period. Two made it to U.S. soil, the stallion Senetir, and the mare Oliva, becoming the Akhal-Tekes listed as AAKT 1 and 2 in the ATAA registry. Senetir had been bred in Turkmenistan,



**Phil Case with Akhal-Teke stallion Kiergan.**

where Akhal-Tekes originated. Oliva was a Russian-bred Teke.

Having incurred costs at least three times above what they had planned, the Cases thus began their breeding program with two purebred Tekes and a few mares of other breeds. In the meantime, they had purchased a run-down riding school in the middle of Virginia horse country, to see where their dream might go. Reviving the old farm filled the next four years, as purebred and cross-bred foals began to arrive. Simultaneously, the flood gates began to open to the U.S. market, and more purebred Tekes arrived by plane, mostly from Europe and Russia.

Phil and Margot originated the Akhal-Teke Association of America, and its Akhal-Teke horse registry in 1982, and they managed and funded it for 14 years before passing it on to others. Today’s ATAA website shows the photos of those first two Tekes at the Moscow sale. There is also an article by Karen Yates describing the phenomenal success of Senetir’s progeny. “As a stallion, he left an exceptional legacy, producing an astonishing number of upper level event horses which were campaigned by mostly amateurs and a few young professionals.”

Yates also relates her experience with her own purebred, Kandar, “simply the best horse I have ever ridden.” A son of

Senetir, Kandar became known among his growing fans as the “golden wonder with wings on his feet,” excelling in competition against larger warmbloods in the classic, long format of three-day eventing that required exceptional endurance. He and others, notably the stallion Sengar, became everything the Cases hoped for. “Until I discovered this breed,” Karen states, “I was a lower level event rider with very modest aspirations, and then I met Phil and Margot Case and their amazing Tekes. As they say, the rest is history.”

Simultaneously, Margot was bringing Teke talent to the sporting world of fox-hunting, using mostly cross-bred geldings. She and her Tekes became another legend in the hunt field. Over the years there was much activity at Shenandoah Farm, including summer camps, horse shows, and training events. Interested more in promoting the breed than in making money from it, the Cases often free-leased horses as opposed to selling them, providing mounts for young riders and stallions to other regions of the country for breeding. Visitors were always welcome at Shenandoah Farm, and many people worked there over the years, including college students during their summer breaks. The Cases also helped to organize ATAA conferences, as well as hosting delegates, breeders, and visitors from Russia, Turkmenistan,

Europe, and Australia.

The number of Tekes was expanding rapidly in the U.S., with breeders getting established in both the East and West. Then a bombshell hit the Akhal-Teke world. The Cases and other breeders were told that several of the early-imported mares, purchased as purebreds with proper paperwork, had been discovered to have falsified Russian pedigrees. This meant, retroactively, that none of the progeny of those mares would be considered purebred Akhal-Tekes. Forty of the 116 Akhal-Tekes registered by the ATAA had to be re-classified as non-purebred. Overnight, 35% of the Akhal-Teke population in America became “part-breds,” due to an infusion of Thoroughbred blood from one misrepresentation discovered years later.

Many horses were sold at reduced prices. It was a devastating blow to any breeding program but life went on. The Cases were instrumental in setting up blood typing and later, DNA testing for Akhal-Tekes. Grading tours were arranged with the Russian registry. Gait studies were sponsored. For 20 years, the Cases were involved with just about everything having to do with Akhal-Tekes in North America.

My own involvement with Shenandoah Farm began later. I had served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Turkmenistan, where I learned about their national treasure, the Akhal-Teke horse. Though I had been actively involved with horses for many years prior, I had never heard of this breed. On returning to the United States, I was determined to find out if Akhal-Tekes existed in the U.S. From the ATAA web site, after speaking with several breeders in the West, I was pointed to Shenandoah Farm and the Cases. I was promptly invited to come to the farm, stay a couple weeks, and “experience these horses for yourself.”

