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Conserving rare breeds since 1977

THE LIVESTOCK CONSERVANCY™ NEWS

Conservation Priority List Updates

Each year the changes in the *Conservation Priority List* provide new insights into the actions of hundreds of breeders across the United States and around the world. It is thanks to these breeders that these special animals are conserved and are able to continue contributing to farms and ranches across America.

This year marks the successful conservation of two breeds of pigs. Both **Guinea Hogs** and **Red Wattle** hogs move from Critical to Threatened. Both breeds have been successful in developing and capturing the market for heritage pork, and this has led to more breeder interest. Red Wattle hogs are good foragers, hardy, and their effective mothering skills suit them for pastured pork production. This produces a flavorful and tender meat, and their growth rate and size have made them popular with farmers and ranchers who raise them for sale at farmers markets and to restaurants. Guinea Hogs are well suited to small farms with their mild temperament and small size (the word Guinea is an old word for small). Being small lard-type hogs, Guinea Hogs struggled for many years to find a market niche. Then, The Livestock Conservancy and our members introduced the breed to James Beard Foundation award nominee Craig Deihl of Charleston, SC. He began experimenting with the firm, flavorful lard for charcuterie (*ALBC News* May-June 2010, *High on the Hog: The Guinea Hog Project*), and the rest, as they say, is history. Chefs have discovered the wonderful flavor of heritage pork, to the great benefit of all the endan-



There are fewer than 50 Lincoln Reds registered each year in North America. Photo courtesy of Sarah Pedely / North American Lincoln Red Association.

gered breeds, and a couple others that are not endangered. If purebreeding and registration continues to be encouraged among pig breeders, we hope to see more breeds moving off the Critical categories in coming years.

This year **Lincoln Red** cattle are introduced to the list in the Critical category. The Lincoln Red was developed in Lincolnshire, England in the early 1800s, a time of much breed development and livestock improvement. They are related to Shorthorn cattle and were originally registered in the Coates Herd Book, but in 1896 breeders began their own herd book. The Lincoln Red began as a dual-purpose breed but are now selected for beef production. When continental beef breeds were imported to Britain in the 1970s and 1980s, many beef breeds lost ground through crossbreeding programs that did not plan for replacement of the purebreds. A small number of uncrossed Lincoln Red cattle remain in Great Britain, where they

are known as Lincoln Red - Original Population, and these are critically endangered. Lincoln Reds were imported to the United States and Canada in the 1960s and early 1970s, just prior to the breed improvement program that allowed outcrossing of Lincoln Red cattle in Britain. Although The Livestock Conservancy's criteria for inclusion on the CPL say that breeds must have a long history in the United States, Lincoln Red cattle are a good example of the handful of breeds that are included because they are at risk globally, and the U.S. population contributes in a significant way to global conservation. Lincoln Red cattle are deep cherry red in color with excellent temperament, growth rate, and hardiness. Most are polled. It is important to keep the horned ones because, just as with Dexter cattle, the polled trait was introduced through a grade-up program and is not original to the breed. Lincoln Reds are well suited to colder climates, and

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

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Call for Presenters in Austin!

The Livestock Conservancy is calling for speakers and presenters to submit presentation topics for the 2014 National Conference in Austin, Texas, in November. If you are interested in speaking at the conference, please review the following guidelines.

Presentation Formats

We encourage interactive programs that provide opportunities for audience participation. The two types of presentations are as follows:

- Pre-Conference Workshops or Clinics – held on Fridays. These can be half-day or whole-day programs. There is a possibility that some workshops may start on Thursdays.
- General Sessions – can be a single presenter or panel discussion. They are one hour in length and will occur throughout the day on Saturday, November 15.

Possible Topics (not limited to these)

- Meat processing
- Heirloom seed crops for forages
- Breeding rare breed livestock or poultry
- Farm-based education programs
- Business planning/financial management
- Multitasking rare breeds
- Urban agriculture
- Value-added products
- Rare breed co-ops & CSAs
- Fiber production
- Marketing
- Rare breed cuisine
- Animal health related topics

Skill Level of Presenters

Presenters should have a thorough knowledge of their topic and experience to support their expertise in the subject. (This should be reflected in the presenter bio.) They must have the ability to express the presentation content clearly and concisely to the audience.

Registration Fees & Compensation

All presenters will receive conference registration (does not include pre-conference clinics) with access to all conference events. Presenters will also receive a modest honorarium for their presentations that can be used to help cover travel expenses. Upon proposal acceptance, speakers should to make their own travel and hotel arrangements. They will receive the honorarium within 30 days after the conference. Speakers not wishing to be compensated may choose to donate the honorarium back to The Livestock Conservancy.

Proposal Format

A proposal must include:

- The name, address, phone number, and e-mail address of the primary presenter
- A short bio of the presenter(s) of no more than 50 words
- A title of the presentation of no more than 10 words
- A description of the proposed presentation of no more than 150 words
- A description of the skill level of content (for beginners, intermediate, advanced)
- A list of objectives for the presentation and how the speaker(s) will engage and benefit the participants
- A list of audiovisual needs
- Other needs such as printed materials, live animals for demo, caging, etc.

Proposal Process and Deadlines

Proposals will be evaluated based on their content and the programming needs of the conference. Programs should have a clear take-home message and practical information for participants. Submission of a proposal is not a guarantee of acceptance. Upon final review, proposal status will be provided by June 1, 2014. Please submit your proposal to Jeannette Beranger at jberanger@albc-usa.org by May 10, 2014. ❖

FROM THE DIRECTOR



By Eric Hallman

I hope your 2014 is off to a great start! I have a positive feeling about the coming year – God willing and the creek don't rise! I predict it will be a good one for the Livestock Conservancy, and for its members and the breeds we're conserving.

