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Conserving rare breeds since 1977

# THE LIVESTOCK CONSERVANCY™ NEWS

## Our New Name and Website

Greetings members! We are excited to announce that the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy (ALBC) has officially shortened our name to simply “The Livestock Conservancy.” In addition, we have launched our new website which includes many new features and a member login area that allows members to update their contact information and Breeders Directory listings. Much thought and hard work has gone into the name change and website redesign and we expect both to benefit the organization and our members. We realized that due to its length the previous name was difficult to use for many new members, in advertising, on the phone, in communicating to media, etc., and with a growing membership and reach, the need for a shorter name was apparent.

We would like to take some time to explain some things regarding these changes and hopefully answer some questions you may have about them. First and foremost, although we will be going by a new name, our mission will remain exactly the same as it has been for the past four decades – “ensuring the future of agriculture through the genetic conservation and promotion of endangered breeds of livestock and poultry.” The sole purpose of shortening the name was to make it easier to use in promoting the organization and our work. Suggestions for a shorter name have been coming into the office for years, but as the organization has been growing (and we prepare for future growth), we realized that now was the time to make the change. In recent years we started to use the acronym ALBC increasingly when referring to the organization which, addressed the



**The Livestock Conservancy's new website has a fresh new look and easier navigation.**

length issue, but did not help to explain what type of organization we are to people who had never heard of us. For this reason, we will be referring to the organization as “The Livestock Conservancy” or “the Conservancy” in most cases, instead of “TLC” or “LC.”

In evaluating web statistics, we could see that many people who were searching for us were typing in incorrect names and acronyms, and were having a hard time finding the organization. “The Livestock Conservancy” was actually what some people thought our name was before it had even changed. The shorter name will also allow us to fit the name in many areas we previously could not use it. One example

occurred last year when we received a grant from Google for free internet advertising for the organization in their search engine. Because of its length, we could not fit our name in their ads. The new name will also now fit on legal documents, merchandise, and in other places where we had to abbreviate or omit the name. The new name is also more visible in the logo.

In choosing a shorter name, many different options and word combinations were considered, but “The Livestock Conservancy” retained much of our brand recognition while best addressing the length issue. Some concerns were raised about taking “American” out of the name, but

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# Our New Name and Website

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because we will still be focusing on breeds historically used in American agriculture and our membership is based in America, we feel that “American” will be implied. There are several similar organizations such as the Rare Breeds Survival Trust (United Kingdom), Pro Specie Rara (The Netherlands), and Stichting Zeldzame Huisdierassen (Switzerland) that also follow this model. And, while our old name was long, we do realize it was still shorter than our German counterpart, “The Society for the Conservation of Old and Endangered Livestock Breeds in Germany.”

Costs of renaming were also carefully evaluated. To ensure a minimal financial impact on the organization and to avoid waste, we will be using up any brochures, envelopes, etc. with the old name on them before ordering more. We have managed our supplies carefully so already we can print new stocks of brochures and renewal envelopes. We have also received generous donations from some of our members to create a new traveling display to use at fairs and events and for signs and banners with the new name.

We realize that this is a big change, but it is one that will help the organization become more recognizable, and if more people know about the Conservancy, more people will know about the need to conserve the genetics of the breeds we work with, which helps us further our mission.

#### **New Website**

In addition to the new name, our new website, [www.livestockconservancy.org](http://www.livestockconservancy.org) is now live! In 2011, a Conservancy member generously donated funds to purchase a new database program and design a new website for the organization. Realizing that conservation work is our top priority and we did not have extra funds to spend on these, they kindly covered 100% of costs for the new computer systems. The old website was originally launched 15 years ago and had been pieced together over the years as it grew with the organization. While it contained a wealth of valuable information, it lacked organization and reliability. If you ever had problems renewing your membership, you know what we’re talking about!

#### **Help Us with Our Transition**

If you currently reference the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy on your website, in printed materials, etc. please update these with our new name, our new web address ([www.livestockconservancy.org](http://www.livestockconservancy.org)), and our revised logo. A digital file of our updated member logo can be obtained from the Members section of the website.

The new database is already allowing us to process memberships much more efficiently, letting staff time to be directed to better serving our members and conservation work. One exciting new feature is the “Breed Facts” list inside each breed’s page. This highlights characteristics of the breed such as conservation status, use, weight, temperament, and experience level needed, among other categories. Please note that due to the massive amount of information being migrated from the old to new website, we are still populating some areas.

The database is also connected to the new website in real-time, allowing members with internet access to log in and update their information as they would like. Each member has a Member Number (now printed on the back of the newsletter for current members), and an email was sent out with directions for how to log in to the member area. If you did not receive this email, we may not have an accurate email address on file for you. Please contact [rwalker@albc-usa.org](mailto:rwalker@albc-usa.org) to update your information if needed. We would like to thank you in advance for patience as we finish building out the new site and welcome any feedback you may have. ❖

## **Welcome to our Newest Life Members!**

The Livestock Conservancy would like to give a special thanks to

**Cary Fowler & Amy Goldman Fowler**  
Rhinebeck, NY

**Therry Vargas & Lindsey Koob**  
Santa Ana, CA

who recently chose to support the Conservancy and its conservation programs by becoming life members.

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

# FROM THE DIRECTOR



## Mission Accomplished

By Eric Hallman

In the last few months the staff has been busy with events across the country. We're out talking to folks about The Livestock Conservancy, educating people on best practices, and spreading the word about rare breed conservation. Everywhere we go the Conservancy is well received and we're inundated with questions. Despite this interest, most people have never heard of us. For an organization that boasts members in every state and has been around for 37 years we seem to be a well-kept secret. When I meet someone new I like to start my conversations by telling them, "I'm a member of the coolest non-profit you've never heard of." This invariably leads them to ask, "...and what is that?" This question is all I need to engage the person with stories about The Livestock Conservancy. Almost without fail, the person walks away saying, "I had no idea livestock are endangered. What you do is really important."

We do great work and we have many successes to talk about. So why don't more people know about what we're doing? I think our challenge is that, as an organization, we are reluctant to declare victory and tout our successes. We know that each breed, even the ones which are thriving, require continual monitoring or they could slip into oblivion. Knowing that each project and each breed recovery, require ongoing vigilance, we are reluctant to announce to the world, "We did it. Mission accomplished."

When you think of all that goes into breed recovery work, even the smallest project takes years. And having the many facets align is nothing short of a miracle. Take the Java chicken recovery project that is now in its second year. With the help of our breed stewards we are increasing the numbers of birds on the ground and are seeing improvements in production and hardiness. This year we hope to see progress in weight gain and rate of egg laying. As you well know success does not come overnight – our work is measured in years. Even when breeding goals are reached, the task has just begun. There is the challenge of finding and developing a market for the breed. If it's not economically viable to raise the Java, it's just an expensive hobby and this breed is in danger of slipping away. Developing a market for the Java which matches the production and processing capacity is the next big challenge. Many of you know this first-hand from the breeds you raise. It's difficult to stop and say we've arrived, especially when we are still working so hard to move forward.

So multiply the problem above by the 190 breeds on our Conservation Priority List. Yes, the task seems Herculean, but if we step back and reflect, we have many success stories that we can be very proud of. These stories are what draws people in to our mission and lets them understand the relationship between these animals and the people who raise them. They connect us with our own history and cultural experience – our shared sense of home. No matter what walk of life you're in now, at some point in your family's past you have a connection to agriculture and the breeds that are a part of our history. Our success stories make the mission real to people.

Consider the example of Habitat for Humanity, a wonderful organization whose mission is simply, "a world where everyone has a decent place to live." Sadly, this goal is very far away. Yet, they celebrate each small step, each new homeowner. We can learn from this example and celebrate our small victories. For example, our winter newsletter revisited the story of the Choctaw horses and updated the success of this program. If you missed it you can find it on our new web site. Do you remember these success stories?

• Livestock Conservancy staff member Jeannette Beranger and former staffer Don Schridder developed a master breeder program for Buckeye chickens that has set the

gold standard for expansion and selection of rare chicken breeds. This is the program we are following today with the Java chickens.

• In 1997 the Livestock Conservancy took a census of Heritage Turkeys. There were only 1,335 breeding birds in the whole United States. Between 1997 and 2002, the Conservancy began to get the word out. A specialty newsletter was started and a project with Virginia Tech was initiated to compare the immune systems of Heritage Turkeys and industrial strains. With the help of marketing and education, by 2003, the breeding population had more than doubled to 4,275. The Livestock Conservancy initiated an educational program on how to care for Heritage Turkeys and how to select quality breeding stock. Today, the population exceeds 10,000 breeder birds. And now the public can purchase heritage turkeys for their Thanksgiving dinners.

• One of the Conservancy's first rescues occurred in December 1987, when it learned that a unique population of feral sheep on Santa Cruz Island (off the coast of southern California) faced imminent eradication. Thanks largely to Phil Hedrick, Marion Stanley, and Dirk Van

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## Happy Retirement!

