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Heritage Breed stamps are now available from the US Postal Service. The First Day of Issue Ceremony was held at George Washington's Mount Vernon where the general himself (played by Daniel Shippey) talked about the American Mammoth Jackstock breed he helped create. Photo of AMJ Hoss by Jeannette Berganer. Read more about the celebration on the back cover.

LINEBREEDING IS A POWER TOOL

By D. P. Sponenberg

Linebreeding and inbreeding (extreme linebreeding) are like power tools: they can either do a lot of good, or a lot of damage. They can also become controversial in many breed associations. Linebreeding, inbreeding, and power tools are all “value neutral” because they are only bad or good depending on how they are used. When done thoughtfully, linebreeding is an effective strategy to impart hybrid vigor to offspring.

LINEBREEDING GOALS

Linebreeding and inbreeding are the mating of related animals. This tends to rearrange the genes so that they are more similar in the offspring, rather than more mixed. The goal of linebreeding is to consistently produce good animals.

Offspring become more and more uniform with each generation. The result can be animals that are uniformly good

and strong, or uniformly weak and bad. The final outcome depends a lot on the breeder’s willingness to exercise a good deal of selection on those linebred animals by culling poor-quality animals and perpetuating the best ones.

Linebreeding and selection allow breeders to winnow out undesirable traits and concentrate the desirable traits within a line. Linebreeding is behind the most successful breeds, especially in the early days of their foundation. Shorthorn cattle stand out as a good example because early breeders consistently used a strategy of mating related cattle to one another for several generations to accomplish a predictable and productive breed population.

Linebreeding is also behind the most successful individual bloodlines within breeds. It is therefore a useful strategy, but it must be used wisely.

LINEBREEDING WISELY

Wise use involves selection, and different breeders linebreeding in different directions to suit their own goals. In other words, not everyone should be linebreeding back to the same few animals or bloodlines because that reduces genetic variation in a breed too drastically. Loss of genetic variation can even happen in breeds with large populations, like Holstein cattle or Thoroughbred horses. Breeders and breed organizations need to pay close attention to the genetic organization of their breed to avoid this outcome.

LINEBREEDING RISKS

Elimination of bloodlines, or extreme imbalances in the number of representatives of each bloodline, can set up a breed for failure through the effects of inbreeding. This can happen rapidly for endangered breeds. When lines are not kept separate, eventually there are

CONTACT US

The Livestock Conservancy
PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312
www.livestockconservancy.org
info@livestockconservancy.org

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

LIVESTOCK CONSERVANCY STAFF

Alison Martin, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Jeannette Beranger
Senior Program Manager
Michele Brane
Donor Information Manager
Charlene Couch, Ph.D.
Senior Program Manager
Rhyne Cureton
Breed Association Manager

Karena Elliott, M.Ed.
Development Director
Cindra Kerscher
Program Coordinator
Brittany Sweeney
Communications Manager
Angelique Thompson
Senior Operations Director

TECHNICAL ADVISOR

D. Phillip Sponenberg, DVM, Ph.D.

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Linebreeding is a time-tested strategy for successful breeding, and is a power tool that belongs in a breeder's toolkit no matter what breed you are raising. Photo of Spanish goats and kids by Jeannette Beranger.

no longer any lines to cross.

At the other extreme is a tendency by some breeders to avoid all levels of linebreeding or inbreeding. This sounds harmless, but carries a very real risk. When two animals are mated the resulting offspring are related to both parental lines, which were originally unrelated to one another. When those offspring are then mated to the least related animal that is available, the next generation is related to even more animals in the breed.

This strategy slowly uses up all of the unrelated genetic material, assuring that eventually every animal is related to every other animal in the breed. At that point, no unrelated animals are available and every subsequent mating is linebred even though the original goal was to avoid linebreeding.

THE KEY TO LINEBREEDING

The key to successful linebreeding within a breed is not only to pay attention to selection, but also to pay attention to the availability of unrelated animals. These unrelated animals will be linebred themselves, but back to a different bloodline or family. When multiple lines of animals remain available within a breed, breeders will continue to have a range of options to choose among for managing the genetics and to

build the performance of their own herds and flocks.

One way to maintain genetic differences is to alternate linebreeding for one generation with line crossing in the next generation. This strategy maximizes the opportunities to achieve gains from linebreeding, while at the same time minimizing any risks from inbreeding. One successful example of using this method comes from the common practice of poultry breeders to focus on linebreeding their own flocks. Breeders pursue excellence by using slightly different gene pools and selection criteria, and buying or exchanging birds from time to time to avoid inbreeding.

Linebreeding is a time-tested strategy for successful animal breeding, and is a power tool that belongs in most breeders' toolkits.

D. Phillip Sponenberg, DVM, Ph.D. has served as The Livestock Conservancy's Technical Advisor since 1978, providing counsel and mentoring to staff, breeders, breed associations, scholars, and NGO partners. He was the moving force for establishing the Conservation Priority List and the standards for rare breed inclusion on that list. Because of the quality and originality of his approach to

conservation, Dr. Sponenberg's expertise is internationally renowned. He is the author of several books on color genetics and conservation, and is a sought after speaker both domestically and abroad. He is also a Professor of Pathology and Genetics at Virginia Tech University. On his own farm, Phil is a conservation breeder of Tennessee Fainting goats and Brahma chickens.

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:

Alice Britenbaker
Elmira, NY

Nicole and Dan Salvato
Soldiers Grove, WI

Phyllis Taylor
New Orleans, LA

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

CELEBRATING QUINCENTENNIAL CATTLE

Article and Photos By Jeannette Beranger

North America's oldest cattle breeds are celebrating 500 years of history, heritage, and hardiness.

2021 is a landmark year as we celebrate five centuries of cattle culture in North America. The animals first arrived on the continent in 1521, when Gregorio de Villalobos, viceroy of New Spain, rebelled against Spanish law prohibiting cattle trading in Mexico. He acquired six Spanish cows and a bull from what is now known as the Dominican Republic and brought them to Mexico.

Remarkably, we still have breeds descended from these first arrivals and others that followed shortly thereafter. They've changed little over centuries, adapting to some of the harshest living conditions known for cattle, including the wet, hot environment of the Deep South, and the dry, hot lands of the Southwest and Mexico. Most of these breeds are highly endangered, but slowly making a comeback as producers realize the value of these rugged survivors.

Cattle culture in North America is still a major force in our agricultural systems, and it's through breed diversity that the future can be assured. It's imperative that we conserve a wide range of breeds — each of which provides characteristics and adaptations that are unique and useful — to maintain a resilient population. With each breed that disappears, so do irreplaceable genes, some of which have been on this continent for 500 years.

Jeannette Beranger, Senior Program Manager at The Livestock Conservancy, has more than 30 years of experience working as an animal professional in zoological and non-profit institutions. She is an active lecturer, writer, and photographer. At home she practices what she preaches, maintaining a heritage breed farm with a focus on critically endangered Crèvecoeur chickens.