On that first visit in 2007, I stayed for five months, and I’ve enjoyed many stays since, when housing in the ‘dorm’ was available, or a pet sitter was needed for their beautiful home overlooking the Shenandoah Valley. I found that many people had enjoyed this extraordinary offer of hospitality, and indeed a valuable introduction to the Akhal-Teke, including the opportunity to ride, hunt, train and compete; on the farm’s dime, I should add. In keeping with the nature of the Akhal-Teke, the Cases always encouraged one-to-one relationships with their horses, which was like having a horse of your own – a

purebred Akhal-Teke, no less.

In more recent years, I became interested in the extensive library the Cases had assembled, including books, documents and email exchanges with people from all over the world regarding Akhal-Tekes. The Cases saved everything, and Phil encouraged my interest and efforts to preserve this material for future educational and research purposes. I was also able to interview Phil many times about his part in bringing Tekes to the U.S. and promoting the breed.

In the last years before Phil’s death, a small group of us began collaborating with Phil and his family to plan for the future of their Akhal-Tekes legacy, including the 35 purebreds currently on the farm. Akhal-Teke breeders Pat Johnston and Kevin Matthews, of Swan Farm Akhal-Tekes, are now assisting the Case family in building a positive transition for all the horses. And with initial support from the Case family, Pat and Kevin have launched the Akhal-Teke Foundation, a public charity for Akhal-Teke education. Phil and Margot’s remarkable legacy, preserving and promoting the Akhal-Teke horse in North America, will continue! ❖

## Advice for Raising Layer Ducks

*Continued from page 7*

ducks can lay throughout their lives, the highest rate is going to be in their first laying season. After that, expect a 5-8% drop in production each year. Below are examples of a few breeds that will perform well as layers.

**Khaki Campbell** – A breed developed in Gloucestershire, England by Mrs. Adele



**Saxony duck eggs just barely fitting in a chicken egg carton. Photo by Jeannette Beranger.**

Campbell for egg production. The brown color of the ducks reminded her of military khakis so she thought it a great idea to add this to the name. It is among the most popular of the heritage breed ducks and is known as a very prolific layer.

**Indian Runner** – An Asian variety of duck easily recognized for their tall thin profile looking as if they are walking tip toed as they move around. They are some of the best foraging birds and lay numerous eggs. They come in a variety of colors and because of their tight flocking tendencies they are easily herded and moved as a group.

**Saxony** – If you are looking for a layer that can also be a good table bird, the Saxony is a great choice. This German breed is a beautiful bird with the males sporting an attractive slate blue head. They grow quickly and lay ample eggs for any family’s needs. ❖

*Are you interested in finding ducks? Visit our website to search our listing of hatcheries or explore the online Breeder’s & Products Directory and Heritage Breed Marketplace to start your flock.*



**A beautiful Saxony duck. Photo by Jeannette Beranger.**

*Jeannette Beranger is the Senior Program Manager for the Livestock Conservancy and also maintains a breeding farm dedicated to endangered breed poultry.*

# Keeping Heritage Poultry Healthy on Pasture

By Julie Gauthier

A century and more in the past, when all U.S. poultry farms were stocked with heritage breeds, green stuff was essential for poultry to thrive. Farmers recognized that poultry failed to grow well or to lay eggs if the birds weren't given chopped forage or allowed to roam actively growing pasture but didn't know the precise reason why. The discovery of vitamins early in the 20th century revealed the secret – the nutritional essentials, such as Vitamin A, that home-made grain diets lacked, but were abundant in green stuff. The discovery also allowed chemists to synthesize vitamins and add them to grain-based, commercially produced poultry feed, setting off the modernization of the U.S. poultry industry and removing the necessity for birds to access pasture. Heritage breed poultry, unlike their modern derivatives, were selected by generations of farmers to be good at extracting part of their nutritional needs from forage.