The Livestock Conservancy congratulates former Breed Registry Manager Anneke Jakes on her retirement this summer. Anneke worked for the



Conservancy for over 20 years and helped countless people with registrations for their animals. Many associations have successfully taken over the registration process for their breeds upon Anneke's departure; however The Livestock Conservancy still manages registrations for Santa Cruz sheep and horses, Marsh Tacky horses, Ossabaw Island hogs, and Wiltshire Horn and Hog Island sheep. For registration questions on these breeds, please contact Jeannette Beranger at [jberanger@albc-usa.org](mailto:jberanger@albc-usa.org). Anneke plans to volunteer for the Conservancy to help out when needed. We will all miss her but look forward to having her around as a volunteer!

# “Breeds” – Livestock and Poultry

By D. P. Sponenberg

Breeders of poultry and breeders of mammalian livestock often are thinking different things when they think “breed.” Exploring these differences can help to facilitate communication and can also help to advance effective breed conservation. For this article, “poultry” will mean avian breeds, and “livestock” will mean mammalian breeds, even though these are hardly ideal definitions all the way around.

Breeders of both poultry and livestock breeds do agree that the basic characteristic of breeds is their consistent appearance. That is, one breed is usually distinguished from another because it has an array of physical traits that are repeatable and unique to that breed. This uniformity comes down to the present in different ways, though, and these differences are where poultry and livestock often differ.

In the minds of most livestock breeders the uniformity of breeds results from the expected interactions of foundation (what goes into the original mix), isolation (so the mix is not further jumbled or changed along the way by outside stock), and selection (which specific animals breeders choose to keep, and which they choose to reject). In most cases a fourth dimension is piled on here, which is that the whole result is functioning in a specific environment, along with people, for the purposes of production.

This whole process of breed formation tends to give a final phenotype (basically, what can be seen or measured) almost as a secondary result. The cascade of events starts with foundation (what was available), then isolation (nothing else was

available!), and selection (breeders needed the animals to do this or that) and the result was animals shaped by the interactions of these three in the environment and serving people. This process results in a certain degree of uniformity.

The uniformity can then be taken a final step as a more deliberate process when breeders organize, notice the similarities among their animals, and then deliberately eliminate some rare variants that do not fit the majority package of traits. This final step is breed standardization, but in most cases it was the crowning final event on a process already leading to the end result of reasonable uniformity.

For many poultry breeds this same process of breed development has occurred, resulting in breeds that function biologically in exactly the same way that livestock breeds function. But for poultry, a second pathway has become nearly as important as this first, and poultry breeders do not reliably distinguish between these two pathways in either their thinking or their practices.

Poultry breeders, seeing the almost inadvertent uniformity brought by the first (livestock) process, have often targeted superficial phenotypic uniformity without necessarily including the steps of foundation, isolation, and selection. In many cases poultry breeders have envisioned a final external phenotype, and then have blended various influences to attain that phenotype. In many poultry breeds the result has been that varieties within the breeds do not share histories of foundation, isolation, and selection with one another. For example, White, Buff, and Partridge Chantecler chickens each come



**White Wyandotte**

from a different foundation, even though the final products resemble one another in all but color. Selection is the key here, with foundation and isolation playing minor roles if any at all.

This second path to breed development leads, in poultry, to a logical split in what might be called primary breeds as opposed to secondary breeds. Primary breeds are those that are breeds in the livestock sense, having a background of foundation, isolation, and selection. Secondary breeds end up with their uniformity coming from targeted selection for a specific phenotype even though the foundation and isolation steps are not shared. Each of these types of breeds has importance, but they are fundamentally different in their function as biological units.

Many poultry breeders consider the outward phenotypic uniformity to be all that there is to breeds. In that case, outcrossing to bring things in is perfectly logical, because the breed is indeed (in their minds) that final external phenotypic package. This does change the underlying



All pictures are varieties of Wyandotte chickens. Above, Golden Laced Wyandotte. Photos by Jeannette Beranger, except Partridge photo by Charles Waldren.



**Partridge Wyandotte**



**Blue Laced Red Wyandotte**



**Blue Wyandotte**

genetic package of the breed, which is of conservation importance. A good example are the multitude of Wyandotte varieties, many of which share no common foundation but which have an array of skin color, comb type, and body shape that is shared across them all. The superficial similarities are a veneer over very real underlying differences.

Unfortunately this attitude, and these practices, put at risk the many poultry breeds that are indeed primary breeds. These genetic packages must be protected. In these primary breeds, genetic phenomena like epistasis and linkage are important, and outcrossing can disrupt these. Poultry breeders need to be diligent in understanding the character of their breeds, and need to reflect on the importance of foundation and isolation in maintaining the genetic uniqueness of their breeds. Ignoring this, and resorting to outcrosses, can assure that the result is “such and such” a breed in name only, with the underlying genetic package based on foundation and isolation long gone. ❖



**Silver Laced Wyandotte**

## From the Director

*Continued from page 3*

Vuren; a viable population was brought off the island. We’re currently working to rescue the Choctaw pig in Oklahoma (see the last newsletter).

- The Marsh Tacky project was the culmination of a successful four-year project to describe, document, and conserve an endangered horse breed previously thought to be extinct. The breed is from the lowlands of South Carolina and is of Spanish descent. There is good evidence that these horses were ridden in colonial times by Frances Marion, the Swamp Fox, as he led his men into battle with the British.
- During the 1980s, hog prices plummeted and many breeders sent their herds to market. In 1999, there were only 42 Red Wattle hogs and four breeders. In 2000, the Conservancy was asked to re-initiate a registry

for the Red Wattle hog breeders. Only three hogs were registered the first year. The Conservancy helped facilitate communication between breeders. The population has continued to increase, and our most recent census identifies 355 registered hogs.

These are just a few of the successes we’ve seen. There are many more amazing stories involving The Livestock Conservancy and you. Some are just beginning. Like everyone here at the Conservancy, we are all so involved in the day-to-day work of our mission that we forget how far we’ve come and what we’ve accomplished together. As we approach our National Conference, let’s find time to step back and reflect on what we’ve done and congratulate ourselves. Let’s declare our many victories and let the rest of the world know. Let’s shorten the introductory exchange to, “I work with The Livestock Conservancy, the coolest non-profit around. But you already knew that.” ❖

**Yes, I want to help save endangered breeds from extinction!**



THE LIVESTOCK CONSERVANCY

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Do you raise livestock? If so, what breed(s)? (Use additional sheet(s) as needed)

INVITE A FRIEND TO JOIN!

# “Just a Pony”

By Emily Chetkowski, Villi Poni Farm

Think of a pony and the words cute, mischievous, and kid’s pet come to mind. They are used for rides at birthday parties, local fairs, or ridden by youngsters in horse shows, and most people don’t take ponies very seriously. “It’s just a pony” is something I hear from time to time, and as a rare breed pony owner, it gives me pause. Rarely does common opinion include a pony as being important to species survival.

This perception can’t be unique to ponies; owners of all sorts of rare breeds must hear similar comments – it’s just a pig; it’s just a chicken; it’s just a turkey – when people wonder why we are involved with rare breeds.

We know it isn’t just a pony, a pig, a chicken; it isn’t just anything. Yet we are also aware a rare breed’s significance is something that most people just haven’t learned about yet.

As stewards of these rare breeds, we often find ourselves enlightening others, not just to explain ourselves and our passion for a particular animal when someone asks “why,” but also why we chose to take on the challenges conserving a rare breed brings with it. In the grand scheme of things, our tireless efforts, collectively, are global, hopeful of making positive change in this world for earth, animal, and human alike.

My passion is the unique Newfoundland pony. I say unique because it is, as yet, an unspoiled landrace, a square peg amongst man-honed modern breeds. It is perfection, as nature intended, yet the battle to keep it that way is never-ending.

The result of interbreeding between a variety of Mountain and Moorland ponies that roamed the rugged island of Newfoundland for 400 years, the pony adapted, learned to survive on its own, and evolved into a distinct local breed, its world encapsulated by a bold ocean teaming with fish and dotted with icebergs off the eastern shore of Canada. With the help of the pony working by their side, hauling everything from fishing nets, to wood, to people, humans also learned to survive there.

Though they were beloved by many Newfoundlanders, the pony was commonplace in their insular world. Hardy, docile, capable, genetically strong and diverse, its



***Stallion Ammy’s Honour, who has the broken femur, with Daisy, a visitor to Villi Poni Farm Sanctuary.***

significance beyond the ocean’s edge was not apparent to those who lived amongst them, nor was it apparent to many outside of that world.

As machinery replaced the pony, they fell out of favor. Laws were enacted limiting breeding and availability of pasturing. Sadly, many Newfoundland ponies met their end at off-island slaughterhouses, believed by some to be sent off to good homes and believed by others to be worth more dead than alive.

