



THE LIVESTOCK CONSERVANCY™

Conserving rare breeds since 1977
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NEWS

Finishing Ducks, page 2

Building a Brooder, page 5

2022 Conservation Priority Lists, page 6

Shorthorns: What's In a Name?, page 12

Vote for 2022 Board of Directors, page 14

Pass It On - Fred Groverman and
Luther Clevenger, page 24

2020 Microgrant recipient Martha Hoffman Kerestes and her husband Brian hold a Heritage Shorthorn-Native calf. This versatile breed moved from Critical to Threatened on the 2022 Conservation Priority List thanks in no small part to dedicated breeders like these newlyweds. Photo courtesy of Martha Hoffman Kerestes.

THE FINISHING TOUCH FOR DUCKS

By Jeannette Beranger

This article is the third in a series dedicated to the art of finishing heritage breeds for the table. You can read the first installment in the Autumn 2021 edition.

Ducks have enjoyed an agricultural renaissance in recent years. Many smallholders and hobby farmers have discovered the many qualities that make ducks hard to resist. Ducklings are very hardy and grow very rapidly. Some varieties can out lay chickens by no small margin, and the meat is absolutely delectable. What's not to like about ducks – except they can be a bit messy.

DUCK EGGS

There are many culinary advantages to duck eggs. You can use duck eggs any way you would use chicken eggs,

but to see them truly shine, use duck eggs when you make pastry and pasta. Duck eggs are rich and flavorful and have a consistency that lends itself well to pastry (with the exception of lighter dishes like angel food cake). Duck eggs can also be an alternative for people with chicken-egg allergies, which has helped raise the profile of ducks on American farms over the past 10 years.

A prominent component in Asian cuisine, duck eggs are used in a wide variety of dishes, including the famous “century egg” of China that is cured in an alkaline solution over several weeks or months, not a century.

An interesting product known as “balut” that has a growing market in the U.S. among Vietnamese and Filipino communities also uses duck eggs. Balut is considered one of the national dishes of the Philippines and can be found as a

common street food in Manila.

John Metzger of Metzger Farms, one of the largest producers of duck eggs in the U.S., explained that balut uses eggs incubated for a period of 17-18 days then removed from the incubator. In Vietnam, the eggs are kept uncooked until they are brought home from markets and then steamed. In the Philippines, the eggs are steamed immediately upon removal from the incubator, refrigerated, and then sold as street food. On the West Coast, there are emerging marketers within the Vietnamese and Philippine communities who enjoy preparing dishes that remind them of “home.”

DUCKS ARE NOT HARD TO PLUCK

You may have heard that ducks are hard to pluck and that you need wax to do a good job. Like chickens, it is a matter of understanding the molting

CONTACT US

The Livestock Conservancy
PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312
www.livestockconservancy.org
info@livestockconservancy.org
(919) 542-5704

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Photo of homemade duck rilette by Jeannette Beranger. Find this easy-to-make recipe with whole duck, herbs, spices, orange zest, fat, and a little brandy on Allrecipes at <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/239783/duck-rillettes>.

cycle. Ducks go through several molts in their first year, including at 7 weeks, 12 weeks, and 17 weeks. They should ideally be processed before they begin a molt to make it easier for you to pluck. Plan to process your ducks when a majority of their feathers are mature, and they have few pin feathers.

Long-time duck breeder, Frank Reese of Good Shepherd Ranch, had a lot to say on the topic. For generations his family raised ducks on their farm. He said that with wax, you can pluck any time, whether the ducks are molting or not. Plucking with wax involves melting 2-3 inches of melted beeswax (duck wax) in 160-to-180-degree Fahrenheit water. The bird is dunked 4-5 times with a cooling period between each dip to ensure the wax hardens before the next dip. The bird should be thickly coated and the wax well hardened before it is hand or mechanically plucked.

If you don't want to go to the expense and bother of wax, time processing around molting. Frank's mother had an approach to removing pin feathers. After she plucked a duck, she would spin the carcass over a stove burner to get rid of the stubborn pinfeathers. Today, most people use a torch to do this.

WHEN IS A DUCK NOT A DUCK?

USDA divides duck meat into the

following categories:

- **Broiler or Fryer Duckling** - a young duck usually under 8 weeks of age of either sex that is tender-meated, has a soft bill, and a soft windpipe. Ducklings classified as broiler-fryers weigh from 3 to 6 ½ pounds.
- **Roaster Duckling** - a young duck usually under 16 weeks of age of either sex that is tender-meated, has a bill that is not completely hardened, and a windpipe that is easily dented. These ducklings usually weigh from 4 to 7 ½ pounds.
- **Mature or Old Duck** - a duck usually over 6 months of age of either sex with toughened flesh and a hardened bill. These ducks are usually too old to lay eggs and their meat is used in processed products.