The availability of nutritionally complete, commercially prepared diets allowed poultry farmers to move birds indoors full-time in the mid-20th century, but bagged feed wasn't the only reason that poultry were taken off pasture. The other good reasons were to reduce deaths of birds by predators and infectious diseases carried by wild birds. These three challenges: nutrition, predation, and wild-bird transmitted infectious disease, remain the major challenges for any poultry farmer, myself included, who wants to see heritage breed poultry alive and thriving outside on green grass. I'll share a little of what I've learned while laboring to keep heritage birds healthy on pasture.

I enjoy talking with new farmers about their dreams of getting started with pasture-based poultry production. One of the first topics that emerges is a misconception that poultry can scratch and peck most of their groceries out of the great outdoors. Even at peak verdancy of summer, with grass growing so fast you can't keep up with mowing chores, and with clouds of bug life causing most mammals to head for shelter, poultry can only glean about 5-20% of their



**Pastured Beltville small white turkeys with mobile night roost and guardian Pilgrim goose.**

nutritional needs from pasture. (Geese are the exception, and can be considered small cows in some ways). Foraging is a healthy, active lifestyle for a bird, but not nutritionally complete (and not without its dangers, which we'll get to later).

In the "old days," poultry farmers were creative with using food waste to make up for their pastured bird's needs, and they provided a buffet of butcher scrap, culled vegetables, sour milk, and grain mill by-products. We don't have to work that hard, and can simply open a bag or a bin of nutritionally complete feed, designed for the birds' stage of life, that should cover what the birds are missing after foraging. I don't recommend home-made diets as a project for most poultry farmers, especially beginners and those with intermittent or casual interest in nutrition; diet formulation takes knowledge, consistent availability of a variety of ingredients, and extreme dedication to ration balancing in order to get good results.

I'm frequently asked about supplements, which are marketed very enticingly. In my opinion, in the best case scenario, supplements make expensive chicken poop (i.e. they are a waste of money), and in the worst case scenario, supplementation results in diseases of nutrient excess (i.e.



**Delaware chickens safe behind inner electrified net fence and outer 5-strand electrified perimeter fence.**

toxicity). The only supplement that I think should be offered free-choice to pastured poultry is a calcium supplement, and I favor crushed oyster shell.

In my experience, 90% of the effort of pastured poultry production is predator control. Predation is by far the most common cause of death of poultry on pasture in the United States,

where farms are plagued by a panoply of villains from rats to eagles to neighbors' dogs to bears. For me, a system of "integrated predator management" kept my flock alive and in business. My goal was not to kill neighborhood predators, but to teach the resident chicken-killers that my place deserved a Yelp rating of "Terrible experience – I'll never be back – zero stars." The essentials of integrated predator management are: a strong, well-maintained outer perimeter fence, an inner flock containment fence, the most powerful low-impedance electric fence charger with a robust grounding system that you can afford, a high-security roost for nighttime, scare tactics for aerial predators, and guardian animals such as donkeys, dogs, or geese. Don't make my mistake, and build these pieces over time. The "learn-as-you-go" approach has wiped out many flocks overnight. Build all of the components of your IPM system well first, and then stock your flock.

Other birds are attracted to the safe, interesting, and edible landscapes we create for our pastured poultry. Inevitably, wild birds will come to visit places where domestic poultry are fed, watered, and comfortably housed. The idyllic scene of a wild turkey hen with her little poults feeding alongside pastured layers might warm hearts of most viewers, except veterinarians like me, who know that the precious mother and young family could be carrying viruses that cause fowl pox, Newcastle disease, avian influenza, not to mention a host of other pathogens that could devastate the health and productivity of a farmed flock. Pastured poultry producers can't completely avoid the risk that wild birds will share their germs with domesticated flocks, but we can take steps to ↗

# BREED SPOTLIGHT

## Red Wattle Hogs

Status - Threatened

By Kathy Bottorff

The Red Wattle is a large, red hog with a fleshy wattle attached to each side of the neck. The wattles have no known function. They are a single gene characteristic and usually pass to crossbred offspring. The breed is unique to North America making them especially valuable genetically.