Under the radar, the pony’s numbers went from thousands to roughly a mere hundred rather quickly. Were it not for certain individuals who only a few decades ago jumped in to gather up the small band of ponies on their gallop down the road to extinction, the Newfoundland pony would be lost today. Man then became the key to the survival of this pony that was once the key to man’s survival in this “New Founde Lande.”

Hearing people say “It’s just a pony,” or being asked “Why?” brought special challenges to me. How could I get the message across to make the most impact, to make the most change? At the same time I asked myself just what was I doing with

this endangered landrace anyways? That “why” question I pondered for a few years. Yes, I loved these ponies, but where was I headed with them?

It seemed as if these ponies just found me, as one by one they entered my life. I stumbled upon Tansy, a Newfoundland cross filly, barely a yearling, while looking for a companion for my old draft. I had seen a Newfoundland stallion some years before, coincidentally where I had bought my draft. I was intrigued with the breed but nothing more. This time, my connection with a Newfoundland was beyond intrigue, there was just something special there, and I felt compelled to take Tansy home. Little did I know how much she’d change my life.

I studied everything I could find on the pony, though information wasn’t readily available, and I joined the Newfoundland Pony Society in Newfoundland. Otherwise, I was not that involved beyond watching this filly grow up.

A year later, Tansy’s half-sister Mandy became available. I really liked what I knew of the Newfoundland pony so far, even just owning a cross. I realized an opportunity to own a full-blooded one was

rare, but honestly I was more interested in the fun factor. She was six years old, ruggedly built, gorgeous, and had a fair amount of training on her. Mandy was a Newfoundland pony I could ride. I jumped at the opportunity.

She was also the reason I met George, my very significant other, on the trip up north to look at her with my new horse trainer and his daughter Lexi. The connection was instant, much as it had been with the ponies, at a time when each of us had individually made the choice to be alone. Now my life was not only graced by these beautiful ponies but new love as well.

A year later, Heather, Tansy and Mandy's full-blooded dam, moved in, as did George.

We found a small place in New Hampshire, a lovely spot with good karma that reached out and grabbed us before we even stepped out of the car. The move here was a Herculean task that included taking the barn with us. There was much work to do, but the beautiful view that frames this property seemed to make it easier to bear. We named it Villi Poni Farm, which means Wild Pony in Finnish.

One day I got a call from Cindy Mehaney of Fiddlers Green Stable, a Newfoundland pony breeder in Michigan. Actually, Cindy is the only Newfoundland pony breeder in the U.S. She found us through the Newfoundland Pony Society member listing. From that day forward, my concept of what I thought was "just a

pony" completely changed. Previously, I had no idea what I owned. I had no idea how important these ponies were to the survival of the breed, and no idea how under-used Heather's bloodlines were, how important it was to breed her and to carefully choose the sire. I also had no idea how important the genetics of landraces are to the survival of entire species; the threat of extinction carries serious consequences most people have little grasp of.

Thanks to that initial contact from Cindy, I learned how crucial becoming more involved was, I learned the true scope of the problem. I learned why this was not "just a pony."

A year later George and I agreed to take in Ammy's Honour, a stunning Newfoundland stallion who had tragically broken his femur a few months before. At first glance I thought it was a mission of mercy and we'd need to put him down, but George convinced me to give him a chance; he had faith in Ammy's will to survive. He admired that pony so much he chose to have Ammy as his own. George was right; over time Ammy adapted and created his own gaits to get around and to survive. Though his disability is permanent, his quality of life is very good. Ammy is an inspiration, his role as our farm mascot surely deserved.

Last year our first foal was born, a filly to join her sisters and her dam, Heather, sired by one of Cindy's stallions, Macosa's Dream. Macosa also carried under-used

bloodlines and had not been bred to confirmed full Newfoundland mares before Heather. Coincidentally, Macosa is the stallion I saw years ago when I bought my draft horse.

Though our goal was simply a healthy foal, we couldn't have dreamed of anything better than what Heather and Macosa created – a filly to add to the low numbers of mares, carrying the less common bloodlines that need furthering to keep the gene pool diverse. She has size, incredible temperament, and lo and behold is a radical color changer like her sire, whose coat dramatically changes color, from black to red roan, to blue roan, and back again, through the seasons.

As things go, out of awareness and concern for the breed, another full blooded mare was offered to us. This lovely little mare is a good match for Ammy, but Misty also came to us with a bit of a surprise. Misty has the unusual gait that some of the Newfoundland ponies have, attributed perhaps to one of their ancestors, the Galloway, prized for its gait. At this point it's anyone's guess; sadly, the Galloway went extinct due to crossbreeding, and there is little documented about that gait.

Through it all, both Cindy and I became council members of the Newfoundland Pony Society, the first Americans ever. We stepped from the frying pan into the fire and are tackling the difficulties this breed faces head on.

The Society's mission statement and constitution stand for what we believe in – to preserve this distinct landrace pony as is – yet this continues to be challenged from many directions. Truth be told, there are days we wish that this really was "just a pony."

Despite all this growth, we here at Villi Poni Farm still pondered where we were going with it. We had the time, the place, the knowledge, and the ponies. So now what? We weren't interested in selling our ponies, nor showing. Our children between us are grown and gone, and we have no grandchildren. I'm a children's author and columnist. George is retired from the police force. There was no real connection between our occupations and the ponies. What were we doing and where were we going with this in the future?

Once again, something wonderful started to happen. The ponies started attracting people. From horse people to

*continued on next page*



**Winsome Dream, NPS registered filly and radical color changer, at Villi Poni Farm Sanctuary, NH.**

# “Just a Pony”

*Continued from previous page*

non-horse people, it made no difference, anyone who stepped onto our property for whatever reason, was drawn to the ponies. When we mentioned how critically endangered they were and gave a brief history, their interest drew them closer.

Standing amongst the ponies with our accidental visitors, I noticed how accepting the ponies were, treating even strangers like one of the herd. This surprised our visitors too, and put smiles on their faces. I could easily see how the people of Newfoundland and the pony worked cooperatively side by side. I could easily see we had the perfect opportunity right here to teach, to show, to explain “why,” with the ponies working right with us.

The purpose and path suddenly became very clear. Villi Poni Farm has recently become a Sanctuary where people of all ages and walks of life can visit in person, or virtually thanks to computer technology. There is much to share here; the stories, lessons and possibilities are limitless. The ponies have become my new muse and work side by side with me, helping to inspire children just as have I strived to do for so many years through my books and author visits. My newspaper column turned into a children’s series, stories about the sanctuary where I took the opportunity to share the “why” of rare breeds interwoven in the story line.

We bred Misty to Ammy and next year we will share the joy of that birth with visitors and school kids.

We are small, a work in progress, but are proud to be a part of this story, working hard to change the ending to a happy one, all because of “just a pony.” ❖

*Emily Chetkowski can be reached at [emilyandgeorge@villiponifarm.com](mailto:emilyandgeorge@villiponifarm.com) or [www.villiponifarm.org](http://www.villiponifarm.org).*

## Correction

Please excuse the Editor’s Note typo on page 9, column 1 of the article about Morgan horses in the previous issue of the newsletter. The Editor’s Note should read “The Lippitt Morgan is one strain of the Morgan horse breed. There are other Morgans included in the Conservancy’s Morgan-Traditional category on the CPL.”

# Heritage Resilience

The birds at Good Shepherd Poultry Ranch experienced the wrath of Mother Nature this summer. A storm blew across central Kansas, damaging much of the ranch and destroying one of the barns entirely. The storm came on so quickly that Frank Reese and his young turkey flock were caught in the middle of it before they could make it inside. With wind and rain blowing around them, many of the turkeys were able to safely take cover in the barn to ride out the storm but about 300 weren’t able to make it in time and took shelter in the tall weeds.

After the storm, Frank went outside to assess the damage, convinced that most, if not all of the birds would be dead. To his surprise however, all of the turkeys had huddled together and rode out the storm out without any shelter, relying on their instincts to help them survive. Frank summed the event up perfectly: “These old standard-bred turkeys are just tough and smart.” ❖



**Young heritage turkeys at Good Shepherd Poultry Ranch standing on a tree brought down by the storm. Photo by Frank Reese.**

## Help Save Rare Breeds...



**Consider The Livestock Conservancy when making your annual charitable contributions.**

by mail: PO Box 477 Pittsboro, NC 27312 USA  
online: [www.livestockconservancy.org](http://www.livestockconservancy.org)

# What Is Old Is New Again – Trends in Breeding

By Alison Martin

The Livestock Conservancy is fortunate to have an extensive library of books about livestock, and many of the older books are housed in my office. Among these are the venerable Yearbooks of the Department of Agriculture, where leading discoveries were published in the years before scientific journals took over. These books reflect their times, and so we read them to rediscover the history of some of our heritage breeds, and in so doing find historical gems like articles about cavalry horses during the Civil War. (During those interesting times, livestock inventories were reported only for the Union states.)