This article first appeared in Grit Magazine. Read the article online at <https://www.grit.com/animals/livestock/quincentennial-cattle-zm0z21mazbut/>



FLORIDA CRACKER CATTLE

Florida was one of the first great cattle-producing states on the continent, and the Florida Cracker breed resulted from North America's first large-scale cattle culture. This breed handles heat well, making Florida Cracker the dominant breed in the region for centuries, until the arrival of the heat-tolerant Zebu in 1906. Later, as effective deworming medications were developed, some of the larger and "improved" European breeds became prominent in the South. Florida Cracker cattle were crossbred with European breeds until their numbers dwindled nearly to extinction. Thankfully, a handful of families with long cattle-raising histories refused to give up, and the Florida Crackers we have today are a result of their dedication. In the late 20th century, the state of Florida recognized the value of the breed as a living part of history and took steps to conserve and manage cattle within protected state herds.



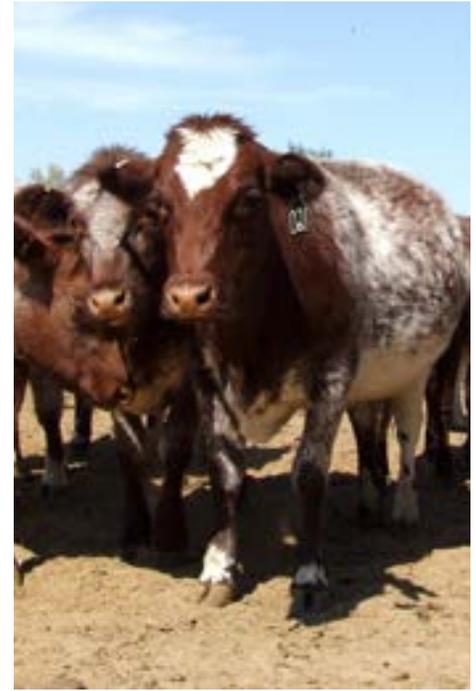
DUTCH BELTED CATTLE

The "Oreo cookie cow" of the dairy world is the beautiful Dutch Belted breed of the Netherlands. These cattle first arrived in the United States through an importation made by the U.S. Consul of Holland, D.H. Haight, in 1838. The cattle were such a visual delight that P.T. Barnum then imported others for his circus. The breed was touted as "rare and aristocratic." After their stint in the circus, Barnum moved the animals to a farm in New York.



MILKING DEVON CATTLE

European cattle breeds arrived in the Americas not long after Spanish cattle. Devon cattle came to New England with early settlers in 1623. These red cattle were practical animals from southwest England, a popular place of departure for early colonists. They provided a lot of meat, and their milk was valued for the production of Devonshire clotted cream. Devons are still known as the “Cadillac of working oxen,” because their naturally fast gait enables a skilled ox drover to plow more land in a short period of time. Prior to the United States Bicentennial celebrations of 1976, a number of living history museums in New England decided to exhibit traditional livestock breeds historically significant to early colonists. In New England, none was more crucially important than the tri-purpose traditional Devon, now known as the “Milking Devon.” Much to everyone’s surprise, the once-plentiful cattle had dwindled to only a few hard-to-find animals. The search for Milking Devon cattle raised a huge red flag for the agricultural community, showing that historically important breeds were disappearing unnoticed. In response, the American Minor Breeds Conservancy — now known as The Livestock Conservancy — was formed in 1977.



HERITAGE SHORTHORN CATTLE

Heritage Shorthorn, sometimes called “Milking Shorthorn” or “Native Shorthorn,” were originally known as “Durham,” since they were developed in Durham, England. One of the first “improved” breeds of livestock in the 1700s, they are one of the most influential cattle breeds in history. Heritage Shorthorns were among the first breeds with an established herd book, which began in 1822. It became the most popular breed of cattle in England, and animals were sent around the world to establish breeding stock and improve existing herds. The original Shorthorn was valued for its utility as a meat and milking animal, as well as producing oxen that were often recommended as the best choice for a novice drover because of their even temperament. During the mid-20th century, there was a focus on meat production in Shorthorns. As a result, the Beef Shorthorn breed was developed as other cattle breeds were incorporated into the Heritage Shorthorn population. However, a dedicated group of breed enthusiasts fought against this idea. They declined to incorporate other breeds into their production programs, insisting Heritage Shorthorns were fine in their historic form. Today, Heritage Shorthorns are critically endangered, and the breed is managed separately from Beef Shorthorns.



TEXAS LONGHORN CATTLE

The historic Texas Longhorn is of Iberian origin, and are still the useful, rough-and-tumble breed we know from history. They can begin calving at 2 years of age, and can produce a calf every year well into their 20s. According to historians, Texas Longhorn cattle drives following the Civil War accounted for one of the largest human-caused animal migrations in history. True Texas Longhorns are critically endangered and in great need of next-generation breeders. The Cattlemen’s Texas Longhorn Registry manages much of the breed’s conservation, working to ensure every animal is DNA-tested and proven to be of historic stock.

DON'T FORGET THE FARMER WHEN FARMING

By Rhyne Cureton

As an agricultural educator, I have been blessed with many opportunities to travel and educate farmers from all across the United States, farmers who come from all walks of life, and farming experiences. But my favorite place to train farmers has been in East Africa, specifically Uganda and Tanzania.

I have served as an agricultural educator for EATBETA for 4 years, training rural villagers in the practice of "piggery," which is essentially a common word for pig farming outside of the United States. I have trained and assisted more than 100 smallholder farmers through agricultural programming and on-farm group consulting, educating farmers in animal welfare, breeding, record-keeping and biosecurity for higher productivity, input cost reduction, and further profitability.

For some families in East Africa, raising a pig can help pay for their child's school fees. This may sound bizarre, but education is not free for the majority of African communities. Some parents purchase a piglet per child and make the child raise the piglet until market weight. This teaches the child the foundation of taking ownership and having a solid work ethic. If the child's pig dies, the family does not have enough money to send their child to school the following year. One pig can truly equate to a child's education and the trajectory of that child's future. Teaching families proper swine management provides practical knowledge that ensures the survivability and profitability of pigs sold for their child's future education.

Similar hog-rearing practices were once common in the United States. Farmers would raise a few hogs, and the profits of selling them would help pay the bank loan that year or purchase crop seeds for the coming growing season. Pigs were also a low-input "insurance" plan for farmers. When there was a bad crop year because of weather or pest pressure, pigs would save the family from complete losses. By the 1930s, William W. Shay, an NC swine extension specialist, helped transition North Carolina away from an exclusive focus on cash crops,



Teaching piggery in Mbarara, Uganda, Rhyne carries a "local breed" pig alongside teenage schoolboys. Photo courtesy of Rhyne Cureton.

like cotton, to efficient swine production so that farmers had an "insurance policy" against the economic threat of pests, such as the boll weevil.