The Red Wattle comes in a variety of shades of red, from light blond red, to a red that is almost black. The color is consistent throughout the animal. Animals with black spots may be registered, as long as the spots only appear on the belly area and are small in size.

Hair can be short and straight or longer and wavy. The head and jaw are clean and lean, the nose is slim with a slight curve, and ears are upright with drooping tips. The body is short coupled and the rump or

## Poultry on Pasture

*continued from previous page*  
limit the possibility.

Not leaving feed out in the open and cleaning up feed spills are starters. Placing netting over runs or keeping birds in moveable enclosed pens are also helpful in preventing direct contact between wild and farmed birds. Farm ponds could use a swan decoy to discourage wild waterfowl from landing. (Ever been chased by a swan? I won't go near them, either.)

Despite the challenges, raising birds on pasture is rewarding. Managed well, the health and welfare of birds can be excellent. Customers appreciate efforts to raise birds this way and enjoy the unique culinary values of pastured poultry products. I encourage new farmers and those who have encountered challenges to find an experienced mentor (ask Livestock Conservancy staff for a recommendation) and use the educational resources that are available, like those provided by the American Pastured Poultry Producers Association, ATTRA Sustainable Agriculture Program, and Cooperative Extension Service. Best wishes for a happy, healthy flock! ❖



Kathy Bottorff with one of her Red Wattle sows and piglets. Photo courtesy of Kathy Bottorff.

rear end is slightly arched.

Mature animals weigh 600 to 800 pounds, but may weigh as much as 1,200 pounds. They measure up to four feet high and eight feet long when fully grown. Most breeders now prefer butcher weights around 300 to 325 pounds with hanging weights from 220 to 245 pounds.

Red Wattle hogs are known for hardiness, foraging activity, and rapid growth rate. They produce a well marbled flavorful meat that has been described as similar to beef. The sows are excellent mothers, farrow from 7 to 12 piglets, and provide good quantities of milk for their large litters.

Red Wattles adapt to a wide range of climates. Their active foraging makes them a good choice in outdoor or pasture-based swine production. They have a mild temperament, and their gentle nature recommends them to the small-scale, independent producer.

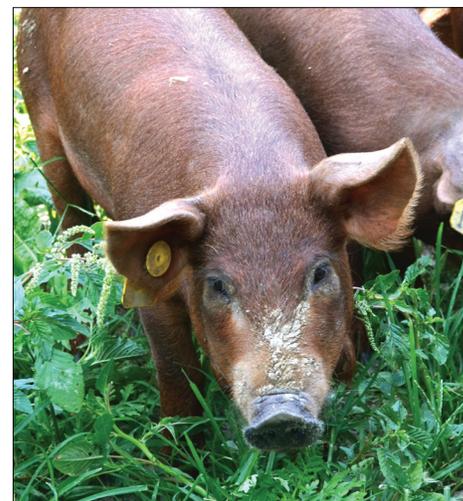
The origin and history of the Red Wattle breed is obscure, but red hogs with wattles are known to have been in North America since at least the mid 1800s. It is believed that these ancestors were introduced through the Gulf of Mexico and spread throughout the country. The modern roots of the Red Wattle hog trace to 20th century descendants of these wattled pigs in Texas.

In the mid-1980s the Livestock Conservancy facilitated a meeting of Red Wattle breeders, encouraging them to unify their efforts to benefit the breed. The breeders preferred to continue with the three-registry system that existed at that time. The Conservancy's 1990 census reported 272

purebred registered offspring. In late 1999, Jerry Russell began to search for Red Wattle hogs and found only 42 breeding animals belonging to six breeders. None of the three registries had registered stock in years.