As we look forward to this year, I thought I'd share with you my five resolutions for the Livestock Conservancy in 2014. These are my top five goals I hope to accomplish this year.

Resolution 1. Visit more of our members. One of the great things about my job is meeting and learning from you, our members. My goal this year is to get around the country to more events and personal visits. With members in all fifty states and several foreign countries, it will be a challenge but the personal connection is very important for me. At times the opportunities will involve seeing you at major events like our National Conference (this year in Austin, Texas), the Mother Earth News Fairs, or the National Heirloom Expo. These are all great events and very worthwhile, but such meetings are always busy and the time for personal interactions is brief. My preference is to visit the homes and farms of our members where there is time to hear your concerns and learn. The hour or two that someone invites me into their home for a conversation about their work stays with me and helps me understand our mission better.

Resolution 2. Make The Livestock Conservancy known far and wide. In my last column, I commented on how when I

meet someone new, I tell him or her that I work for the coolest non-profit they've never heard of. This year I'm going to make sure they have heard. I'm determined that the rest of the world take notice of what we are doing. With our new name we have an opportunity to get people's attention.

We know people are interested; they just don't know we're the ones doing it. This year we're going to change that. We have lots to be proud of, so let's get the word out. If you are going to a livestock show, a breed association meeting, your bridge club, or the grocery store, take along one of our brochures to hand out. If you don't have any we're happy to send you some. Let's make some noise.

Resolution 3. Expand our Services and Programs. There are many opportunities to improve our services and extend programs. Any time two or more of us start brainstorming we can come up with several new projects. And then there are breed rescues that have to be done, like the critically endangered Choctaw hogs we are working to save in Oklahoma. My goal this year is to find creative ways to expand how we serve our members and these endangered breeds.

The new website provides a number of new tools and features that we hope you are enjoying. We're still improving and adding content and capabilities to the site, and your feedback is welcome. But websites are a just a part of our services. While many organizations have gone exclusively to electronic publications, we will continue to offer print publications and phone access to our members, many of who have limited or no Internet services. We are particularly proud of our newsletter, both for the informative articles and the quality of its production. We also pride ourselves on being available by phone to answer questions. With a staff of six hard-working individuals we're not always available to answer the phone, especially as at least one or two of us are in field at any time. We ask your patience when you can't get through to us immediately.

There are many technical programs we'd like to undertake if we had the time and resources. To pursue some of these opportunities we're looking at partnering with our members and with other organizations. Examples of these projects include updating our educational material for schools and expanding our training

materials for beginning breeders. This leads us to the last two resolutions.

Resolution 4: Pursue Collaborations. One way to more effectively advance our work is to leverage the work and reach of other organizations whose missions parallel our own. By collaborating we can reach a broader audience and recruit more supporters to our cause. In the past year we have enjoyed a rewarding and productive collaboration with Seed Savers Exchange and recently reconnected with Slow Foods, USA. By collaborating with these organizations we are working on issues that affect a broader audience and helping both organizations address their missions. If you know of national and regional groups that we should be working with, please connect us.

Resolution 5: Remember to ask for your help. I am humbled by the willingness of our members to pitch in and help. Our problem is we haven't done a good job of taking you up on your offers. Here in the office and out in the field, the staff seems to be running at ninety miles an hour trying to keep up. We need to slow down and accept the helping hand you're willing to lend. This year we'll take you up on that volunteer offer, and we thank you in advance.

While these are my New Year's resolutions, it's clear I'll need your help. We have high hopes for 2014 and we're off to a good start. Let's get 'er done! ❖



Welcome to Our Newest Life Members!

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

David Sperling
Parish, NY

John Jeffords
Cheyenne, WY

Byron Olson
Boone, IA

Conservation Priority List

Continued from front page

represent a viable option for small scale beef production. There are fewer than 50 registered each year in North America.

Two breeds introduced to the *Conservation Priority List* in the Study category last year move to the Critical category this year. **Texas Longhorn** cattle registered through the Cattlemen's Texas Longhorn Registry (CTLR) and **Morgan - Traditional** horses are both iconic breeds that represent important aspects of our American history. In 2013 we were able to gain census information for both breeds, and established relationships with breed associations and societies representing them. There are approximately 100-150 new registrations each year for Texas Longhorn cattle and Morgan - Traditional horses.

Steinbacher geese also move to the critical category. These geese originate from Germany, where they were originally used for fighting! They are said to be pleasant to people. In Germany the geese exhibit much color variation, including grey, blue, buff, and cream. The bright orange bill and feet are also striking. In the United States the blue variety has been accepted by the American Poultry Association. Steinbacher geese are globally endangered.

Members who breed **Colonial Spanish** horses will observe some changes to the CPL concerning which strains are listed separately and which are considered part of the composite breed. This particularly affects the feral strains, where it has been very difficult to prevent the influence of outcrossing. A great deal of thought went into these decisions, and the article to the right describes the changes in detail.