No matter where you go, you can usually judge a farmer's wealth by the livestock he or she raises. Traditionally, cattle farmers had the most wealth, while farmers who solely raised pigs were usually second to the bottom, above poultry. Such wealth is not necessarily attributed to the livestock itself, but how much land a farmer has. The more land one has, the more wealth one has. Those who did not have the capital to buy and retain vast acreage often settled for lesser-valued livestock, choosing ones that fit their land ownership (and land access) and fit their access to capital.

In many regards, pigs are considered an "everyman's" livestock. They do not require vast acres of precious pastures like cattle. Even in the United States, pigs

traditionally were fed food waste and gleaned edible crop fields after harvest. Their ease of maintenance made pigs easy to raise for any family with a little bit of land.

This low maintenance philosophy is largely why pigs are so widely raised across every populated continent. East Africa today has a growing demand for pork consumption, and more and more farmers and aspiring farmers are considering raising them. However, there are many hurdles and misconceptions for raising pigs in East Africa.

Unlike the United States, nothing is free in East Africa. Many small-scale piggeries in the United States once had the opportunity to work out agreements to receive food waste from grocery stores, restaurants, food processing facilities, and other institutions and companies that produce edible byproducts. Many would give their waste

to the farmer for free or at a nominal price. On the other hand, byproducts that would be thrown out because of their undesirability in the United States are highly desired in East Africa and are accordingly priced higher. This makes sourcing inexpensive feed challenging for small-scale piggeries. Purchased grain is often expensive and can compete with human consumption because of famine in the maize and soya producing regions within each country. Even access to fresh water can be a hardship.

During my trips to East Africa, I have learned many valuable lessons, including the importance of context. With all of the limitations that these farmers face, I've learned that there is more than "one way" to raise pigs and that sometimes the "best" methods here in the U.S. are not the best or most appropriate methods for them. I'm now more concerned about how I can help them be the best with their available resources, rather than pushing production standards on them that aren't practical or affordable.

When I first trained farmers in Kiruhura, Uganda, the villagers invited me to examine their sows. As expected, the sows were tied to sticks and had a body condition score (BCS) of 1-1.5, which is "normal" for pigs in that region. I was challenged by something as simple as a sow's need for a complete diet. Their diets consisted of boiled banana/plantain peels and whatever garden scraps the women had.

One of the sows I met had three stillborn piglets with a BCS of 1. I expressed the need for sows to have a balanced diet if they wanted healthy piglets, but there was a disconnect, as if sows didn't have to receive more than what little was provided. However, I was deeply humbled when the translator overheard the villagers' conversation and told me that the villagers felt helpless because I was suggesting feeding the pigs more food than they eat in a day. They were impoverished, and I was too blinded by my standards to see that my recommendation was completely inappropriate for their context. I was insensitive to their needs because I was too focused on what the animals needed.

The reality is, the work that I do should never be solely focused on the pigs. I have to be compassionate about those who raise the livestock that I love. I have



Rhyne helps determine ingredients for pig feed based on what's best for the farmer and their herd in Kibaha, Tanzania. This hand mixed feed includes ingredients such as sunflower seed cake (black), maize brand (white), soya meal (brown), mineral mix (red) along with limestone and salt. Photo by Rhyne Cureton.

to care more about how I can serve the people than how I can serve an animal. Loving an animal before I love my neighbor is insulting and dehumanizing to those who I am called to serve.

Over the years, I have humbled my heart as I consult pig farmers on practices that factor in their lifestyle, available time, feed resources, land access, and capital. What's important is providing basic nutritional needs of a pig, along with adequate space and housing.

When pig farmers in East Africa ask me about feeding rations, I find fun ways to provide forage and enrichment (play) for their pigs. For example, if a farmer raised pigs in pens, but has a small plot of banana plants and sweet potatoes, I recommend feeding pigs the sweet potato vines and banana leaves the farmer would have tossed to the ground to decay. Most of the time, a farmer wouldn't believe pigs would want just vegetation, so I would grab some vines and banana leaves, call the pigs to me and throw the vegetation in the pen.

The pigs would look at the vegetation for three seconds before literally fighting for every morsel of forage. After the pigs

settle down, I tell the farmer to notice the sound of pigs chewing and smacking their jowls to the taste of the forage, "That's the sound of a happy pig."

The farmers are amazed because the pigs get to eat nutritious forage and have a source of entertainment. The farmer also saves a little money on their feed bill because they have a free source of fiber, which makes the pigs feel fuller, therefore eating less feed. It's a great way for me to help farmers provide a higher quality of life for the pigs that is not land or capital-intensive.

Rhyne Cureton, also known as "Pork" Rhyne, serves as The Livestock Conservancy's Breed Association Manager. He is known as an international swine educator; educating experienced, as well as new and beginning farmers, on small-scale pork production.

Rhyne has farmed in both Texas and North Carolina, raising pigs, poultry, goats, and cattle based on rotational grazing practices. He also serves on several boards and committees serving farmers in the United States and internationally.



KNOWN AS A MASTER BREEDER'S MASTER POULTRY BREEDER, MEET GERALD DONNELLY

Gerald Donnelly has a life-long passion for heritage breed waterfowl, turkeys and chickens. Photo courtesy of Jeannette Beranger.

By Cathy R. Payne

Gerald Donnelly is the proprietor of Donnyweir Poultry Farm in Ontario, Canada. Born and raised with poultry, he continues to raise heritage breeds, including thirteen goose breeds, eight chicken breeds, four turkey breeds, two duck breeds, and Heritage Shorthorn cattle. When he was born in 1937, all livestock were what we now consider rare or heritage breeds.

When he was growing up, Gerald's mother purchased 250 unsexed Barred Plymouth Rock chickens each year. She used the hens for laying and processed the cockerls as roasters. She and her mother-in-law, Grandmother Donnelly, shared a flock of Standard Bronze turkeys. Grandmother Donnelly also raised geese and some ducks. Gerald's maternal Grandmother Mason raised a big flock of 250 commercial turkeys. At that time, the commercial birds were all

hatched under turkey hens and "ordinary clucking hens," Gerald explained.

The Donnelly farm included three generations of Donnellys living together. Gerald's Grandmother Mason was only two miles away. "I could walk across the fields and get to her place," he explained. Gerald truly "grew up with the basics" of poultry raising, modeled by the elders surrounding him. He explained, "I just had this love of poultry...being a bit of a competitive sort, I added purebred birds, and then I started showing birds. I showed in Toronto, across the border in Columbus, Ohio, and some smaller shows in the States. I judged all across the United States, Canada, and England."

Gerald began showing poultry when he was 17 years old. That year he entered a Toulouse gander, an African gander, and a Canada goose gander. He won three Third place prizes at the Canadian National Exhibition. The American Poultry Association (APA) includes both

United States and Canadian members. Gerald continued competing and was eventually licensed to judge in Canada at age 30 and by the APA seven years later.