The Red Wattle Hog Association was founded in 2001 with the support and encouragement of The Livestock Conservancy. Beginning with only eight members, the breed association continues to grow and support the breed throughout America. Currently there are approximately 100 members with more than 100 purebred hogs registered annually. ❖

*Kathy Bottorff of Horse Cave, Kentucky serves as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Red Wattle Hog Association. We appreciate her update of the breed facts and history for our website, as well as her work saving this highly endangered American breed.*



Red Wattle piglets at Berea College. Photo by Ryan Walker.

# Promoting Rabbit Conservation

The Livestock Conservancy proudly counts rabbits as one of the eleven livestock species we serve. But the accuracy of rabbit populations and breeds on our Conservation Priority List (CPL) has been challenging due to their unique registration procedure. Thanks to a growing partnership with the American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA), 16 rare breeds of rabbits will appear on the 2020 CPL, along with new methods for evaluating their numbers.

ARBA has been dedicated to the promotion, development, and improvement of domestic rabbits since 1921, with today's membership totaling more than 20,000. "ARBA may be among the most diverse registries that support the endangered farm animals we work with," says Alison Martin, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Conservancy. "In addition to meat and pelt production, rabbit breeders also enjoy sporting and companionship aspects of rabbit ownership."

To bring greater awareness of rare breeds among their membership, ARBA began sanctioning Rare Breed Specialty shows earlier this year for the first time in the organization's 99 year history. The association will use the Conservancy's CPL to determine breed eligibility for the specialty shows.

"Rare Breed Specialty shows will be a wonderful opportunity for our members to showcase their rare breeds and market these animals to individuals sharing a similar passion for breed conservation," shared Eric Stewart, Executive Director of ARBA. "Just as popular meat, fur, fiber, or fancy breeds appeal to particular demographics, rare breeds also appeal to a specific population who are seeking the chance to be a part of breed conservation."

Rabbit ownership continues to grow in popularity and they are an important presence on many small farms and homesteads throughout America today. But unlike other livestock species, rabbits are not registered by litter or parentage. Instead, rabbits must be inspected individually to ensure each animal meets or exceeds the breed standard prior to registration.

Therefore, although annual registrations are an accurate assessment of population size for endangered cattle and sheep, they haven't provided a complete picture

of breed numbers for rabbits. That's why we worked with ARBA to develop new parameters to evaluate America's rare rabbit breeds more accurately – a critically important step for conservation.

"Our new formula incorporates rabbit show numbers from the ARBA National Convention and the National Breed Clubs," explains Martin. "Combined with registration data, the results are more representative of the breed populations nationwide."

*Critically Endangered* Breeds will now include Blanc de Hotot, Silver Marten, and Silver rabbits. These breeds have fewer than 50 annual registrations in the United States each year. Fewer than 150 animals have been shown in the past five years in the U.S., and the estimated global population is below 500.

*Threatened* Breeds are the Checkered Giant, Argente Brun, Standard Chinchilla, and Crème d'Argente. With fewer than 100 annual registrations and 300 animals shown in the U.S. annually, these breeds are at risk to become critically endangered. No more than 1,000 animals are believed to be alive throughout the world.

The *Watch* Category now includes rabbit breeds with fewer than 200 annual registrations and 500 animals shown in the U.S. each year, and a global population that doesn't exceed 2,000. Breeds

that present genetic or numerical concerns or have a limited geographic distribution are also included in this category. In 2020, the American rabbit, American Chinchilla, Giant Chinchilla, Lilac, Rhinelander, and Palomino breeds will be closely monitored in this category.

Thanks to dedicated heritage breeders, three rabbit breeds have made great progress to avoid extinction and will be recognized in the *Recovering* Category. Belgian Hare, Beveren, and Silver Fox rabbits were once far more threatened. Now, their populations have outgrown the *Watch* category parameters; the Conservancy will monitor their numbers with hopes of graduating them entirely off the CPL in the future.