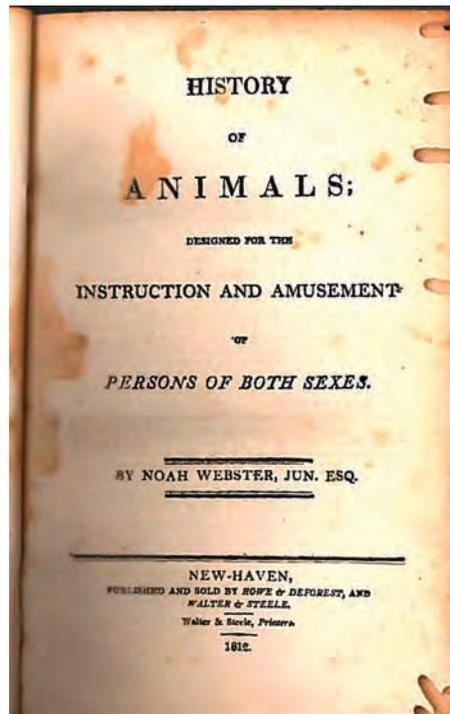
Sometimes when I read these books, I'm also amazed at the parallels between those older times and now. Reprinted below are excerpts from an article in the 1901 *Yearbook of the Department of Agriculture*. But for a few of the details and the slightly-old-fashioned style, your technical staff here at The Livestock Conservancy could have written these paragraphs ourselves! Perhaps you'll enjoy them too.

## Poultry

The poultry judge puts 95 per cent of the weight of his score-card points on the comb, wattles, feathers, legs, and other mere clothes of the body, and too often entirely overlooks the thickness of meat, hardiness, size, and prolificacy – qualities that make the breed profitable both to the producer and to the consumer.

## Dairy cattle

Breeders too often seek to obtain excellence in a single quality because results may thus be earlier reached, ignoring the plain fact that for permanently useful varieties of plants or breeds of animals all the correlated qualities going to make up the desired new sort must be considered and blended. [Author's note: keep in mind that this was a time of much breed development, including breeds that are now on our Conservation Priority List.] Single-purpose breeding is often vision-



**Title page from an 1812 copy of *History of Animals* by Noah Webster. Donated to the Conservancy by member Nils Berglund in May, 1991.**

ary, since even the special-purpose dairy cow, the trotting horse, the hardy apple, the wine grape, or the fiber flax must have numerous qualities correlated and blended together into a whole which may be practically reproduced under varied conditions of soil, climate, and care. Thus, the breed of dairy cattle to be the most profitable must have, in addition to a large capacity to consume food and the quality to sustain a large flow of rich milk, the ability to resist tuberculous and other diseases; it must be prolific in calf bearing; longevity should be a strong characteristic; the animals must have kind dispositions; and all these qualities must be blended as a strongly flowing stream in the heredity of the breed.

## Pigs

Breeders of some families of Poland China hogs for decades narrowly chose those males and females which, in response to the abundance of corn and clover in the Upper Mississippi Valley, matured early into fat, rectangular animals, thus showing that they came from the germs inheriting a tendency toward the inactive, the indolent, the fat, flabby carcasses, with an unusually small portion of muscle or lean meat. The philosophy of the show ring and of the swine page of the agricultural periodical for a third of a century wrongfully

led too exclusively to the selection of these "rectangular" animals, until in some families the results bordered on fatty degeneration. The individual hog was shapely, attractive, and suited the eye of the breeder trained in the art of producing that kind; but fecundity was reduced to one-half, in some families to one-fourth the normal – far below the profitable point for the hog raiser. The ability to resist disease was seriously impaired and the hog had far more cheap lard and far less valuable lean meat than had the best representatives of the breed thirty years ago, or than have some families of Poland Chinas now, or the average of some of the new breeds which are less refined in the direction of mere larded carcasses.

## Beef cattle

In the same manner, some families of Shorthorn cattle have been bred to the extreme standards of the fat animal prepared for the show ring. This has resulted in part because they have been in competition at shows with the special-purpose beef breeds until they have unfortunately lost nearly all their valuable milk-giving qualities, and no longer well serve the general farmer for a general-purpose breed of cattle, as do the families of so-called milking Shorthorns. In the hurry to reach a specific result, our breeders often are too narrow to breed from the best all-around animal, which is desired on more farms than either the highly specialized beef animal or the more highly specialized dairy animal. [Author's note: Okay, that last bit has changed in the last century!]

The principles described in this article apply to these same breeds today. The best breeders will select for good frame, fertility, mothering ability, robust immunity, and animals that thrive in the wild weather swings we've been experiencing. This will ensure that the heritage breeds we've fought so hard to conserve will remain strong and contribute to farms of the future. ❖

Excerpts are from: "Progress in Plant and Animal Breeding," by Willet M. Hays, pp. 217-232 in: *Yearbook of the United States Department of Agriculture*, 1901. Government Printing Office, Washington.



# Chef Sings Praises of St. Croix Sheep

By Ryan Walker

As many Livestock Conservancy members know, heritage breeds are becoming increasingly popular with chefs across the country for their unique and exquisite flavors. I recently had the opportunity to spend an afternoon with John Bobby, Executive Chef at Noble's Grille in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, to discuss his experience adding St. Croix sheep to his restaurant's menu. We met at Stauber Farm, located about 20 minutes northwest of the restaurant, along with St. Croix breeder and farm owner Charles Taft.

My first impression of John indicated he was a confident, albeit humble man who had a deep passion for cooking food the right way. He arrived at the farm to meet with Charles and me between dropping his child off at daycare and picking up some of the St. Croix meat at the processor, joking that he spends as much time commuting as he does cooking. After we introduced ourselves, John jumped right in and started answering my questions because one stereotype is true – there isn't much down time in a chef's schedule.

John moved from Houston, Texas, to North Carolina at an early age, and although he has no personal farming experience, he grew up in a rural area and was surrounded by a community growing much of their own food. After discovering his passion for cooking at the age of 20, he attended Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Orlando, Florida. His next seven years were spent in Florida, finishing school and gaining restaurant experience at The Ravenous Pig, where he developed a deep interest in working with local, seasonal products and ingredients and with heritage breeds.

Although John had experience with and enjoyed cooking heritage breeds, his partnership with Stauber Farm was not initiated by him, but developed from a comment made by Charles while he was having dinner at Noble's Grille one night. Charles knew that the restaurant embraced local and sustainable foods, but he could not find any heritage breeds on the menu.



**Chef John Bobby poses with sheep at Stauber Farm in Pfafftown, NC. Photo by Ryan Walker.**

After he mentioned the prospect of adding heritage breeds to the menu to the wait staff, Charles and John were soon discussing the logistics of supplying the restaurant with St. Croix meat, and the rest is history. John immediately saw Charles' passion for his sheep and noted his devotion to taking good care of them. "Knowing that the animals were well cared for is important to my customers," said John.

St. Croix are part of the Caribbean Hair Sheep family of breeds, meaning their coat is primarily made up of hair, rather than wool. This adaptation, shaped by the heat and humidity of their environment on St. Croix Island for over 400 years, makes them well-suited for meat production because the need for shearing is eliminated. The addition of extremely strong natural parasite resistance, good lamb survivability, good mothering instincts, and good flocking make the St. Croix an ideal breed for many sheep producers.

When I asked John specifically about St. Croix meat, he had only positive things to say. "It has a mild flavor that isn't overpowering or overbearing," said John, referring to the strong mutton flavor many people are accustomed to when ordering lamb. John said when he first added St. Croix to the menu, a couple of customers asked for mint jelly to counter the mutton flavor to go with their dishes before trying them, but after tasting the terrific flavor of the meat, decided to finish their meals sans jelly. John also noted that the meat is easy to slice and there isn't as much waste when preparing head-to-tail due to its high carcass weight with smaller bones and less fat than some mainstream breeds.

From a conservation standpoint, John said he sees the importance of saving breeds like the St. Croix. By taking advantage of each breed's unique history and passing the farmer's passion for raising them along to his customers through their food, John is experiencing the excitement of working with (and therefore saving) heritage breeds first-hand. This excitement came to fruition earlier this year when John was crowned the Got To Be NC Competition Dining Series "Fire In the Triad" Champion.

As our time with John came to a close, he asked Charles if the figs were ripe, referring to the giant fig bushes at the edge of the garden. We then proceeded to pick the ripe ones for use at the restaurant and Charles grabbed a couple dozen fresh heritage chicken eggs to complete his order. As John said goodbye and headed up the road to pick up the St. Croix meat from the processor, I experienced one of those transcendental moments where everything seemed to be in perfect balance. A breed perfectly developed for its market, offering an unrivaled dining experience. A small farmer raising that breed sustainably and supplementing his sheep business with fresh eggs and produce from that very same farm. And a chef who sees the value in local and sustainable food helping to support conservation by using his passion for cooking to reintroduce heritage breeds to patrons at his restaurant. I think we may be onto something here... ❖

*Ryan Walker is the Marketing & Communications Manager for The Livestock Conservancy. He can be reached at [rwalker@albc-usa.org](mailto:rwalker@albc-usa.org).*

## Livestock Conservancy Joins in Michigan Harvest Fest

The Livestock Conservancy was a Platinum Sponsor and Exhibitor at the 11th Annual Southwest Michigan Harvest Fest, which was held at Tillers International in Scotts, Michigan. Tillers was the site of the ALBC annual meeting in 2008. The Conservancy's participation was funded by a grant from the Stucki Family Foundation of Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Despite rainy weather, more than 900 people turned out to enjoy horse-drawn wagon tours of the Tillers farmstead, listen to live music, tour the collection of historic farm equipment, hear speakers on food equity and health, watch demonstrations of traditional rural skills, shop at vendors' booths offering everything from handmade chocolates to solar systems, and visit and learn about heritage livestock breeds.