In addition to experiences with his immediate family members, observing his own flocks, participating in competitive shows, and earning his judging credentials, Gerald found mentors who were master breeders, knowledgeable in their breeds.

"Most of what I've learned has come from the practical experience of raising the birds, working with them, and living with them. Plus, I had a few good mentors. My favorite waterfowl mentor was the late Henry K. Miller," he said.

Henry, from Pennsylvania, was the International Waterfowl Breeders Association (IWBA) Breeder of the Year in 1976, and entered into the Hall of Fame in 1985. Gerald's other mentor was a Canadian man, Gordon Riddler, who lived "fairly close" to him. He said that

both of his mentors were “no-nonsense” men who had grown up with poultry and “taught you the way it was supposed to be done.”

Gerald, in turn, now mentors other poultry breeders. Jeannette Beranger, senior program manager at The Livestock Conservancy, refers to him as a “master breeder’s master breeder.” Working with poultry takes at least seven hours out of Gerald’s day. He handles and observes his stock so he knows what a good one should be and can identify top quality birds by sight. He shared some of what he’s learned over his lifetime that may help other poultry breeders raising heritage breeds:

“You’ve got to know what the breed is, and what it’s supposed to look like. Reading the Standard of Perfection certainly helps, but you have to talk with very knowledgeable breeders of that breed so you get to know what is expected. If you’re studying your standard, you know the standard weights, and can select for that.

You can’t hatch half a dozen eggs each year and expect to do something with them. You have to hatch a good quantity of birds. If you hatch fifty, you’ve got a chance that you’ll get several that are going to be very good, and maybe a couple that are really going to be outstanding. And then you have to work with them. You have to really work with your birds and keep your standards high. And, you have to cull them. It’s not going to do the breed any good if you keep birds that are not up to standard. You have to be a little hard-hearted.

Anybody who’s going to start, I tell them it’s just not a frivolous hobby. If you’re going into poultry, you have to be serious. You don’t just go in one day and say, ‘Oh, I’m going to have the world champions’ because that doesn’t happen. You may start lucky and do that in one year. But to really do that continuously, you have to put in a lot of effort and work. You can’t just put in five minutes a day with them and have really good birds. I am 83 years old, and I spend an awful lot of time with the birds. You have to be prepared to put in the time.”

Donnelly also grew up with his grandfather’s sheep and his father’s Heritage Shorthorn beef cattle. He continues to raise the Heritage Shorthorns. “I like all animals,” he explained. “I just gravitated to the



Critically-endangered Shetland geese raised by Gerald Donnelly on Donnyweir Poultry Farm in Ontario, Canada (top) by Jeannette Beranger. Frank R. Reese, Jr. (left) considers Gerald Donnelly (right) a friend, mentor, and the best waterfowl judge in North America. Donnelly likes to refer to Reese as “Mr. Poultry America.” Photo courtesy of Gerald Donnelly.

poultry. It was an easy thing to fit in with my schedule as a teacher...I don’t know whether I had a knack for it, I just seemed to do well with them. When you have success with them, you just continue.”

Professionally, Gerald was as an elementary school educator and administrator for 35 years. He tried to instill the same work ethics in his students that he now instills in his protégés or mentees. He often tells them, “Get out there and do it. If you work hard, you can achieve it. If you want it badly enough you work for it.”

Gerald discovered Rare Breeds Canada when the late Dan Price-Jones was the secretary. Since they were both interested in breed preservation, they became good friends and worked on many projects together. “I think the most important thing we worked on was the rescue of the White Beltsville turkeys from the University of Guelph.”

Gerald was keenly interested in one of the Beltsville Small White turkey’s unique genetic traits. “Beltsvilles have that genetic quality of parthenogenesis,” he explained. “You can get the occasional fertile egg from a Beltsville hen that has never been near or mated with a

Beltsville gobbler.”

He continued, “[The University of Guelph] was going to dispose of the flock, and they were just going to market. I heard about it, and we wrote letters, made phone calls, and finally got a member of parliament involved. Once he got involved and contacted the University, they called and said, ‘You come on such-and-such a day, and we’ll have half of the flock ready for you.’”

When the turkeys arrived, some of them were very old. “Old enough to vote,” Gerald assessed. At the University they had all been bred artificially and had never been on green pastures before.” The first year, Gerald hired trained university students to artificially inseminate his hens. “Come spring,” Gerald recalled, “during laying season, I was watching some of the old hens in with the young gobblers. It was a beautiful sunny spring day. They were on the gangway of the barn. I was sitting there watching them. Some of the turkey hens had already started to lay and this one young male that was the best young male that we had produced from that flock was interested in these hens that were squatting near him. He sort

of looked and eventually he did what Mother Nature intended, and he mated with several of the hens."

"So we hatched a bunch of poults via natural mating, and we haven't done any artificial breeding ever since. Then, after we raised a bunch, Dan Price-Jones and I decided if people wanted to buy them, we would sell them a trio at a very minimal fee, but we put requirements on them. If they decided they didn't want to keep the birds, they must contact me. I would buy them back or locate a new buyer for them. Or, if they wanted to keep them, they had to find somebody to put out a trio with. And they were not to charge them any more than the original price that we had charged because we want to get as many of these turkeys out and around the country. There was no point in just me having them. Dan Price-Jones did not have a big enough property and he didn't want to raise turkeys. So we did spread them throughout the country. I think we've got them coast to coast."

Gerald continues to raise more breeds of poultry than he could list. When asked about his favorite breeds, he said, "The geese – I would be hard-pressed, because I just imported in January a group of Gray Saddlebacks from Germany. But I would say Toulouse are my all-time favorites. I've had them for years, and years, and years. I've imported Toulouse from England, Scotland, and Germany. With ducks, I would say my favorite duck is, of course, my Aylesburys." Gerald first imported Aylesbury ducks from the United Kingdom in 1969. Since then he has made subsequent importations and continues to raise this critical breed at Donneyweir. The other duck breed he retains is White Runner ducks, a recovering breed.

He continued to expand on his favorite poultry. "Turkey? There's three, all tied. The Beltsville [Small White], the Bronze, and the Narragansetts... I find them all very tasty. With chicken, I'd have to say my favorite chicken to cook is a capon. [My wife] Joan cooks a fantastic capon. The taste is just incredible. I process them between three and five months." A capon is a castrated bird, not a breed.

Frank Reese, a fourth generation poultry breeder and founder of Good Shepherd Poultry, is a member of



Brahma chickens, listed as Recovering, on Donnelly's Farm. Photo by Jeannette Beranger.