ARBA has also invited the Conservancy's Jeannette Beranger, Senior Program Manager, to present an educational session explaining the work of animal conservation at their 2020 national conference. The 97th ARBA Convention is planned for Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, October 17-20, 2020.

"Breed and bloodline preservation is important to both ARBA and the Conservancy. This partnership supports our mutually beneficial goals," concludes Stewart. "When we work together, The Livestock Conservancy is better able to monitor rabbit breed numbers for accurate statistics, and Rare Breed Specialty shows promote the conservation of endangered breeds to avoid extinction." ❖



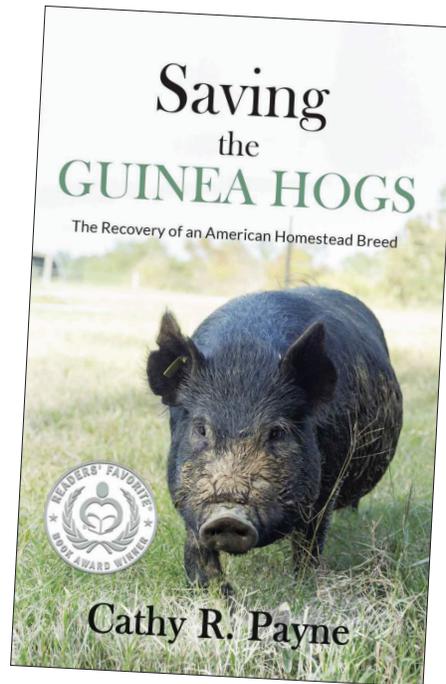
**Eric Stewart, right, Executive Director of ARBA, with a Belgian Hare raised by Courtney Collins from California. Photo courtesy of Eric Stewart.**

# New Book Added to Our Store

*Saving the Guinea Hogs*, by Cathy Payne  
 Order yours at [LivestockConservancy.org](http://LivestockConservancy.org).  
 \$24.99 + Free Shipping!

Readers who love books about animals, southern history, or narrative nonfiction will find something of interest in this multi-faceted story. The Guinea Hog is a small, black, hairy, sturdy breed kept in the southeastern United States prior to the Civil War. It has long been a part of America's cultural history. Due to a confluence of factors, it was nearly extinct by the 1990s. Breeders of Guinea Hogs or those wanting to learn more about the breed will be rewarded with rich details about genetic lines and those who began the American Guinea Hog Association (AGHA). Homesteaders, sustainable farmers, and chefs will also gain an appreciation of the breed.

The loss of any breed's unique genetic material can leave the future of a species in peril. This book is the first definitive history of the Guinea Hog breed. It is a comprehensive overview of the people who raised Guinea Hogs in the past and in the present, told in their own words and through colorful stories. These first-person stories reveal the subjects' deep fond-



ness for and attachment to the amiable Guinea Hogs.

The Guinea Hog was utilized head to tail, providing meat, lard, and grease to meet crucial family needs. Around 2004, a group of dedicated conservation breeders, encouraged by The Livestock Conservancy, stepped forward to save the Guinea Hogs.

Cathy Payne interviewed many of the breeders and reports their stories. Her dili-

gent research over several years retraces the history of the Guinea Hogs while preserving the memories of those who kept them. Cathy conducted over fifty interviews with dozens of people formerly or currently involved with the Guinea Hogs. She obtained archival records from The Livestock Conservancy.

You will learn about factors that led to the near extinction of this beloved breed and the story of several breeders who organized to save the breed by organizing the American Guinea Hog Association (AGHA.) Payne includes interviews with these breeders and also profiles the twelve hogs that formed the genetic foundation for the AGHA.