The most familiar common duck meat is the broiler or fryer duckling. Some heritage breed ducks can be processed at around 8 weeks; Julie Gauthier of Chickcharney Farm processed her Saxony and Magpie ducks at this age. The Magpies finished around 2 lbs. and the Saxony ducks at about 3 ½ lbs. She said they could have been kept longer but when assessing the feed consumption verses potential profit, it made more sense to process at this age. When she timed it right, she said there were no pinfeathers and no need for wax. For

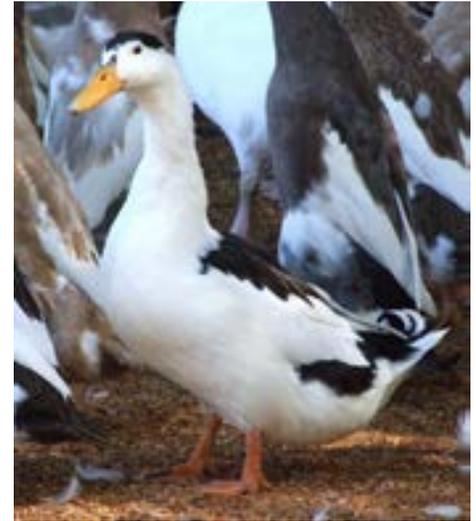
some of the smaller or slower-growing breeds, it may be closer to the 12 weeks for ideal processing. At Good Shepherd Ranch, their Silver Appleyards produce a nice 5 ½ lb. table bird at this age.

I asked a number of breeders if there was any particular finishing diet to consider for ducks and I got the same response from all – no. Vivianne Lapp of Lilac Hill Farm likes her birds to grow slowly to develop a deeper flavor. They are fed a regular duck ration feed twice a day and given only the amount of food that they can consume in 15 minutes; then they are put on pasture and feed on almost any bug that moves. She believes good foraging opportunities provide the most important ingredients for a flavorful bird.

You can use a wide variety of recipes for duckling, including almost anything that you cook with chicken. The flavor of duckling is more pronounced and richer than chicken and is a real treat.

LIQUID GLORY

Duck fat is nothing short of a culinary liquid glory. In my opinion, almost anything cooked in duck fat tastes better, especially when it is substituted for vegetable oil. Even fryer and roaster duckling will produce a good amount of fat, which helps to crisp the skin and keep the meat moist.



(Top left) Duck bacon from Livestock Conservancy Ambassador Ariane Daigan's D'Artagnan Foods. (Top right) Separated duck fat, also known as liquid glory. Substitute duck fat for vegetable oil to improve any recipe. (Bottom) Magpie drake, listed as Threatened on the 2022 Conservation Priority List. All photos by Jeannette Beranger.

When cooking duck at any age, be sure to capture the bounty of fat by collecting the liquid at the bottom of the roasting pan. Put this liquid in a bowl or cup. Once it cools, put the combined juice and fat in the refrigerator overnight so the fat can thicken and be more easily skimmed. Once all the fat is skimmed, I use the remaining juices for making sauce or to put into stock made from the leftover duck and bones.

DID SOMEONE SAY BACON?

Yes, you can make bacon and other cured products from duckling and older birds thanks to the fat they carry. I've not attempted to make my own bacon yet, but I just received my first batch of curing salt and am eager to try.

DUCK AND COVER

You can use a wide variety of recipes for duckling, including almost any for chicken. The flavor of duckling is more pronounced and richer than chicken.

Mature or old duck has a more pronounced flavor than a duckling. As

with most older fowl, you need to take a different cooking approach, usually moist cooking techniques and longer cooking times, because the meat is much firmer. Stewing is an obvious choice, but slow roasting can produce a beautifully moist bird that can be used in many recipes. Cover or tightly wrap mature or old ducks in foil and slow roast at 275 degrees Fahrenheit for five to six hours. Strip the carcass; the shredded meat can be added to a multitude of dishes, such as casseroles.

You can also get more creative and try one of my favorite dishes – a country style paté called “rillette.” The abundance of fat from a mature duck gives you a good base for creating this dish which is served cold to spread over bread as an appetizer for a special meal. I found an amazing rillette recipe at Allrecipes (<https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/239783/duck-rillettes/>) which made the process easy and the end result absolutely delicious. As I often do, I used the staff of The Livestock Conservancy as my tasting audience, and the rillette

received a unanimous thumbs up! For those that had never eaten paté, it was a real surprise and they came back for second and third helpings.