The Livestock Conservancy who has purchased poultry from Gerald and formed a bond with him over their joint appreciation of poultry breeds. Gerald refers to Frank as "Mr. Poultry America." Frank shared, "Gerald Donnelly has been my friend for over 50 years. I consider him not only the best waterfowl judge in North America, but a great waterfowl historian. Gerald knew and spent time learning from many of the great master breeders of waterfowl of the past century. Henry Miller and Oscar Grow were just two of his mentors of the past. Gerald has done more than anyone I know to import new blood from Europe. Gerald made many trips to Europe at his own expense to bring back the best birds, spending many days visiting waterfowl farms and attending shows."

"In addition to domestic waterfowl, Gerald worked with many varieties of wild waterfowl. He is also known for his [Heritage] Shorthorn cattle, chickens and turkeys, but by far for his breeding and selecting of waterfowl. His farm is

completely designed and landscaped for waterfowl, with numerous ponds among the wooded hills. I love to spend time with Gerald reminiscing about the people we both knew from the past who had all passed away. He is a great friend and gentleman."

Cathy R. Payne first learned about The Livestock Conservancy in 2008. When she retired from teaching in 2010 and started a sustainable farm, she decided to focus on heritage breeds. She became a member and raised Khaki Campbell ducks, Silver Fox rabbits, American rabbits, Gulf Coast sheep, and American Guinea Hogs. She advocates for heritage breeds year-round and works part-time as a Program Research Associate for The Livestock Conservancy.

Cathy sold her farm in 2018 and is the award-winning author of "Saving the Guinea Hogs: The Recovery of an American Homestead Breed" with a foreword by D. Phillip Sponenberg, DVM, Ph.D.

KEEPING THE SHEEP

By Monica Kennedy

My sister Polly and I raise heritage breed Jacob and Oxford sheep. The past few summers were a real struggle for us because of our fencing situation. We were using electric netting and portable charger which, because of its age, was not working well, and we didn't have enough of it. When we thought of sheep, we thought of animals getting out, animals tangled in the fencing, and other very stressful situations.

Shepherding a small flock was monopolizing our time and our summers. Our sheep project was not fun anymore. It was time to make a change or sell the sheep.

Fencing is so expensive and The Livestock Conservancy's Microgrant program allowed us to apply for new fencing. This was a chance to keep our sheep, as well as afford to look into different ways to promote them. We completed the application process and discovered our success in January.

My sister and I enlisted family members to help clear brush, especially burdocks, and remove old barbed wire fencing to make the area for our new pasture more sheep-ready. After two months of hard work in the wet spring cold, we were ready to put the new wire up. Fortunately, our brothers helped roll out and staple the fence. By the time spring came around and the grass was growing, the fence was complete, and the sheep grazed happily all summer.

With spring comes lambs, and we had the most number of twins and triplets ever! We rented these lambs to a nearby blueberry farm for the summer. Our town attracts hundreds of thousands of tourists each year and they love coming to pick blueberries. Having sheep completed their farm experience. Many of the tourists do not come from country homes, so it is really novel for them to go to the blueberry farm and see animals. Much of the time, children feed and pet the sheep, allowing parents to pick more berries. This really benefits everyone.

During the winter, we designed two signs with facts about our special breeds. We hung our large signs on the fence so



Monica and Polly Kennedy used their 2019 Youth Microgrant to improve fencing for their small herd of Jacob and Oxford sheep. Photo courtesy of Monica Kennedy.

that locals and agritourists could learn more about the heritage breeds we love the most. Since Jacob and Oxford sheep are not very popular, we felt the signs are a unique opportunity to highlight their distinct heritage qualities.

Additionally, we have worked on some fun side projects. My sister and I got much better at skirting wool and cleaning it up. We had it processed into roving for us to use for wool braiding and needle felting.

We also had a few lambs that we wanted for meat and took their pelts to prepare for processing. We salted them and they are sitting in our barn. Soon we will send them off to be processed and then make things out of them or sell them. I have a pair of slippers that I made from a pelt.

To promote raw Jacob wool, we donated wool to La Basse Cour, a farm stay and workshop business that attracts people from the New York Metro area looking for a simpler life. They were so pleased that we were invited to join their next workshop.

Through the generosity of our Microgrant, we were able to keep our sheep and are ready to promote them even more next year.

We had planned to do much more promotion and to get more people involved with sheep in 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic has been a major setback in New York State. However,

looking ahead, we are all set to renew our efforts as soon as COVID is not such a threat in our area. We hope to restart the 4-H Club, and have made a few new connections with prospective students interested in raising sheep and doing wool projects. We also have our signs and projects that we can bring to fairs and other events to promote our sheep, just as soon as we are able.

One might not think it at first, but this project was especially well-timed in a way. The COVID-19 pandemic hit, and although we did not get as much promotion done as we hoped, we had this wonderful project to work on. We were able to get outside, clear the pastures, and build a fence. It gave us something to focus on, and helped us worry less about other things.

Most of all, through the generosity of donors, we were able to keep all of our sheep. Now that we can count on them staying in a good fence, we can focus on the fun part of being shepherds again. Now when we think of sheep, we think of happy sheep in their pasture, finding new wool projects to work on, and enjoying and sharing with others the special qualities of our sheep!

Monica and Polly continue to enjoy raising heritage breed sheep at Blossom Farm in New York. They love telling anyone and everyone how amazing they are.

2021 MICROGRANT APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN



APPLY BY
AUGUST 15, 2021

bit.ly/TLCMicrogrant

2020 Youth Microgrant Recipient Emma Rexrode holds one of her rare turkeys.

The 2021 Microgrants Program is now open for applications. Submit an application by August 15, 2021 online at <https://tlcmicrogrants.grantplatform.com>.

Paper applications are available for download from our website at <http://bit.ly/TLCMicrogrant>, by emailing info@livestockconservancy.org, or by calling 919-542-5704. Paper applications must be postmarked BEFORE August 15, 2021. Mail to The Livestock Conservancy at PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

MICROGRANT CATEGORIES

National Microgrants: This U.S.-based program provides funding for residents and organizations working with livestock and poultry breeds listed on the Conservation Priority List. These competitive grants may be used to support a variety of farm-related operations, including, but not limited to, livestock, poultry, processing, milk, meat and egg production and sales, agri-tourism, wool milling, promotions and marketing. Awards typically range from \$500 - \$2,000, at the discretion of The Livestock Conservancy.

Youth Microgrants: These grants provide funding for projects by individuals 8-18 years old who are actively working with breeds listed on the Conservation Priority List in the United States. These competitive grants may be used to support a variety of farm-related operations, including, but not limited to, livestock, poultry, processing, milk, meat and egg production and sales,

agri-tourism, wool milling, promotions and marketing. Awards typically range from \$500 - \$2,000, at the discretion of The Livestock Conservancy.

Emergency Response Fund:

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis as funding allows. Occasionally The Livestock Conservancy is alerted to situations where genetically important animals, held by individuals or groups, are in danger of being lost to the breed because of environmental catastrophe, global crisis, or owner death or disability. In some of these situations The Livestock Conservancy can provide assistance to assure that they are not lost to the breed.