Unraveling the history and what happened to known herds of breeders who didn't join the AGHA was a massive undertaking. This book documents Payne's efforts to work within the Genetic Recovery Project of the AGHA with help from a network of other women breeders to uncover missing genetics, find lost herds, and establish a database for future breeders using DNA technology to assist oral records. Finally, the author reflects on what has been learned and focuses on strategies to preserve these hogs for the future. These homestead hogs are survivors and worth preserving for future generations! ❖

# Conservation for Kids

All the words below are hidden in this Word Search. Can you find them?

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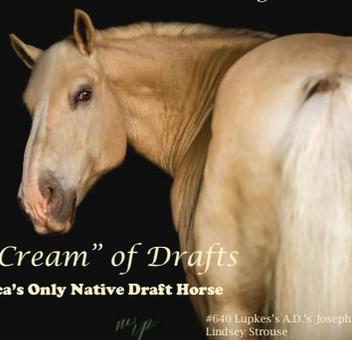
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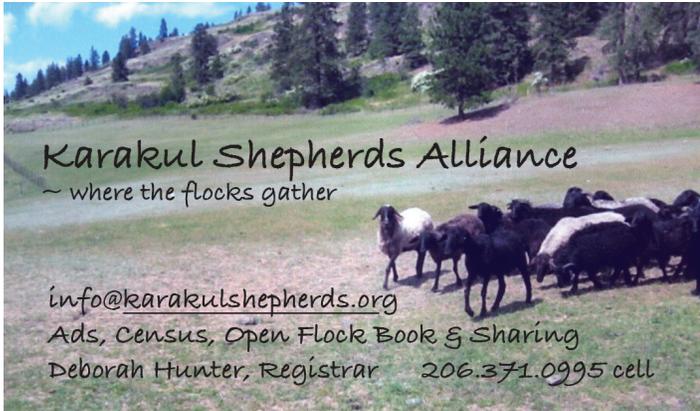


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## CALENDAR

★★ denotes Livestock Conservancy event  
★ denotes Conservancy participation  
*Browse The Livestock 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 17-23 – International Heritage Breeds Week** will be held worldwide to raise awareness of endangered heritage breeds of livestock and poultry. Heritage breed farmers and the public are encouraged to spread the word throughout their networks. The week of awareness culminates with Heritage Breeds Day, on which 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 6 – 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-

**Please be aware that many events are being modified, rescheduled, or canceled due to COVID-19. Check our events page and with event organizers for the latest updates before making plans to attend.**

art facilities and meet the SVF laboratory, veterinary, and animal care staff; visit Chip, a rare Tennessee Fainting goat born from a frozen embryo; attend live cryogenics and sheep shearing demonstrations; and shop SVF's selection of farm products and Heritage breed meat. Visit [www.svf-foundation.org/news/2020-annual-visitors-day/](http://www.svf-foundation.org/news/2020-annual-visitors-day/) for more information.

**June 15-20 – The Sheep is Life Festival** will be held in Shiprock, NM. Visit <http://navajolifeway.org> for more information.

### July

**July 10-12 – The American Cream Draft Horse Association Annual Meeting** will be held in Spokane, WA. Details will be

posted at [www.acdha.org](http://www.acdha.org).

**July 5-7 – The Black Sheep Gathering** will be held in Albany, OR. Visit [www.blacksheepgathering.org](http://www.blacksheepgathering.org) for more information.

★ **July 17-18 – The Mother Earth News Fair** will be held at Polyface Farm in Swoope, VA. This family-oriented, sustainable lifestyle event features dozens of practical, hands-on demonstrations and workshops on everything from beekeeping to using solar electricity. Visit [www.motherearthnewsfair.com](http://www.motherearthnewsfair.com) for more information.

★ **September 25-27 – The Mother Earth News Fair** will be held in Seven Springs, PA. This family-oriented, sustainable lifestyle event features dozens of practical, hands-on demonstrations and workshops on everything from beekeeping to using solar electricity. Visit [www.motherearthnewsfair.com](http://www.motherearthnewsfair.com) for more information.