The Livestock Conservancy's 10 x 20-foot tent featured a new tabletop exhibit which is now available for members to use at future events. The exhibit was staffed by lifetime Conservancy members Heidi Stucki, DVM, and Philip Larson, who brought Spanish goats from their farm, Cedar Ponds; lifetime member Marcia V. Stucki, who brought Black Australorp, Salmon Favorelle, and Light Brahma hens from Cedar Hill Farm; and their friend Cindy Caldwell. Heidi's service dog, Bekci, a Turkish Kangal, was also present and provided an opportunity to discuss the role of livestock guardian animals to protect herds and flocks from predation.

Heidi and Phil promoted the use of Spanish goats to control poison ivy, brambles, and invasive plant species such as garlic mustard and autumn olive in the Midwestern landscape. A herd of their goats is scheduled to work this spring on a restored prairie at the Kalamazoo Nature Center in order to determine if and how goat grazing can complement or replace controlled burning in prairie management. Heidi and Phil are working to develop a strain of pure Spanish goats especially suited to the hot humid summers and cold wet winters of the Great

Lakes region. Marcia encouraged visitors to touch the cloud-like cashmere undercoat which is now growing on some of the goats. Most people expressed amazement to learn that cashmere came from goats.

The Harvest Fest is a Fair Food Matters event celebrating local food, local farming and sustainable living. For more information, visit [www.fairfoodmatters.org/harvestfest](http://www.fairfoodmatters.org/harvestfest).



**The Livestock Conservancy's tent featuring rare breed goats, chickens and the new tabletop exhibit. In the foreground, Tillers intern Tessa ("Zeke") Savage and her four-month-old Dexter oxen, Merry and Pippin. Photo by Cindy Caldwell.**

## Youth Member Sees Success in 4-H

The Livestock Conservancy would like to congratulate youth member Sissy Sugarman for recently winning gold medals at her area, county, and sectionals 4-H competitions with her presentation about the Conservancy. Sissy researched rare breed conservation and contacted Conservancy staff for input on the presentation. Sissy raises many of her own rare breeds including Polish chickens, Standard Bronze turkeys, Southdown sheep, Oberhasli goats, and Miniature Donkeys on her family's farm in Encinitas, California. Sissy and her brother Samuel created a video of the speech featuring many of the animals they raise and uploaded it to YouTube. To view the video, visit [youtube.com/watch?v=ne4kK4rAK\\_E](http://youtube.com/watch?v=ne4kK4rAK_E).



**Youth member Sissy Sugarman made a video of her presentation about the Conservancy for 4-H.**

## Members "Out Here"

Livestock Conservancy member Dale Zimmerman took advantage of his local Tractor Supply Company's 2013 "Out Here With Animals" event. Dale displayed a trio of his Dominique chickens, some Silver Spangled Hamburg chickens, and Cotton Patch geese to help TSC customers to learn more about heritage breeds. For more information about participating in your local store's event, contact the store manager in your area. If interested, The Livestock Conservancy can provide literature to hand out as well. Contact Ryan Walker for more information at [rwalker@albc-usa.org](mailto:rwalker@albc-usa.org) or (919) 542-5704.



**Member Dale Zimmerman and his Dominique chickens.**

**Share your stories with The Livestock Conservancy! Send story and pictures to [rwalker@albc-usa.org](mailto:rwalker@albc-usa.org).**

# Pig Breed Relationships

By D. P. Sponenberg

A genetic analysis of pig breeds was recently published by a group led by researchers in Barcelona, Spain. The investigation involved several local breeds from Latin America, as well as breeds from China and Europe and international breeds such as Duroc, Landrace, Large White (Yorkshire), and Hampshire. The breeds from the U.S. were Guinea, Ossabaw Island, and laboratory populations of Yucatan pigs. The Livestock Conservancy was able to provide the samples for Ossabaw and Guinea Hogs. The goal of the study was to see if the historical connection to an Iberian origin still held true today.

Not surprisingly, the Iberian and Chinese breeds were the most distantly related to the others. International breeds such as Landrace and Yorkshire lie closer to Chinese breeds due to past mixing of foundation strains, but are still clearly European. It turns out that most European breeds used for mainstream production do indeed have Chinese influences tracing back several centuries. In contrast, Iberian and Wild Boar tend to have little or no Chinese influence.

North and South American pigs show influences from all of these sources, reflecting the complicated history of porcine introductions to the hemisphere. Few people realize that links with China were early and extensive, resulting in easy ac-

**To right: Guinea Hog boar, photo by Jeannette Beranger. Below: Ossabaw Island hog. Photo by Ryan Walker.**

cess to Chinese germplasm in the Americas. This dates back centuries, and remains in the genetics even if the history is largely forgotten.

The Guinea Hog stands apart as the most distantly related American breed. Exactly how it fits in to overall “hogdom” is uncertain, but it does make the Guinea Hog stand out as a conservation priority. Ossabaw Island hogs cluster with the general “village hog” type in the Americas, in contrast to those from Yucatan which show closer affinity to the Iberian root. The American laboratory strains of Yucatan hog are closer to that Iberian root than are current swine in Mexico, suggesting that subsequent introgression has affected their original homeland. ❖



## Vote Now!

The Livestock Conservancy is governed by a Board of Directors. This Board sets policy and priorities for the organization. Directors are elected by the membership and serve three-year terms. These positions are of great importance – directors assume responsibility for leadership in the conservation of rare breeds of livestock and poultry in the United States. Below is the slate of candidates that have been nominated to stand for election to the Board of Directors. Nominations were received from the Board and the general membership. Please help shape the direction of the organization by casting your vote.

**Donna Carver** is an Associate Professor and Extension Veterinarian at North Carolina State University where she received her B.S. in Poultry Science, her Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine, and her Ph.D. in Population Medicine. Her major interests are in the area of epidemiology – the study of infectious agents and how they behave in populations. When she was growing up in North Carolina, both of her grandmothers had chicken coops and she found the chickens fascinating. This fascination continued, and she spent the past 20 years working with poultry both at the commercial level and with pastured and backyard flocks. She feels that understanding how disease agents behave in flocks is important so that prevention programs can be developed and implemented. Recently, Donna has been educating small flock growers in disease prevention. Donna has spoken at number of Conservancy conferences and supports the efforts of The Livestock Conservancy to restore heritage breeds.

**Gabrielle Gordon** grew up in a military family, moving to different posts and finally settling east of El Paso. She graduated from Texas Tech University with a B.S. in Wildlife Management and emphasis in Range Management. She was a Plant Protection Quarantine Officer for the USDA and had the opportunity to visit and work at several ports of entry. Later she became a Wildlife Inspector for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Dallas Fort Worth International Airport. She was fortunate to be selected for a short internship in mammal morphology at the Service’s prestigious Wildlife Forensics Lab in Ash-

# Vote Now! – 2013 Board Elections – Vote Now!

land, Oregon. Over the past several years she has served as Officer and President of the North Texas Eventing Association, Director of The Hickory Creek Hunt, and President of her local HOA and volunteered for several organizations. She is currently Vice President of The Cleveland Bay Horse Society of North America. Gabrielle left government service to care for her family; now her daughter, after spending a year abroad studying in Japan, has recently entered Wellesley College, Class of 2017. Gabrielle has owned Cleveland Bay horses near Fort Worth, Texas since 1998 and works diligently to raise awareness of Cleveland Bays and many rare domestic breeds.

**Jim Reichardt** (Incumbent) is a fourth generation duck farmer. His great-grandfather started his family's ranch in San Francisco in 1901. Growing up on the ranch, Jim lived through the changes agriculture went through in the 1960s and 1970s. After attending Heald Engineering College, the California College of Arts and Crafts, and working outside the ranch, Jim rejoined the family ranch in the 1980s, but he soon realized the problems that more intensive agriculture caused. With input from Bay area chefs desiring ducks similar to what was available in Europe, Jim split off from the family ranch and formed Liberty Ducks in 1992. It became clear that his farming style was going back in the direction of his great-grandfather. Jim became involved with Slow Food Russian River and the Sonoma County 4-H Heritage Turkey Project which eventually led Jim to become acquainted with the Conservancy.