These funds are for emergencies only and it will be up to the discretion of The Livestock Conservancy to determine if the project meets our conservation mission. Once an application is received, the genetic importance of the animal or group will be made through pedigree research or historical records, to be accomplished by The Livestock Conservancy staff or experts it designates. This will help determine whether rescue is necessary or whether the loss of the animals to the breed is not a threat to the genetic integrity of the breed. Projects must focus on breeds listed on the Conservation Priority List. Funds may be used for transportation, short term housing, and short term feed, veterinary care, and infrastructure. Awards will typically be in the range of \$500 - \$1,000 per application and at the discretion of The Livestock Conservancy.

MICROGRANT RULES

For full consideration, applicants must:

- Work with livestock, poultry, or products from animals on The Livestock Conservancy's Conservation Priority List.
- Complete the application, including a detailed plan for the use of the grant funds, a clear timeline for achieving proposed goals, a summary of how the project will impact both the breed and other producers, and a strategy for how you will evaluate success.
- Include two letters of recommendation from a professional relationship or educator. If the applicant is under 18 years old, a letter of support from a parent or guardian is also required. These can be attached within the online application as a PDF, MS Word, or JPEG file. Letters may not be provided by Livestock Conservancy staff or board members.

Special consideration will be given to farmers who are active members of their breed association, as well farmers who will represent The Livestock Conservancy at events.

Qualified applicants will be considered without regard to age, race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, gender identity, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or veteran status.

Questions? Call 919-542-5704 or email info@livestockconservancy.org.

SHAVE 'EM TO SAVE 'EM UPDATES



Mittens and fingerless gloves hand-dyed and knitted by Rachel Katherine Frederick as a Shave 'Em to Save 'Em Project. Gulf Coast Native yarn from Pioneer Fiber Mill. Photo courtesy of Fiber Artist Rachel Katherine Frederick.

NO END IN SIGHT

We're so excited to share our excellent news. The Shave 'Em to Save 'Em Initiative was originally planned as a three year program ending at the close of 2021. However, The Livestock Conservancy received such incredible, positive feedback from fiber providers and artists, and such overwhelming support from donors for this program that we decided it must continue. The Shave 'Em to Save 'Em Initiative now has no end date. Thank you to everyone learning about rare wool and raising rare sheep. Your commitment has made this program such a success!

FIBER CHALLENGES

Missed one of the Shave 'Em to Save 'Em Initiative rare wool Facebook challenges? Enroll in one at <https://livestockconservancy.teachable.com>. Current Shave 'Em to Save 'Em Fiber Challenges include the Socking Up for Winter Challenge, the Mighty Mitten Challenge, and the Wrap It Up Shawl Challenge (available at the end of July).

WOOLY WEDNESDAYS

Can't get enough Shave 'Em to Save 'Em in your life? Tune into Facebook (@LivestockConservancy) on the second Wednesday of each month at 2 pm EST for a chat with a special guest.

Cindra Kerscher, Shave 'Em to Save 'Em Coordinator, will be talking about all things related to rare wool, including sheep breeds, wool dyeing, spinning, knitting, crafting, and more. Bring your questions and dive into a new topic each month. Guests are announced in The Livestock Conservancy's monthly email newsletter the first Thursday of each month. Sign up for the newsletter online at <http://bit.ly/FreeSubscriberTLC>.

Missed the past few Wooly Wednesdays? Watch them on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/c/TheLivestockConservancy> or listen as a Podcast. Download episodes from Podbean at <https://livestockconservancy.podbean.com/> or wherever you prefer to listen to podcasts, including Spotify, iTunes, and Audible.

2021 Rare Equine Webinar Series



EQUINE DNA TESTING

August 12, 2021, 6 pm EST

Free for members, use the discount code MEMWEB2021 at checkout

Renowned equine experts Dr. Gus Cothran and Dr. Samantha Brooks will break down how to interpret the results of equine DNA tests and why testing is important for the future of your rare breed. Leave knowing how YOU can use DNA testing to save valuable equine breeds, bloodlines or individuals.

bit.ly/EquineEquineWebinarSeriesSignUp

REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES

Missed the live Zoom webinar? Watch "How to Save Genetic Materials From Valuable Equine Breeds, Bloodlines and Individuals" on Teachable:

<https://livestockconservancy.teachable.com/p/advanced-equine-reproductive-technologies-webinar>

In this course, two internationally-renowned equine experts, Dr. Katrin Hinrichs and Mr. Tullis Matson, break down the basic techniques for saving equine genetics for the future, including: the male side of things (even geldings can contribute), the female side of things, including eggs, embryos and more, planning today for the technologies of tomorrow, and how you can afford this.

The Livestock Conservancy's Equine Webinar Series was funded by the NC Horse Council.

VOTE FOR THE 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Livestock Conservancy is governed by a Board of Directors that sets policy and priorities for the organization. Directors are elected by the membership to serve three-year terms, with the option to be re-elected for a second term. Potential board members are put before The Livestock Conservancy's membership for election via online and mail-in ballots.

Once elected, board members assume their responsibilities at the fall Board Meeting, and have the opportunity to make a significant impact on the conservation of endangered breeds of livestock and poultry.

Get to know our 2022 Board of Directors candidates, and see details for how to vote below:

SILAS BERNARDONI

Silas Bernardoni, who is running for his second term, was raised on Roller Coaster Farm in rural Wisconsin. He studied Industrial and System Engineering and did his graduate research on the implementation of disruptive



technology. His off-farm job is engineer and project manager, working with energy utilities across the country to implement energy efficiency programs.

Silas returned to Wisconsin to start a family and apply his professional skills by co-operating Roller Coaster Farm alongside his parents and siblings. Roller Coaster Farm is firmly committed to a holistic approach that exclusively utilizes heritage breeds and combines pre-industrial methodologies with modern technology, research, and a data-driven approaches to management. Silas and his family have been active in The Livestock Conservancy and many national breed associations for as long as he can remember.

JUDY BRUMMER

Judy grew up on a family farm in Southern Illinois where cattle, hogs, horses, and grain crops were raised. She and her three sisters were involved in every aspect of working and managing

the farm with their parents. Judy has always had an interest in health care and an unquenchable thirst for education. She acquired two associate's degrees, a bachelor's and master's degree in nursing as her first career choice, and later became a physician. When she met and married her husband, who is also a physician and also grew up on a family farm, they worked together toward their shared dream of returning to farming and now live on a small farm in Central Illinois, where they raise Rocky Mountain Horses and Braunvieh cattle.



Judy has been involved in the Rocky Mountain Horse Association (RMHA) for more than 10 years. She has served on several committees, as a Director of Examiners, and as President for 6 years.

Judy was also so pleased to be a part of an Appalachian oral history project, recording the early history of the Rocky Mountain Horse breed before the Registry was created. She also assisted in the establishment of the Rocky Mountain Horse Foundation and became a member of their board. Judy has traveled across the United States and overseas as a representative of the RMHA and the Rocky Mountain Horse and was inducted into the Charles Kilburn Society, an honorary society recognizing individuals who have made a significant contribution to the RMHA and the Rocky Mountain Horse breed.