Breeds removed from Study include **Iowa Blue** chickens and **Broad Breasted Bronze** turkeys. It was never demonstrated that there are purebred Broad Breasted Bronze strains of turkeys that breed true, and with the rising popularity of Broad Breasted Bronze hybrids in the marketplace, continued inclusion of this variety in Study only leads to confusion. Iowa Blue chickens have a fascinating history, and have been resurrected to provide an interesting option for small poultry growers and fanciers. A dedicated breed club has formed, and has done intensive

research on the breed. The breed history is available on their website, and is a fascinating lesson. As discussed in some recent newsletter articles, breed formation requires three steps, foundation, isolation, and selection. At some point after the foundation of Iowa Blue chickens, but certainly within the first 20 years, fertility problems began. This is often the first indication that the genetic base of a breed is not big enough, what geneticists call a bottleneck. Iowa Blue chickens struggled with fertility for a long time, and finally breeders were no longer able to maintain isolation. Crossbreeding by experienced breeders maintained many of the interesting characteristics of the breed and are allowing greater access to the breed by enthusiasts. Although this history excludes Iowa Blue chickens from becoming a conservation priority for The Livestock Conservancy, their attractive appearance and

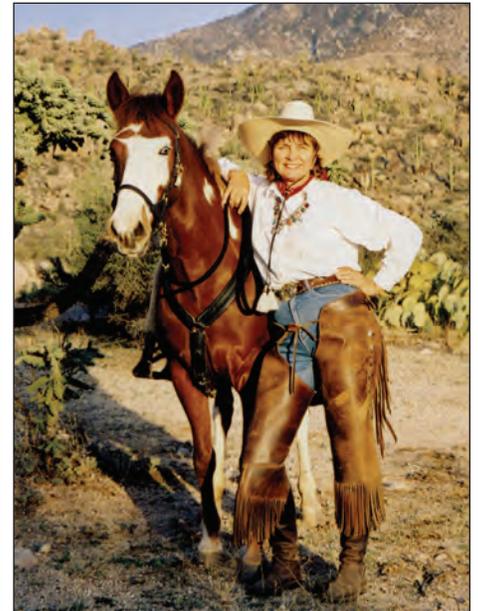
engaging history make them an interesting option for backyard flocks.

In 2014, **Friesian** horses will graduate from the CPL. Breeds graduate when the annual U.S. registrations exceed 5,000 per year or the global numbers exceed 25,000. At that point they are no longer in need of continuous monitoring, although we do continue to census these breeds every ten years. The Friesian horse is a historic driving and riding horse breed from the province of Friesland in The Netherlands. They were gravely endangered in the early twentieth century as automobiles replaced horse transportation. Strong breed association promotion in the Netherlands and North America rekindled interest in Friesian horses. Their striking appearance has been an asset in the re-emergence of the breed. The United States population is estimated at more than 8,000 horses, and there are more than 60,000 Friesians globally. ❖

Colonial Spanish Horses on the 2014 CPL

There are a number of changes to the listings for the Colonial Spanish Horse (CSH) on the 2014 *Conservation Priority List* (CPL). We at The Livestock Conservancy have always been a bit perplexed by how to list this type of horse because there are many distinct strains within the overall breed. Each of these strains has advocates who insist that their strain is distinct from the others and thus warrants individual listing. The problem with this approach is that these strains are more similar to one another by type and genetics than they are to any other equine breed in the United States. Some of these strains are, indeed, bred in isolation as a distinct population. Others are maintained in isolation, but also contribute to an overall composite Colonial Spanish Horse breed that is created by blending several strains together.

While strain conservation is important and helps to keep the CSH genetically viable, listing all the strains on the CPL does not really address the overall conservation situation very well. Our goal is to highlight the strains that are of priority for conservation while avoiding some of the inherent pitfalls. A common issue is that many of the strains of Colonial Spanish Horses are named for specific source herds (usually feral) that are still in existence,



Livestock Conservancy member Silke Schnider poses with her Wilbur-Cruce Colonial Spanish horse in the American Southwest. Photo by Pascale Maslin courtesy of Silke Schnider.

still go by the original name, but are no longer pure CSH due to crossbreeding. Listing these strains on the CPL could give the false impression that *all* horses going by that name would qualify as Colonial Spanish Horses, which is a disservice to the strain as well as to its conservation, because currently only a small number of

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THE LIVESTOCK CONSERVANCY™

Conservation Priority Livestock Breeds 2014

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

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

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

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

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

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

Breeds unique to North America are printed in bold.

¹ Some Milking Shorthorns qualify for the "N" (Native) designation. These animals have pedigrees tracing only to ancestors registered before the herdbook was opened to outcrosses with other dairy breeds; this is a globally endangered population. The status of any Milking Shorthorn can be verified through the AMSS.

² Cattlemen's Texas Longhorn Registry.



Conservation Priority Equine Breeds 2014

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

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

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

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

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

	Critical	Threatened	Watch	Recovering	Study
Asses	Poitou	American Mammoth Jackstock		Miniature Donkey	
Horses	American Cream Caspian Cleveland Bay Colonial Spanish Strains ¹ Banker ^{2,4} Choctaw ^{2,3} Florida Cracker ² Marsh Tacky ² Santa Cruz ² Wilbur-Cruce ² Hackney Horse Morgan – Traditional ⁵ Newfoundland Pony Shire Suffolk	Akhal-Teke Canadian Colonial Spanish – Combined ¹ Dales Pony Dartmoor Exmoor Lipizzan	Clydesdale Fell Pony Gotland Irish Draught Mountain Pleasure/ Rocky Mountain	Belgian	Galiceño

Breeds unique to North America are printed in bold.