**Tim Safranski** Prior to accepting the position as the State Swine Breeding Specialist for the University of Missouri in 1996, Tim Safranski worked for the USDA-ARS in Clay Center, Nebraska evaluating computer simulation models of pork production. He received his B.S. degree from Oregon State University, and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Missouri, all in animal science. Since returning to Missouri, he has led an integrated extension and research program in the areas of genetics and reproductive management in addition to teaching the Swine Production class at the University

of Missouri. He has presented in 14 states and eight countries on the topics of swine genetics, reproduction, and management. Tim grew up raising livestock, including Hereford hogs, in western Oregon, but with his current job he and his family raise cattle, sheep, and chickens.

**Elaine Shirley** is manager of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's Rare Breeds Program. As such, she works with many breeds including Leicester Longwool sheep, Milking Devon cattle, and Nankin chickens. Shirley was the 2009 recipient of the Conservancy's Bixby-Sponenberg Conservation Award, has been a member of the Conservancy since 1987, and has previous experience serving on the organization's Board of Directors.

**Bradley Taylor** is a heritage stockman, entrepreneur, and software engineer. After 20 years in technology, he launched a farm in Sylvania, Georgia, focused on a discovering a sustainable model for commercial production of Southern heritage livestock. Later in 2011, he launched Revival Foods, a values-driven, direct-to-consumer startup for local food distribution. He raises Pineywoods cattle, Spanish goats, Native (Gulf Coast) sheep, Ossabaw Island hogs and Marsh Tacky horses on pine silvopasture and oak woodlots.

**Wanda E. "Beth" Tillman** After years of research and conference attendance at ALBC, Joel Salatin (Polyface Farms), and regional agricultural organizations, in 2011, Beth founded Firefly Farms with her son, Dugan Tillman-Brown, focusing on rare breeds in a commercially viable setting. They humanely raise Dorking chickens, Mulefoot pigs, tri- and quad-heritage pigs, and, soon, Randall cattle on rotational pasture for land and forest restoration and Beth and family are developing a USDA-certified poultry processing facility. Beth has extensive (30 years) not-for-profit experience in school, symphony, park, community centers, and foundations serving on finance, building, development, marketing, and governance committees. She is an activist for transparency in boards and government with strict adherence to by-laws and state statutes. Beth's father was an internationally known animal scientist and nutritionist. Thus she grew up raising cattle, horses and chickens

and tons of produce. Beth is licensed to practice law in Connecticut and Louisiana, is an avid gardener, a sailor, and, best of all, now a farmer.

**Judy Wollen** is a retired resource development specialist who loves to tell stories. Her fundraising experience includes working in the U.S. and abroad with charitable organizations and professional associations. With a degree from Kansas State University in Family and Child Development, Judy has always seen livestock in terms of their nutritional and socio/economic impact on the well-being of families. Terry and Judy Wollen have two children and four grandchildren, and plan to establish a small farm during 2014 for the dual purpose of raising rare breed livestock and enticing grandkids to visit. Judy appreciates the value of genetic diversity in general, and conserving rare livestock breeds in particular.

## BALLOT

**This ballot is the facing page to the Conference Registration Form. If registering for the conference, you may return your ballot at the same time.**

All Livestock Conservancy members may vote for the Board of Directors, with one ballot cast per membership. There are seven candidates and seven open seats on the board. You may vote for as many as you wish. Photocopies and fax ballots are only acceptable with a signature. Return ballots to The Livestock Conservancy-Board Elections, PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312. Ballots must be postmarked no later than October 31, 2013.

- Donna Carver
- Gabrielle Gordon
- Jim Reichardt
- Tim Safranski
- Elaine Shirley
- Bradley Taylor
- Wanda Tillman

# REGISTRATION The Livestock Conservancy 2013 National Conference • Cary, NC • November 8 - 9, 2013

## 1. Who is attending?

If you would like to register more than one person for the conference, please fill in the first and last name for the primary registrant, and then proceed with additional registrant information in the alphabetical box

<b>Registrant A (First &amp; Last Name)</b>	<b>A</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Registrant B (First &amp; Last Name)</b>	<b>B</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Registrant C (First &amp; Last Name)</b>	<b>C</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Registrant D (First &amp; Last Name)</b>	<b>D</b>	<input type="text"/>

## 2. Pre-Conference Clinic Registration

Pre-Conference Clinics are priced separately from the main conference. To register, please circle the letter(s) that correspond to the registrant(s) who will be attending. Each person may attend up to one morning clinic and one afternoon clinic, if desired.

Clinic Title	Registrant				# Attending	Cost
<b>Low Input Limbo - How Low Can You Go? (Pasture &amp; Forages)</b> (8:00AM-11:30AM)	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> @ \$95	
<b>Starting and Growing Agritourism</b> (8:00AM-11:30AM)	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> @ \$80	
<b>Saving Seeds from Fall Produce</b> (8:00AM-11:30AM)	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> @ \$80	
<b>Sustainable Pastured Pork Production</b> (1:00PM-4:00PM)	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> @ \$80	
<b>Breed Registries &amp; Associations</b> (1:00PM-3:30PM)	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> @ \$30	
<b>Rare breed sheep &amp; wool</b> (1:00PM-3:30PM)	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> @ \$50	
<b>Pre-Conference Clinic Total</b>						<input type="text"/>

## 3. Conference Registration

Conference registration includes the Friday night Kick-Off Banquet, Saturday sessions, Saturday lunch, and Saturday dinner. To register, please circle the letter(s) of the registrant(s) that will be attending.

	Registrant				# Attending	Cost
<b>Conference- MEMBER</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> @ \$195	
<b>Conference - Non-Member</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> @ \$240	
<b>Conference Registration Total</b>						<input type="text"/>

## 4. Contact Information

Mailing Address

City  State  Zip

Phone  Email

## 4. Payment

To determine your GRAND TOTAL, add your Pre-Conference Clinic Total and your Conference Registration Total and put that number in this box:

**PAY BY:**  Check  Credit Card (Mastercard/Visa/Amex/Discover) **GRAND TOTAL**

Credit Card Number

Expiration Date  /  Security Code

Name on Card  Billing Address

Signature

This form should be completed and returned, with your payment **Walk-ins are welcome.**  
 The Livestock Conservancy, PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312 | By fax: (919) 545-0022 | register online [www.livestockconservancy.org](http://www.livestockconservancy.org)

*Conference registration may be cancelled for a full refund with 30 day's notice. Less than 30 day's notice: non-refundable. Clinics are non-refundable.*



THE LIVESTOCK CONSERVANCY™

## 2013 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Come learn about heritage breeds and heirloom seeds at The Livestock Conservancy 2013 National Conference November 8-9. The conference returns to beautiful North Carolina this year, just down the road from The Livestock Conservancy's national headquarters. Join us as we partner with Seed Savers Exchange and other farmers, stewards, historians, agriculturalists, foodies, environmentalists, and conservationists and convene in Cary, North Carolina.

Programs will be held our host hotel, the Embassy Suites Raleigh-Durham/Research Triangle, with one clinic taking place at a local farm. Evening networking meals will also be held at the host hotel. The Livestock Conservancy has reserved a block of rooms at the Embassy Suites with a special rate of \$129 per night. *Be sure to make your reservations as soon as possible.*

The hotel is only a few minutes away from the Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU) Free shuttle service to/from the airport is provided.

**Reservations:** (919) 677-1840 Group Code: ALB

**To reserve online:** The Conservancy has set up a special online reservation page with the Embassy Suites Raleigh-Durham/Research Triangle which allows members to book rooms online. Visit our website ([www.livestockconservancy.org](http://www.livestockconservancy.org)) to access this site.

**Embassy Suites Raleigh-Durham/Research Triangle**  
201 Harrison Oaks Blvd, Cary, NC 2751 (919) 677-1840  
[www.raleighdurham.embassysuites.com](http://www.raleighdurham.embassysuites.com)

**Conference registrations:** Use the form to left or register online at [www.livestockconservancy.org](http://www.livestockconservancy.org).