REBECCA BURGESS

Rebecca Burgess is the Executive Director of Fibershed, a nonprofit organization that develops equity-focused regional and land-regenerating natural fiber and dye systems, and Chair of the Board for Carbon Cycle Institute. She has more than a decade of experience writing and implementing a hands-on curriculum that focuses on the intersection of restoration ecology



and fiber systems. She has taught at Westminster College, Harvard University, and created workshops for a range of NGOs and corporations.

Rebecca is also the author of the best-selling book *Harvesting Color*, a bioregional look into the natural dye traditions of North America, and *Fibershed: Growing a Movement of Farmers, Fashion Activists, and Makers for a New Textile Economy* released in 2019.

She continues to facilitate an extensive network of farmers and artisans within our region's Northern California Fibershed to pilot the regenerative fiber systems model at the community scale.

SAM GARWIN

Sam Garwin is a Cambridge, Massachusetts-based consultant specializing in market-based solutions for regenerative food systems. In 2012, she completed a butchery apprenticeship at Fleishers, the company widely credited with reviving the American retail butcher shop and championing contemporary standards of social and environmental responsibility in meat sourcing. Sam eventually led Fleishers as the company's COO and CEO, overseeing 100 employees across five retail shops, two cafés, a USDA processing facility, and a butchery training school.

Since starting her consulting business in 2018, Sam has helped start a vertically-integrated poultry company in Northwest Arkansas, evaluated and revamped a Hudson River Valley distributor's whole animal purchasing program, led the post-COVID strategic planning process for a non-profit food business incubator in Boston, and developed regulatory and supply chain frameworks for the burgeoning domestic seaweed industry.

Prior to working in sustainable food, Sam managed e-commerce and business analytics products for Endeca Technologies, a software start-up acquired by Oracle in 2011. She holds a BA in Information Science and Biology from Cornell University.



NANCY IRLBECK

Nancy Irlbeck is a pig farmer's daughter from Iowa. As a child she learned to care for animals working with her parents and siblings on the family farm. She holds a Bachelor's and Master's in Animal Science from Iowa State and a doctorate in Animal Nutrition



from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She taught animal nutrition at Colorado State University in Animal Sciences and later served as the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for the College of Agriculture. In her free time, Nancy started ANIROONZ Sheep Company, where she raised and bred 7 rare wool sheep breeds and Bourbon Turkeys.

Late in 2016 Nancy moved west to Idaho with her husband Steve and a "few" sheep. Now, she teaches animal nutrition at Washington State University and raises Karakul, Wensleydale and Lincoln sheep.

Nancy has lived abroad in Australia and New Zealand, and has worked in numerous countries. She serves on the Coordinating Committee for the National Animal Nutrition Program, a national USDA research collaboration. In her "free time" Nancy skirts fleeces and practices with her pitchfork.

PATRICIA (PAT) K. JOHNSTON

Pat Johnston, who is running for her second term, has wide-ranging experience in the non-profit world, starting four non-profits herself. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Akhal-Teke Association of America, where she steers various preservation projects for this ancient threatened horse breed. In the last two years, Pat and her husband, Kevin Matthews, launched the Akhal-Teke Foundation, an award-winning breed education and preservation public charity.



Pat and Kevin also breed Akhal-Teke horses at their ranch in Oregon, Swan Farm. She holds a dual degree in range management and wildlife science and

has extensive professional experience in both areas, including wildlife reintroduction projects and threatened and endangered species mitigation.

Pat currently works in the Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, overseeing landscape-scale native plant community restoration, a native seed collection program, and several collaborative facilitation projects, and she was the principal author of their national Strategic Plan for Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution.

NEIL O'SULLIVAN

Neil O'Sullivan is the President of Free-Lay Technical Services LLC, a company that specializes in consulting on cageless egg production systems. Neil worked with Hy-Line International from 1991 to 2018 as the director of research and development. Hy-Line was the first company to market genomically-selected commercial layers, ensuring pedigrees were 100% correct and allowing a paradigm shift in poultry genetics for multi overlapping generations to advance the rate of genetic gain.



Neil grew up in a farming family in Ireland raising dairy, sheep, beef, and poultry. He received his Bachelor's and Master's from University College Dublin and earned a Ph.D. in Poultry Genetics from Virginia Tech. He published more than 50 peer reviewed research articles.

Neil has owned, shown and bred Great Danes since 1978, including numerous American Kennel Club (AKC) champions. In addition to Great Danes, he has received worldwide recognition for breeding and showing Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers. He has volunteered as Chair of the Great Dane Club of America Heath and Research committee for almost 20 years, served on the board of directors of the Great Dane Club of America for nine years, and currently serves as a Director of the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America.

BUD WOOD

Bud Wood is the owner and CEO of Murray McMurray Hatchery in Webster City, Iowa. Since 1917, McMurray Hatchery has remained dedicated to

preserving rare and exotic poultry breeds, and working in partnership with The Livestock Conservancy is a critical component of that mission. For more than a century, the hatchery has maintained the genetic lines of many critically-endangered poultry breeds and are continuing to add more. Today the hatchery carries nearly 75% of the breeds on the Conservation Priority List.



Bud entered the poultry industry in the 1980s as a contract programmer for the hatchery. He joined the company as a partner in 2001. He served as president of the company and Chairman of the Bird Shippers of America, a consortium of mail-order hatcheries. Bud managed the company through many industry challenges, including the 9/11 shipping moratorium and airmail crisis, an avian influenza epidemic, and the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Recently, Bud stepped down as president and passed the baton to his son-in-law, Tom Watkins. While still active within the hatchery, he is enjoying a slower pace, with time to work with civic, church, and industry organizations. He is also enjoying having more time for family, hobbies, and friends.

VOTING BALLOT

All Livestock Conservancy members may vote for the Board of Directors, with one vote cast per membership. There are eight open positions and eight candidates. You may vote for as many Board members as you wish.

There are two ways of voting: Vote online with a digital ballot at <http://bit.ly/TLCVotingBallot> or use this printed ballot and mail it to PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC, 27312. Ballots must be postmarked no later than Monday, September 20, 2021.

As a member of The Livestock Conservancy, I would like to vote for the following people to fill open seats on the Board of Directors:

- Silas Bernardoni
- Judy Brummer
- Rebecca Burgess
- Sam Garwin
- Nancy Irlbeck
- Patricia K. Johnston
- Neil O'Sullivan
- Bud Wood

PASS IT ON: DOMINIQUES OR BUST

I am Mark Fields, a.k.a., Mr. Dominique. I am quite possibly one of the most opinionated and headstrong conservationists you'll ever meet. I'm not here to campaign for office. I'm here to help you promote your rare breed.