¹ Includes horses registered by the Spanish Mustang Registry, Southwest Spanish Mustang Association, Spanish Barb Breeders Association, Horse of the Americas, American Indian Horse Registry, and several strain-specific registries. Feral horses from the Cerbat, Pryor, and Sulphur areas include many that would meet the criteria as well as some that do not.

² Colonial Spanish horse strains that are bred in isolation and also contribute to the combined population.

³ Includes Cherokee and Huasteca influenced horses.

⁴ Includes Shackleford, Ocracoke, Corolla, Carrot, Core, Hatteras, and Cedar horses.

⁵ Includes horses whose pedigrees are absent of outcrosses after 1930



THE LIVESTOCK CONSERVANCY™

Conservation Priority Poultry Breeds 2014

Critical: Fewer than 500 breeding birds in the United States, with five or fewer primary breeding flocks (50 birds or more), and estimated global population less than 1,000.

Threatened: Fewer than 1,000 breeding birds in the United States, with seven or fewer primary breeding flocks, and estimated global population less than 5,000.

Watch: Fewer than 5,000 breeding birds in the United States, with ten or fewer primary breeding flocks, and estimated global population less than 10,000. Also included are breeds that present genetic or numerical concerns or have a limited geographic distribution.

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

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

	Critical	Threatened	Watch	Recovering	Study
Chickens	Campine Chantecler Crevecoeur Holland Modern Game Nankin Redcap Russian Orloff Spanish Sultan Sumatra Yokohama	Andalusian Buckeye Buttercup Cubalaya Delaware Dorking Faverolle Java Lakenvelder Langshan Malay Phoenix	Ancona Aseel Brahma Catalana Cochin Cornish Dominique Hamburg Houdan Jersey Giant La Fleche Minorca New Hampshire Old English Game Polish Rhode Island White Sebright Shamo	Australorp Leghorn – Non-industrial Orpington Plymouth Rock Rhode Island Red – Non industrial Sussex Wyandotte	Araucana ¹ Icelandic Manx Rumpy or Persian Rumpless Saipan
Ducks	Ancona Aylesbury Magpie Saxony Silver Appleyard Welsh Harlequin	Buff or Orpington Cayuga	Campbell Rouen – Non-industrial Swedish	Runner or Indian Runner	Australian Spotted Dutch Hookbill
Geese	American Buff Cotton Patch Pilgrim Pomeranian Roman Shetland Steinbacher	Sebastopol	African Chinese Toulouse – Non-industrial		Gray
Turkeys	Beltsville Small White Chocolate Jersey Buff Lavender/Lilac Midget White	Narragansett White Holland	Black Bourbon Red Standard Bronze Royal Palm Slate		Naturally mating, non-standard varieties of turkeys

Breeds unique to North America are printed in bold.

¹ Araucana and Ameraucanas are often confused with each other and may be sold interchangeably.

Colonial Spanish Horses

Continued from page 4

those horses are of pure strains.

Recent developments in the horse market in the United States, influenced by the down economy, have put all horses at a disadvantage. Many people have had to downsize their herds or eliminate all of their horses completely. This is a serious threat and holds true for Colonial Spanish Horses, which remain a conservation priority, as well as other breeds.

Following is a listing of the various strains and our reasons for the way we listed them on the 2014 CPL. Strains listed separately are those that are distinct, that rarely contribute to a composite Colonial Spanish Horse, that have a robust breeder group of sufficient numbers and that have been maintained in isolation from the other strains for several decades.

Feral Strains

General Feral Strains will not be listed separately because in each Bureau of Land Management (BLM) area, it is now evident that most horses found there would not qualify as a CSH strain because they are obviously crossbred.

Kiger horses have never been accepted by The Livestock Conservancy as CHS strains because the *type* of the horses is different from the Colonial Spanish type. In addition, breeders of this strain tend to select away from the accepted CHS standard type, so these differences are likely to increase.

Sulphur horses remain an important strain. Their number is at the lower end of viability for conservation as a distinct, unmixed strain, and the feral herds now include only a small group of horses that would qualify as Colonial Spanish. For these reasons, we considered it best not to list them separately, but only under “Composite” since Sulphurs have historically contributed to the composite breed.

Pryor horses have a unique situation in that there is a continued popularity of the type found in horses that trace back to a non-Colonial Spanish horse introduced from Rock Springs BLM facility. This means that the genetic integrity of this herd has been compromised, and this is likely to increase in the future. For this reason, we have removed them as a sepa-



Banker Colonial Spanish horses running along the dunes on the North Carolina coast. Photo by Carolyn Mason.

rate strain, although horses with the correct CSH type and lack of Rock Springs ancestors are still considered Colonial Spanish.

Cerbat horse numbers are too low to conserve as a distinct strain, and the feral population is at dangerously low numbers or already extinct. We feel that it may be too misleading to list this strain separately, although Cerbat horses have contributed broadly to the composite.

Geographic Strains

Banker strains are problematic because the type is somewhat distinct from other Colonial Spanish strains. “Banker” specifically includes horses from Shackleford, Corolla, Ocracoke, Core, Hatteras, and Cedar islands. There are important differences among some of these strains, but the blanket “Banker” designation is still appropriate. We will continue to list them as a distinct strain, though, because numbers and genetic isolation are sufficient to assure that horses listed as “Banker” are, indeed, of the Banker strain. In addition, they rarely contribute to the composite Colonial Spanish breed.

Florida Cracker horses have sufficient numbers and isolation to be conserved as a distinct strain, and will continue to be listed separately. In addition, this strain rarely contributes to the composite CSH.