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## 2013 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8 PRE-CONFERENCE CLINICS

**Clinics Check-in 7:30 – 8:00AM**

**Morning Clinics 8:00AM – 11:30AM**

**Low-Input Limbo – How Low Can You Go?  
Pasture and forage management for  
the current economy**

Heritage breeds have evolved and remain today as hardy, adaptable, and practical. They thrive in low-input envi-

ronments. This on-farm workshop will explain low-input, sustainable methods for pasture management. We will focus on pasture-raised ruminants, but these principles also apply to horses, hogs, and poultry. The workshop will begin with the soil and work up, covering mineralization, pasture fertility, establishment and maintenance, animal genetics, breeding and management, and marketing and promotion. Come prepared to challenge the current management of your farm. Held off-site at Braeburn Farm, Snow Camp, NC. *Speaker: Scott Paquin, Firefly Farm, Burnsville, NC. Check-in at the farm.*

### Starting and Growing Agritourism – Diversify Income and Educate and Expand your Customer Base

Agritourism can enhance the emotional connection between the customer and the farm, provide supplemental income for farmers, and educate consumers about agricultural heritage and their food. This pre-conference workshop will provide introductory and intermediate level tips for how to get involved or increase your agritourism activity. Topics will include making your farm visitor-ready, liability and risk-management, agritourism pricing, creating experience “products,” telling your farm’s story, partnering, and marketing. *Speaker: Carole Kline East Carolina University Center for Sustainable Tourism, Greenville, NC*

### Saving Seeds from Fall Produce

In the days before seed catalogs, collecting and saving seeds for the next year’s garden was essential. Today, seed saving plays a critical role in preserving rare, heirloom varieties and the garden heritage they represent. Join Seed Savers Exchange to discuss the process of saving seed from garden fruits and vegetables – tomatoes, squash, peppers, melons, beans, and more – and learn how to participate in this backyard preservation. *Speaker: Grant Olson, Education Coordinator at Seed Savers Exchange, Decorah, IA*

**Clinics Check-in 12:30 – 1:00PM**

**Afternoon Clinic 1:00PM – 4:00PM**

### Management Strategies for Sustainable Pastured Pork Production

Properly managed pastured pork production systems can sustain natural resources, improve the quality of life of producers, support rural community development, and enhance farmers’ profit. Management strategies including: breed selection, grazing systems, stocking rates, hog manure nutrients value, and crop rotations will be reviewed during this workshop. Heritage breeds often face challenges due to their small population sizes. This presentation, aimed at all skill levels, will also outline and discuss strategies to help maintain genetic diversity in rare breeds of livestock. *Speakers: Silvana Petroselli, Center for Environmental Farming*



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## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9 cont'd

Systems, Goldsboro, NC; Jim Green, Professor of Crop Science and Forage Extension Specialist (ret.), NC State University; Dr. Mark Knauer, Swine Extension Specialist, NC State University

### Afternoon Clinics 1:00PM – 3:30PM

#### **Breed Registries and Associations**

Breed associations, registries, and clubs are vital to the conservation of endangered breeds, but many struggle with turnover, conflict, and just having enough time to do it all. It doesn't have to be this way! Drawing upon the models of successful breed associations, this workshop will cover topics such as how to set up and run an efficient registry, managing studbooks, avoiding conflict, and breed promotion. *Speakers: Phil Sporenberg, Technical Advisor; Jeanette Beranger, Research and Technical Programs Manager; Alison Martin, Research and Technical Programs Director for The Livestock Conservancy*

#### **Wool from Rare Breed Sheep: Added Value for Your Farm (Rare Critters and Coats, Rare Sheep and Scarves, From Sheep to Sweaters)**

The workshop serves as a guide for the development of fiber as a value-added product for farms interested in or already raising rare breed wool sheep. This will be an interactive session discussing selection of breeds, production of high quality wool, and marketing your wool. A primer on inheritance of color in sheep will help you produce a natural color palette for fiber artists within your flock. The workshop emphasizes practical methods for raising wool sheep to maximize the value of their wool and finding outlets for this high quality wool. *Speaker: Marie Minnich, Marushka Farms, Danville, PA*

### Conference Check-in: 5:30 – 6:00PM

### Friday Kick-off Banquet 6:00PM

#### **Keynote: From Hobby to Vocation – How to Bring Your Passion to Market**

Enjoy a meal featuring rare breed products and listen as Ariane Daguin

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Ariane Daguin** is owner, co-founder, and CEO of D'artagnan, the leading gourmet food purveyor of all-natural and organic meats, charcuterie, and mushrooms in the United States. Revered as a culinary innovator among America's top chefs, Ariane has been at the forefront of the organic and sustainable movement in America, pioneering organic, free-range meats, preservative-free foods and humanely-raised livestock. Ariane is a published author and has been recognized by the James Beard Foundation (1994) and Bon Appetit Magazine (2005), and was awarded the prestigious French Legion d'Honneur (2006).

shares her insights into the culinary world – from challenges that chefs face when sourcing the products to meet the ever-refining palates of consumers, to real world tactics to ensure access to resources that support an artisanal culture. She will demonstrate how farmers and ranchers can partner with processors, transporters, marketers, chefs, and retailers to put quality products on American tables – whether at home or in four-star restaurants – turning their passion into a livelihood. *Keynote speaker: Ariane Daguin (see box above)*

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9 CONFERENCE SESSIONS

### Late Check-in: 7:30 – 8:00AM

### Plenary Session 8:00AM – 9:15AM

#### **The New Agricultural Consumer**

As consumer demand for local and niche foods continues to climb, understanding the motivations of the end user is ever more important. Using research on consumer trends and preferences, we can begin to illustrate who your customers are and why they purchase – or don't purchase – products. The results may surprise you. *Speaker: Debbie Hamrick, Director of Specialty Crops, North Carolina Farm Bureau*

### Breakout Sessions 9:30AM – 10:30AM

#### **Growing Heirloom Corn for Your Livestock**

Are you looking for ways to offset feed

bills for your animals and grow healthy food items on your own farm? This presentation will introduce you to working with heirloom open-pollinated (OP) corn. We will discuss a history of these useful plants and review the wide array of varieties to choose from. You will hear about best planting practices, the nutritional content of OP corn versus hybrid or commercial corn, the pros and cons of OP corn, diseases of corn, and how to identify the best variety for your area. *Speaker: Gra Moore, Carolina Heritage Farms, Pamplico, SC*

#### **Using the Gate-to-Plate Story to Add Value**

As more and more local or heritage breed farmers seek to sell to consumers and commercially produced animals are marketed as "artisanal, local, or heritage," effectively telling the "gate-to-plate story" to consumers can mean the difference between increased consumer loyalty and sales or becoming "another farmer at the market." This presentation will discuss how farmers can use information from their day-to-day operations to tell the "gate-to-plate" story, via consumer-focused and consumer-friendly tools in order to increase the value and visibility of their product while also increasing consumer loyalty and trust, two principal values when attempting to stand out in a competitive market. *Speaker: Gabriel Key, European-trained Chef*

#### **Raising Meat Sheep for Fun & Profit**

Both novice and experienced sheep raisers and breeders will benefit from learning about marketing strategies for the many different markets available for rare breed sheep including: breeding stock buyers, ethnic groups, conventional lamb consumers, and restaurant chefs. We will also cover such basics as breed selection, disposition, structural soundness, conformation, hardiness, and predator control. Come learn from experienced rare breed sheep entrepreneurs! *Speakers: Richard & Kathy Bennett, River Bend Ranch, Days Creek, OR, and Charles Taft, Stauber Farm, Bethania, NC*

### Breakout Sessions 11:00AM – 12:00PM

#### **Heirloom Gardening for Heritage Livestock**

Learn new ways to get the most out of



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your garden while enriching your animals diets all year long. Raising your stock and garden side by side will improve the health and the flavor of both. Identify cover crops that can be used to enrich your soil and cut your feed bill. Seed saving is a time-honored tradition that isn't limited to fruit or vegetable crops – join us to learn how heritage livestock are an important aspect of any garden ecosystem and the myriad strategies to accommodate both animal and land sustainably. *Speaker: Jim Edrington, Seed Savers Exchange, Decorah, IA*

### **Steeped in Heritage: Applying the lessons of other cultures to an integrated, sustainable farm**

Inspired by the last of the Himalayan nomads, Ian and his wife Kelly combined lessons from their travel abroad with their own mountain heritage and built a successful business around heritage livestock. They have grown their grass-fed meat program by marketing small cuts, rich flavor, and cultural history. They have also developed a market for forest products by focusing on draft horse-powered logging, custom sawmilling, and value-added products. Come learn about how your business can also be “steeped in success” by being “steeped in stewardship.” *Speaker: Ian Snider, Mountain Works Sustainable Development, Inc., Zionville, NC*

### **Why the Poitou?**

Come learn more about one of the oldest breeds on the Conservation Priority List! *Speaker: Debbie Hamilton, Hamilton Rare Breeds Foundation, Hartland, VT*

### **Plenary Session 1:00PM – 2:15PM**

#### **What's It All About? How The Livestock Conservancy Saves Rare Breeds**

*Speakers: Jeannette Beranger, Research and Technical Programs Manager and Alison Martin, Research and Technical Programs Director of The Livestock Conservancy*

### **Breakout Sessions 2:45PM – 3:45PM**

#### **Food Waste to Animal Feed**

There's gold in garbage! People throw

away a lot of food – food that is safe and nutritious for animals to consume. Even if it's too far gone for your animals to eat, you can transform garbage into high-protein invertebrates that most livestock will thrive on. Recycle, reuse, and cut the major expense of feeding livestock by exploiting your local food waste stream. Our heritage breeds were developed as part of old, sustainable, small-scale farming systems that relied on waste foods, such as whey, table scraps, wheat middlings, and many other discards and by-products. Come hear about the upsides and the dangers of the sustainable agriculture practice of using food waste for animal feeding. *Speaker: Julie Gauthier, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Raleigh, NC*