Our plan for building and maintaining a breeder's network for the Dominique Club of America is simple: inform the membership, involve the membership, put your cause before the public and keep it there. Make your group stand out from the rest. And finally, promote, promote, promote.

DO YOUR RESEARCH

You can't build a breeder's network; you have to foster it. We have to do things that will make people want to be a part of the network. The first thing you have to do is educate yourself and your fellow breeders. To do this you have to research the history of your breed. Now you can't do this by browsing the internet. You've got to dig deep.

Find the beginning point for your breed, work forward and highlight significant events. After establishing a timeline for the breed, look around for other facts. Search libraries, check with institutions that have old agricultural books and periodicals, and don't forget the private collections. Another source of valuable information is the correspondence some older breeders have in their possession. Do not base your information on only one source. If it can't be substantiated by peers of the author, be sure to state such. Never leave yourself open to "credibility" attacks.

CONSISTENCY & RESPONSIVENESS

Few people realize how important this point is to the survival of the breeders network. Most people equate consistency and responsiveness to dedication and commitment. Consistency goes hand-in-hand with responsiveness. Most conservationists are creatures of habit. They want the same thing at the same time, year after year. Newsletters need to be on time, as do breeder's directories and awards lists.

Few talk about The Breed Standard. Your breeders group must determine the proper breed standard whether it agrees



Livestock Conservancy Executive Director Alison Martin (left) and Mark Fields (right) at an APA Poultry Show in 2016.

with the American Poultry Association or not. Once established, don't mess with it. If you continuously modify the breed description how can the membership recognize a good specimen?

RECOGNITION

Your breed must gain recognition. We aren't talking fame here. When you go to a poultry show in some obscure little town, if you should see a blue-jean tablecloth you will recognize the Dominique Club. I also use Dominiques in all my advertisements. It puts my name in the paper, but even better, people take note that Dominiques are at shows. People see us, they know what breed we represent, and when they see the breed they recognize it!

PROMOTION

For some unknown reason people are afraid to tell their story. However, I subscribe to the school of shameless promotion. If you write for a Sustainable Agriculture publication, show the pros and cons of your breed in that setting.

Sometimes people have trouble accepting the exhibition of poultry. Unless you find a way to put your breed in the spotlight, you will never succeed at building a breeder's network.

Finally, when talking promotion, remember the little incidentals, like buttons, stick pins, and flyers. While not necessary, they help. New people

who join the group are going to want some way to show their support of the organization and often it is through the purchase and display of these items.

BREED DISTRIBUTION

Identify the unique populations within your breed. After identifying these families, categorize them according to their value to the genetic base. If the rarest of the families are secure, then an individual or group of individuals should work to distribute the most commonly available birds first. While common stock is being perpetuated, quietly breed up the rarer stock. You will often find that individuals with the rarest stock are those who are least willing to participate.

Eventually, you are going to have to deal with "outsiders" wanting your breed. These are the folks who have no intention of participating in breed conservation. For those with unique and very rare breeds, the exotic pet trade is their nemesis, taking valuable breeding stock and dispersing it indiscriminately. Because you have fostered a group of breeders who have the more common stock, you can funnel inquiries to them.

Never, ever, ever jeopardize the rarer stocks. Don't put them all in one place or under one person's control. It's tempting to have a Master Steward, but what if some member of the audience throws a rotten tomato at him and he falls, hits his head and forgets all about why he is a breed steward, but he does remember he likes fried chicken.

Mark Fields, who passed away in 2020, was heavily involved in The Dominique Club of America. He not only encouraged the revival of breeding, using, and showing the Dominique, he also brought together crucial historical information on the breed in his book, The American Dominique: A Treatise for the Fancier. Mark received the 1998 Breed Conservation Award from The Livestock Conservancy for his work with Dominique chickens.

This piece is an excerpt from a presentation at an ALBC Annual Meeting at Garfield Farm Museum in 1999.

The Livestock Conservancy accepts advertising in good faith and trust that buyers and sellers will exercise their own good judgment in completing transactions. Members and advertisers support the production of this newsletter. To advertise in this quarterly publication, call 919-542-5704 or email info@livestockconservancy.org.



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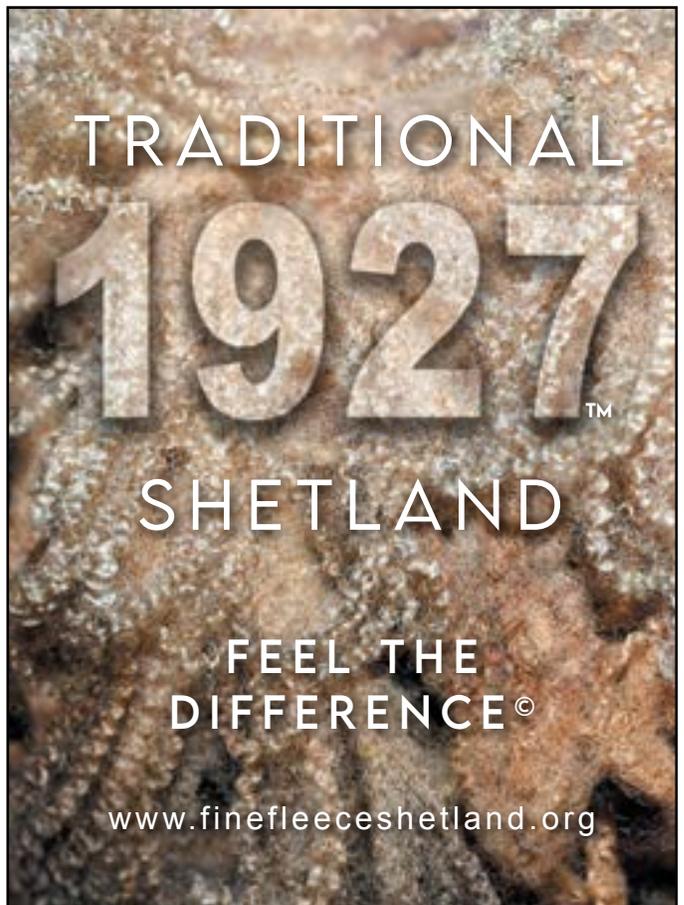


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HERITAGE BREED FOREVER STAMPS

The Livestock Conservancy celebrated the release of Heritage Breed Forever Stamps from the U.S. Postal Service during the First Day of Issue Ceremony held during International Heritage Breeds Week in May at George Washington's Mount Vernon. Festivities included representatives of each of the 10 breeds from the stamps and speeches from Executive Director Alison Martin and Senior Program Manager Jeannette Beranger.

The breeds on the stamps were picked by Technical Advisor D. Phillip Sponenberg, DVM, Ph.D. Zack Bryant designed the stamps with photographs by member Aliza Eliazarov. Order yours from your local post office or online at <https://bit.ly/USPSHeritageStamps>.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this once-in-a-lifetime event!