Marsh Tacky horses have sufficient numbers and isolation to be conserved as a distinct strain, and will continue to be listed separately. In addition, this strain rarely contributes to the composite CSH.

Santa Cruz horses are a problem because of their very low numbers, but their strain identity is secure. All horses that could be classified as Santa Cruz are of

Colonial Spanish type, and no other horses could be confused with this strain. They rarely, if ever, contribute to the composite Colonial Spanish Horse.

Galiceño horses are a separate breed.

They share a distinct genetic heritage with the Chilote of Chile. Both strains are more linked to the horses of Northern Spain than they are to those of Southern Spain, and have a distinct type and genetics. As a result, they are not included under the umbrella of “Colonial Spanish Horse” and should not be introduced into the Colonial Spanish gene pool.

Breeder Strains

Belsky horses are from a rare strain that has contributed to the composite. Few breeders are actively pure-breeding this strain, so it would be misleading to list it as a separate strain.



Jeannette Beranger and Elizabeth Gordon riding Santa Cruz Colonial Spanish horses at Sunshine Sanctuary in Los Molinos, CA. Photo by Angeliq Thompson.

Santa Cruz Island Sheep

By Alison Martin

In 1988, The Livestock Conservancy partnered with The Nature Conservancy to remove a flock of sheep from Santa Cruz Island, where they had been since the mid-1800s. This was one of the Conservancy's first breed rescues and remains a success story for our organization. In those early days, most of the sheep were raised in California, in a loosely organized conservation network.

Today, these sheep have spread to other states, but the breeder network is even looser than ever. The Livestock Conservancy manages the breed registry, and we have also launched a census to track down the remaining flocks. In recent years, the Swiss Village Foundation (SVF) has harvested genetic material from a reasonable percentage of the population to serve as an emergency reserve for the breed.

New Mexico Horse Project horses have been used in the composite Colonial Spanish Horse. There has been little activity directed to saving the pure-strain remnants of McKinley, Baca, and Mt. Taylor horses. They remain important, but at this time, listing them separately is more misleading than helpful. The origin of the New Mexico Horse Project horses has never been sufficiently validated for us to include them as Colonial Spanish Horses.

Wilbur-Cruce horses have active breeders and a distinct identity. This strain rarely contributes to the composite CSH, and will continue to be listed separately.

Tribal Strains

Choctaw horses (including Cherokee and Housateca) have active breeders and a distinct identity. They also have contributed to the composite CSH, but are listed separately because of the large number of horses maintained as a distinct strain.

Changes to our *Conservation Priority List* are made after great consideration by the Livestock Conservancy Programs staff and advisors. By continuing to obtain census information on breed populations, including their various strains, and tracking the conservation efforts of breeders, we can maintain a continual focus on our mission of genetic conservation. ❖



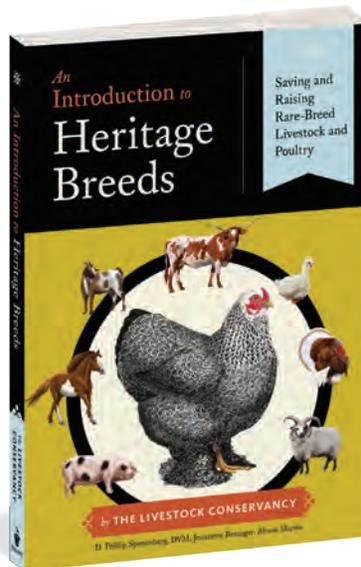
Santa Cruz Island sheep were one of the Conservancy's first breed rescues and remain a success story for our organization. Photo by Elizabeth Henson.

Additional conservation flocks would serve to improve the status of the breed. Santa Cruz Island sheep are still exquisitely adapted to range management in

climates approximating Santa Cruz Island, and have proven adaptable to other regions. They are rather small and slow growing, and their wool has unique elasticity. It has been called the Spandex™ of wool: you will learn more about that in the newsletter later this year. Because the breed is so gravely endangered, prospective owners should be experienced breeders, and willing to work with the Conservancy and other breeders for several years to adopt conservation breeding strategies. ❖

For more about Santa Cruz Island sheep, see: www.livestockconservancy.org/index.php/heritage/internal/santa-cruz. If you are raising Santa Cruz Island sheep, or are interested in doing so, please contact Alison Martin at amartin@albc-usa.org or (919) 542-5704, ext. 105.

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The Livestock Conservancy's very own D. Phillip Sponenberg, DVM, Jeannette Beranger, and Alison Martin, in partnership with Storey Publishing, have written the essential guide to heritage breeds. This inviting, visual, and definitive book explains why conserving heritage breeds is important and shows you how you can raise these breeds yourself, helping to save them and benefiting from them at the same time. The book includes information on chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, rabbits, pigs, sheep, goats, cattle, donkeys, and horses, detailing each breed's specific needs and characteristics so that you can select the one that's right for you. Whichever breed you choose, you'll find comprehensive information on how to raise it successfully and do your part to conserve these vital animals.



Workshop for Veterans

From Service to Stewardship - A Workshop for Veterans on Farming with Heritage Breeds of Livestock and Poultry

The Livestock Conservancy, Virginia Cooperative Extension, and the Farmer Veteran Coalition are sponsoring a two-day intensive workshop on June 6-7, 2014 in Warrenton, Virginia that will help transform today's veterans into tomorrow's farmers. This one-of-a-kind workshop will educate and train America's service men and women on the skills necessary to steward some of America's most historic and endangered farm animals. Please spread the word to veterans outside The Conservancy membership that you think might be interested.