#### **Selecting Breeding Stock**

Balancing pedigree, looks, strengths, and weaknesses in animals is as much art as science. Successful techniques can be learned, and can help in achieving the goal of viable breeds made up of productive sound animals, for a secure future for all breeds. *Speaker: D. Phillip Sponenberg, PhD, DVM, Technical Advisor for The Livestock Conservancy*

#### **Engineering a Comeback for Randall Cattle**

How do you breed cattle that are not accustomed to being handled using AI? What management practices are involved when managing a herd of Randall Cattle? How do these practices make a difference in the herd? These questions will be answered in depth. Find out how Rock Cobble Farm currently uses its unique herd of Randall cattle – for breeding stock, oxen, and grass-fed beef, and what the future holds. *Speaker: John Lundeen, Rock Cobble Farm, South Kent, CT*

### **Breakout Sessions 4:00PM – 5:00PM**

#### **Conserving the Shire Horse in America**

Maintaining a horse in today's economy is challenging enough without the extra responsibility of managing a rare draft breed. Today's Shire breeders have to be diligent with genetic bloodlines, breeding complications, and current markets in order to conserve the breed and have an economically viable business. In this

workshop, Shire breeder Dayla Kohler will outline the steps being taken by the American Shire Horse Association to help these gentle giants and their breeders ensure the survival of the Shire for the long term. *Speaker: Dayla Kohle, Walnut Cove, NC*

### **Opportunities and Challenges in Local and Niche Meats**

Demand for local and niche meat is growing rapidly and new businesses supporting this growth are starting nearly every day. This session is intended for new, beginning and aspiring meat producers as well as those with more traditional livestock operations who are considering transitioning part or all of their operation to meat production. All of these should first have a good understanding of the complex challenges of the business including the regulatory environment, the processing sector, dealing with low volume and high production costs, whole animal utilization and the importance of appropriate scale in a farm business. These topics will be the subject of this session. *Speakers: Casey McKissick, Program Director of NC Choices, Center for Environmental Farming Systems, Goldsboro, NC; Sarah Blacklin, Market Manager, Carrboro Farmers' Market, Carrboro, NC*

#### **Rare Breeds on a Living History Farm**

Come learn about Connor Prairie, a living history farm with a unique, hands-on approach for guest interaction where livestock play an important role. In this talk, you will learn about the farm's management and rare breed conservation programs for Randall Lineback, English Longhorn, and Milking Shorthorn cattle, Tunis sheep, Ossabaw Island hogs, and many other breeds. The presentation is sure to include a discussion on utilizing the products from the Conner Prairie stock and how the farm taps into a network of chefs, spinners, and livestock breeders to use the products and stock being produced at the site. *Speaker: Kevyn Miller, Livestock Manager, Conner Prairie Interactive History Park, Fishers, IN*

### **Dinner, Silent Auction, Posters 7:00PM**



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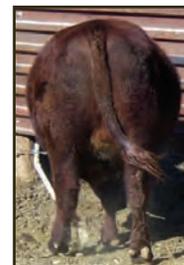
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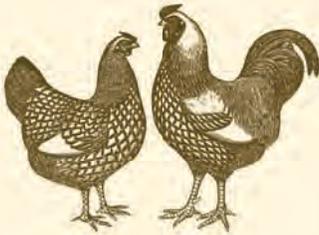


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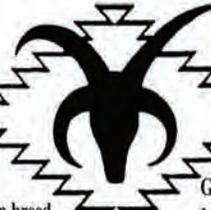
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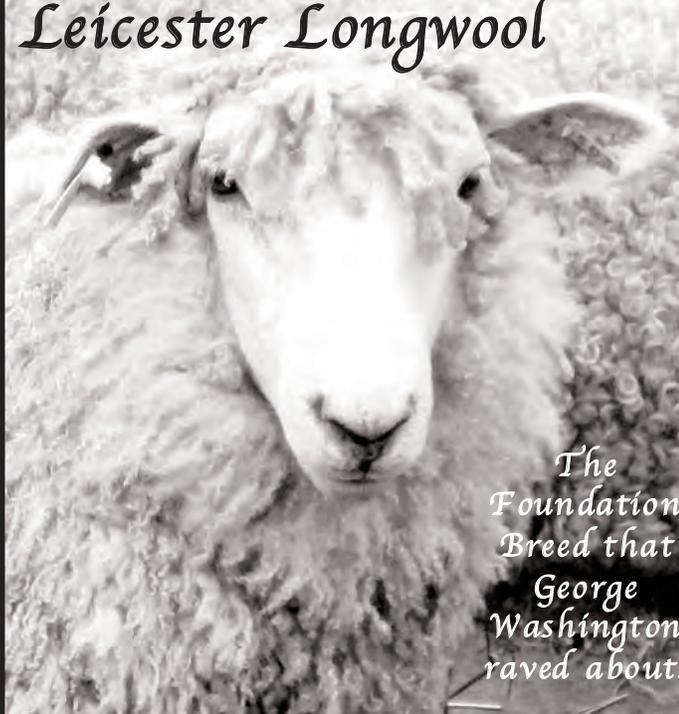
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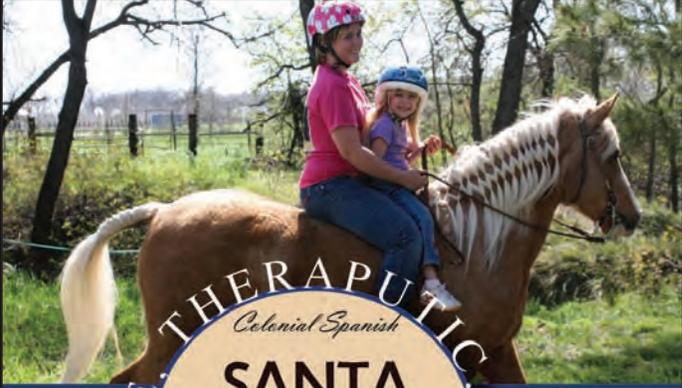
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DATED MATERIAL

## CALENDAR

++++ denotes Livestock Conservancy event  
++ denotes Conservancy participation

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

### October

**October 1-5 – The World Dairy Expo** will be held in Madison, WI. For more information, visit [www.worlddairyexpo.com](http://www.worlddairyexpo.com).

**++ October 12-13 – The Mother Earth News Fair** will be held in Lawrence, KS. This fun-filled, family-oriented sustainable lifestyle event features dozens of practical, hands-on demonstrations and workshops on everything from beekeeping to using solar electricity. For more information visit [www.motherearthnews.com/fair](http://www.motherearthnews.com/fair).

**October 12-19 – The American Dairy Goat Association Annual Convention**

will be held in Asheville, NC. Visit [www.adga.com](http://www.adga.com) for more information.

**October 19-23 – The 2013 American Rabbit Breeders Association Convention** will be held in Harrisburg, PA. Visit [www.marcsconvention.com/index.htm](http://www.marcsconvention.com/index.htm) for more information.

**October 30-November 2 – The National FFA Convention & Expo** will be held in Louisville, Kentucky. Nearly 55,000 FFA members and guests gather to learn about careers in the agriculture industry, compete for scholarships, volunteer in the community and shape the future of the National FFA Organization. Visit [www.ffa.org/Events/conventionandexpo/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.ffa.org/Events/conventionandexpo/Pages/default.aspx) for more information.

**October 31-November 2 – The 2013 American Grassfed Conference** “Growing the Culture of Simple, Honest Food” will be held in San Diego, CA. Visit [www.americangrassfed.org/2013-conference](http://www.americangrassfed.org/2013-conference) for more information.

### November

**November 1-3 – Equine Extravaganza** will take place at The Meadow Event Park in Doswell, VA. Enjoy three full days of everything equine: education, entertainment and shopping at this exciting equestrian expo – all on the historic grounds of the birthplace of the legendary racehorse Secretariat. For more information, visit [www.equineextravaganza.com](http://www.equineextravaganza.com), call 804-994-2898, or email [tpruitt@statefairva.org](mailto:tpruitt@statefairva.org).

**November 2 – The Cleveland Bay Horse Society of North America Annual Meeting** will take place in Knoxville, TN. A seminar on Endurance 101: Introduction to the Vet Box will be held on November 1. Visit [www.clevelandbay.org](http://www.clevelandbay.org) or contact [info@clevelandbay.org](mailto:info@clevelandbay.org) for more information.

**++++ November 8-9 – The Livestock Conservancy's 2013 National Conference** will be held in Cary, NC at the Embassy Suites Raleigh-Durham/Research Triangle. See pages 14-17 of this newsletter or visit [www.livestockconservancy.org](http://www.livestockconservancy.org) for more information.

**November 15-17 – The Carolina Farm Stewardship Association's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Sustainable Agriculture Conference** will be held in Durham, NC. CFSA's mission is to advocate, educate and build connections to create sustainable food systems centered on local and organic agriculture. Learn more at [www.carolinafarmstewards.org](http://www.carolinafarmstewards.org) or (919) 542-2402.



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