Friday's program will include a full-day classroom session featuring many local farmers speaking about a variety of topics. On Saturday, attendees will select a track and visit local, successful small farm operations where they will get an up-close look at the realities of heritage breed farming. Over the course of the two days,



veterans will learn about hog production, poultry production, heritage cattle, small ruminant production, and getting started with livestock. In addition, veterans will be introduced to the marketing aspects of raising heritage breeds.

"Our goal is to help returning veterans and retired service members succeed financially in heritage breed, sustainable agriculture by providing them with the knowledge and skills they need," said Eric Hallman, Conservancy Executive Director.

Reservations for this workshop are \$95 on a first-come basis, with priority given to service men and women. After May 1st, The Livestock Conservancy will accept registrations from the general public.

Scholarships are available through The Livestock Conservancy; email Alison Martin at amartin@albc-usa.org to apply. For more information and to register, visit www.livestockconservancy.org or contact The Livestock Conservancy office. ❖

Conference Reflections



Livestock Conservancy member Neil Perin with his Dutch Belted cow at the Mother Earth News Fair in Pennsylvania. Photo by Jeannette Beranger.

By Neil Perin

My fiancé, Stephanie, and I were excited to attend The Livestock Conservancy conference together this past year. It was the first venture off the farm we had been able to participate in together, and as it was her first time attending, I was eager for her to get a chance to experience what has fueled my enthusiasm for participating annually. Working with and promoting rare and endangered breeds of livestock we normally find ourselves positioned as advocates and educators, so we certainly value the sparse opportunities to be amongst so many fellow enthusiasts. This year I took part in a diverse variety of lectures, but I was particularly benefited by attending the "Breed Registrations & Associations" seminar. Both having been, and currently being a board member for different associations, I found the overview and the course for actions helpful, as well as uncovering what it takes to make

registries a success. That, accompanied by attending the "When to Cull" seminar, has allowed me to gain a more comprehensive consideration in my farm management practices. I also found the "Heirloom Gardening for Heritage Livestock" session interesting, as we have plans for expanding our heirloom garden to incorporate more feed for our animals. I especially found the open discussion between the speakers and the room insightful for formulating unique ideas on how to cost-effectively bring organic produce to our pastured and woods-raised hog operation. We ended the conference in proper fashion, immersed in conversation amongst great people over a delicious meal. We continue to enjoy the items we won from the silent auction and look forward to seeing everyone again next year in Austin, Texas! ❖

A Tribute to Nils Berglund

By Don Bixby and Carolyn Christman

The Livestock Conservancy lost a valued friend with the passing of Nils A. Berglund of St. Albans, Vermont, in October 2013. Nils was a breed conservationist for more than 30 years and served as a regional leader, board member, and board chair for The Livestock Conservancy.

Fate often brings the right people to an enterprise at just the right time. Nils became involved with the Livestock Conservancy in the 1980s, as the organization (then called the American Minor Breeds Conservancy), was building its national reputation. His abilities were part of its success. He was one of a group of several leaders – including Phil Sponenberg, Elizabeth Henson, and Don Bixby – who travelled across the country, meeting people and learning about breed stocks and their population status. The result of this outreach was the creation of an expansive and energetic rare breeds network.

Nils grew up in farming country on Long Island. He graduated from the University of Vermont and earned an MA in Agriculture, with a specialty in dairy science, from the University of Connecticut in Storrs in 1976. It was during his graduate school years that Nils first discovered Milking Devon cattle. As Nils said later, from that point on they were always on his mind. His interest in the breed led him to travel around New England to meet the variety of farmers, breeders, and teamsters who were stewards of this historic, endangered breed. It also led him to the the American Minor Breeds Conservancy, which then was an organization with a regional reach, founded in 1977 by Tina Bielenberg, Ridge Shinn, Darwin Kelsey, James Nolfi, and others.

From 1976 to 1995, Nils served as Cooperative Extension agent in Suffolk County, New York. He was known for the depth and breadth of his knowledge and for his innovative strategies of management and marketing. He was a progressive farmer, raising every livestock species and a wide variety of breeds. In 1995, he retired to Vermont, establishing a farm with his partner Don Fournier and raising ducks, Devon cattle, and many other types of animals.



Nils had a long and productive collaboration with The American Minor Breeds Conservancy/American Livestock Breeds Conservancy staff, especially Don Bixby. Nils and Don met at the 1987 annual meeting in Michigan. At the time, Don was establishing a semen bank for conservation priority cattle. This process had begun by soliciting semen already collected and arranging for targeted custom collections so that the genetic breadth of each breed would be represented. Nils' network among Milking Devon breeders was invaluable in gathering semen from this key breed. His knowledge of other dairy breeds was also quite valuable. Nils' experience in the poultry world, both production and show, was instrumental in building contacts for the American Minor Breeds Conservancy/American Livestock Breeds Conservancy's poultry programs, which were developed by board member Roy Crawford and managed by staff member Carolyn Christman.

One of Nils' many talents was his willingness to reach out in friendship to anyone who shared his curiosity and commitment to rare breeds. One of Don's and Nil's most memorable trips was a whirlwind weekend tour of a dozen farms in the Northeast that were raising Milking Devons. It included lunch at Bruce Alexander's farm with massive Devon

burgers and homemade ice cream made from Devon cream, topped by strawberries. On this trip, the duo also stopped at one farm that was not part of the community. They drove past the farm gate three times before having the nerve to stop, but when they finally did, they found the farmer's son in the midst of cleaning a Canada gander that had been harassing his domestic geese. Nils and Don, unfazed by the scene, commiserated about the challenges of keeping stock safe, had a visit, and made another friend.

Nils served as president and board member of the American Milking Devon Cattle Association, and helped establish new Devon herds in many places, including one at the farm of Laurie Heise, then a member off the ALBC staff, and her husband, John Graybeal. He visited the Pittsboro office on the way to Laurie's farm, traveling with a pair of Welsh Corgis, as well as the Devons, in tow.

Nils served on the American Minor Breeds Conservancy/American Livestock Breeds Conservancy board for many years, including four years as Board Chair in the 1990s. He also served as a regional leader, organizing the New England Cabin Fever winter meetings, which brought many conservationists together. He savored the community and enjoyed even the most eccentric attendees. He attended most of The American Minor Breeds Conservancy/American Livestock Breeds Conservancy annual meetings, most recently the 2012 meeting where he gave a presentation on his history with the Milking Devon breed.

Many people share The Livestock Conservancy's mission, and Nils took a special interest in small-holders and old-timers. He knew that conservation rests on the intricacies of friendship and community as well as in the power of research and technology. Remembering Nils is to be reminded of the importance of all of our connections, which are built through visiting one another, sharing food and friendship, and seeing the views of beautiful and beloved stock from another person's porch. ❖

Don Bixby was Executive Director of TLC, 1988-2002, and Technical Program Director and Manager, 2002-2008. Carolyn Christman was Program Coordinator and Editor, 1987-1992.

CRITICAL BREED Highlights

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



CANADIENNE CATTLE

Use: Dairy
Adult Weight: 1100 - 1600 lbs
Temperament: Docile, Assertive
Experience Level: Intermediate
Notes: Produces about 15,000 lbs of milk per year; hardy, long lived
Breed Association: Societe des Eleveurs de Bovins Canadiens (www.clrc.on.ca/canadien.html)



TEXAS LONGHORN CATTLE

Use: Beef
Adult Weight: 600 - 1200 lbs
Temperament: Docile, Active
Experience Level: Novice - Intermediate
Notes: Efficient range cattle, longevity, fertility, adaptability
Breed Association: Texas Longhorn Cattle-men's Registry (www.ctr.org)



ARAPAWA GOATS

Use: Meat, some Dairy
Adult Weight: 60 - 125 lbs
Temperament: Alert
Experience Level: Novice
Notes: Hardy and adaptable
Breed Association: Arapawa Goat Breeders (www.arapawagoat.org)



CASPIAN HORSES

Use: Riding
Adult Weight: 400 - 600 lbs
Temperament: Docile, Alert
Experience Level: Novice
Notes: Diminutive horses; proportioned like a horse, not pony, good with children and crowds
Breed Association: Caspian Horse Society of the Americas (www.caspian.org), North American Caspian Society ([facebook.com/NorthAmericanCaspianSociety](https://www.facebook.com/NorthAmericanCaspianSociety))



HACKNEY HORSES

Use: Riding, Driving
Adult Weight: 1000 - 1200 lbs

Temperament: Docile, Spirited
Experience Level: Novice - Intermediate
Notes: Long, reaching stride, fluid shoulder action, athletic, gaited, extremely rare
Breed Associations: American Hackney Horse Society (www.hackneysociety.com), Hackney Horse Affiliates (www.neosoft.com/~hackneys/affiliat.html)



MORGAN - TRADITIONAL HORSES

Use: Driving, Riding
Adult Weight: 800 - 1000 lbs
Temperament: Variable, Docile, Willing
Experience Level: Beginner - Intermediate
Notes: An American breed, developed as an "all-rounder." Advanced horsemen enjoy using Morgans in a variety of disciplines, from dressage to working cattle.
Breed Associations: American Morgan Horse Association, Inc. (www.morganhorse.com), Lippitt Morgan Breeders' Association (www.lippittmorganbreedersassociation.com), The Lippitt Morgan Horse Registry, Inc. (www.thelippittmorganhorseregistry.com), Cornerstone Morgan Horse Club (www.CornerstoneMorganHorseClub.com)



GLOUCESTERSHIRE OLD SPOTS PIGS

Use: Lean meat
Adult Weight: 300 lbs (male), 275 lbs (female)
Hanging Weight: 162 lbs
Temperament: Docile
Breed Association(s): Gloucestershire Old Spots Pigs of America (www.gosamerica.org), Gloucestershire Old Spots Pig Breeders United (www.gospbu.org)



AMERICAN CHINCHILLA RABBITS

Use: Meat, Fur
Adult Weight: 9 - 12 lbs
Temperament: Docile
Experience Level: Novice
Notes: Fast growth; good meat to bone ratio
Breed Associations: American Chinchilla Rabbit Breeders Association (<http://americanchinchillarabbitbreedersassociation.com>)



HOG ISLAND SHEEP

Use: Wool, Living History Museums
Adult Weight: 90 -150 lbs
Temperament: Alert, Docile
Experience Level: Intermediate
Unique adaptations: Self-sufficient, excellent foragers, prefer browsing over grazing
Breed Associations: Hog Island Sheep Association (<http://hogislandsheep.org/index.html>), Hog Island Sheep Registry (www.livestockconservancy.org)



NANKIN CHICKENS

Use: Eggs, Broody hens
Egg Color: Creamy white
Egg Size: Small
Market Weight: 22 – 24 oz.

Temperament: Calm
Characteristics: Exceptionally good setters
Breed Association: Nankin Club of America



RUSSIAN ORLOFF CHICKENS

Use: Meat
Egg Color: Light Brown
Egg Size: Small
Market Weight: 6.5 – 8.5 lbs
Temperament: Calm but not docile
Characteristics: Very hardy, cold tolerant
Breed Association: N/A



YOKOHAMA CHICKENS

Use: Ornamental
Egg Color: Light Tinted Brown
Egg Size: Small
Market Weight: 3.5 – 4.5 lbs
Temperament: Active, Alert
Characteristics: Long tail feathers, Tails of roosters can grow 3 feet per year
Breed Association: N/A



AYLESBURY DUCKS

Use: Meat
Egg Color: White or Tinted Green
Egg Size: Extra Large
Market Weight: 4-6 lbs.
Temperament: Docile
Breed Association: N/A



WELSH HARLEQUIN DUCKS

Use: Meat, Eggs
Egg Color: White, Tinted
Egg Size: Large
Market Weight: 4.5-5 lbs
Temperament: Docile, Active
Breed Association: N/A



POMERANIAN GEESE

Use: Meat
Egg Color: White
Egg Size: Large
Market Weight: 13 - 15 lbs
Temperament: Some males are aggressive
Breed Association: N/A



MIDGET WHITE TURKEYS

Use: Dual
Egg Color: Pale cream to medium brown with spotting
Egg Size: Large
Market Weight: 14 - 23 lbs
Temperament: Highly dependent on selection by breeder; some select for aggressiveness, others for docility
Breed Association: N/A

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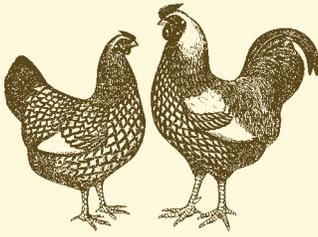


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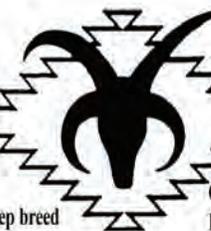
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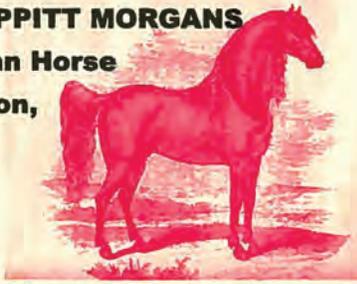
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CALENDAR

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April

April 5-6 – The Homestead Expo will be held in Tulsa, OK. The Homestead Expo explores self-reliance, organic gardening, eco-building, natural living products, organic foods, renewable energy, natural healing, farming, sustainable living, buying local, arts, crafts, and more. For more information visit www.homesteadexpo.com.

★ **April 12-13 – The Mother Earth News Fair** will be held in Asheville, NC. This family-oriented sustainable lifestyle event features practical, hands-on demonstrations and workshops on everything from beekeeping to using solar electricity. For more information visit www.motherearthnews.com/fair.

April 17 – The Third Annual Highland Cattle Auction in SW Missouri will take

place at Norwood Sale Barn in Norwood, MO. Both registered and unregistered Highlands at the sale. Check out consignments at www.highlandcattleauction.com; email hairycows@centurytel.net, or call (417) 693-0858 or (417)369-0505 for more information.

April 25-27 – The Florida Cracker Horse Association Spring Gathering will be held at Tillis Hill State Recreation Area. Call (352) 796-5650 or (352) 344-4238 to make your reservations.

May

May 3-4 – The Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival will be at the Howard County Fairgrounds in West Friendship, MD. For more information visit www.sheepandwool.org.

May 18 – The Garfield Farm Museum's 28th Annual Rare Breeds Show will take place in Campton Hills, IL from 11am to 4pm. Breeders from around the Midwest will display rare and historic types of livestock. Individual breeders may offer livestock and poultry for sale. Member participation by The Livestock Conservancy. For more information, email info@garfieldfarm.org or visit www.garfieldfarm.org.

★ **May 31 - June 1 – The Mother Earth News Fair** will be held in Puyallup, WA. This family-oriented sustainable lifestyle event features practical, hands-on demon-

strations and workshops on everything from beekeeping to using solar electricity. Visit www.motherearthnews.com/fair for more information.

June

★★ **June 6-7 – From Service to Stewardship Workshop** for veterans will be held in Warrenton, VA. A two-day intensive workshop sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension, The Livestock Conservancy, and the Farmer Veteran Coalition that will help transform today's veterans into tomorrow's farmers. Visit www.livestockconservancy.org/index.php/news/internal/veterans-workshop for more information.

June 13-15 – The American Junior Red Poll Association Summer Preview Show will be held at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in Madison, IN. For more information visit www.redpollusa.org.

★ **June 17-20 – The 70th Annual Meeting of the American Cream Draft Horse Association** will be held at Colonial Williamsburg, in Virginia. The meeting includes a Q & A session by Livestock Conservancy Technical Advisor Dr. Phil Sponenberg. Visit www.acdha.org or contact Frank Tremel at rosehillcreams@aol.com for more information.

June 21-22 – The Vermont History Expo will take place at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds in Tunbridge, VT. Over 100 local historical societies; 50 museum and heritage organizations; authors, musicians, genealogists, crafters and other talented professionals offer workshops, parades, Revolutionary and Civil War re-enactments, performances and demonstrations, including a Heritage Animals Exhibit. Visit <http://vermonthistory.org/community-resources/vermont-history-expo> for more information.



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