UP NEXT ...

In the next installment of *The Finishing Touch*, we will discuss finishing heritage turkeys. I hope you are enjoying our articles! If you have any questions or would like to share your experiences finishing or eating these animals, email us at info@livestockconservancy.org.

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

HATCHING A PLAN TO BUILD A GOOSE BROODER

By Audrey Morris

I began my flock of Cotton Patch geese in the fall of 2020 with a breeding trio and one offspring. A member of the Cotton Patch Goose Society was moving and needed to place her geese quickly. I drove them from Oklahoma to my farm in Kansas to develop a quality breeding program and help increase the critically-endangered breed's numbers.

I knew my current housing facility would not support hatching and brooding for two pairs of Cotton Patch geese. Having quality infrastructure can make all the difference. Building a new facility would make it a lot easier for me to ensure genetic diversity within my flock and keep the geese from nest sharing and egg stealing. This also increases my hatch rate by encouraging natural incubation.

I received a 2020 National Microgrant to build a four-stall hatching/brooding facility. Unfortunately, with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, supply chain issues, and soaring prices my plan needed to change. Lumber prices had nearly tripled from the time estimates were gathered to the time grant funds were available to purchase materials. So I purchased as many upcycled materials as possible to build within my budget.

Instead of a four-stall facility, I re-designed the hatching/brooding facility to include a 10'x20' structure built on 24' skids with a removable divider to provide each Cotton Patch goose breeding pair a large 5'x10' area and outside yard. The new design also allowed for mobility to fresh grazing areas once goslings hatched, as well as throughout the rest of the year for the entire flock.

I began purchasing materials in January 2021. My husband and I built the hatching/brooding structure during evenings and weekends because we both work full time jobs in addition to farming.

Brooding season typically begins in March, but Mother Nature had her own ideas. In January, my Cotton Patch geese began laying eggs 8 weeks early. In February, during a winter vortex, I moved the flock into my 30'x72' high tunnel to protect them because the new hatching/brooding facility was not yet complete. Ten goslings successfully hatched and



Cotton Patch geese at Morris Meadows Farm (top left). Audrey Morris constructing the re-designed goose hatching/brooding facility (top right). Audrey celebrates the final phase of building her new structure (bottom left). The new brooder was built with support from a Livestock Conservancy Microgrant (bottom right). All photos courtesy of Audrey Morris.

were rehomed to Oklahoma, Nebraska, Missouri, and Kansas.

Because of early laying and hatching, I had not yet realized the benefits of the facility for its intended breeding purposes. However, the Cotton Patch geese have enjoyed the summer, fall, and winter in the protected environment, free from predation, to prepare for the long brooding and hatching period.

Using ingenuity, imagination, and hard work Morris Meadows Farm was able to build a hatching/brooding infrastructure large enough and mobile enough to be used throughout the entire year, not just for hatching and brooding season.

I also purchased two unrelated Cotton Patch ganders in the spring and removed siblings from my breeding program, growing my flock to 3 breeding pairs. Each pair consists of a new young gander with an experienced goose.

The divider was installed in December to keep breeding pairs separated. The third pair is utilizing my previous structure positioned next to the new structure.

The funds received through the 2020 Livestock Conservancy Microgrant Program were instrumental to the success of my new Cotton Patch geese breeding program. The new facility is used for more than just breeding. The mobile containment system is providing a comfortable and secure facility to house my flock throughout the entire year.

Audrey Morris is the Owner/Operator of Morris Meadows Farm in Louisburg, Kansas, where she raises Cotton Patch geese, broiler chickens, and organic produce with her husband Don.

2022 CONSERVATION PRIORITY LIST UPDATES



(Top) Heritage Shorthorn - Native cattle herd, photo by Jeannette Beranger. (Below) Soay - British sheep, photo by Phil Sponenberg.

The Livestock Conservancy publishes its annual Conservation Priority List (CPL) of endangered livestock and poultry breeds each spring. We rely on data provided by breed associations, clubs, registries, and breeders to assess each breed's endangerment status and conservation needs.

Because the population sizes of breeds are ever-changing, livestock breed numbers are gathered every year using a census of breed registrations. This method is based on the recognition that purebred livestock are the ones most likely to be registered. They are also the ones most likely to contribute their genes to the next generation.

Poultry and rabbit breed numbers are counted differently since they are not registered. The Livestock Conservancy conducts a national survey of poultry breeders about every 5 years to estimate the numbers of flocks and flock sizes for each breed. Rabbit breed populations are estimated from numbers reported at rabbit shows across a 5-year period.

Many breeds on the CPL originated in the United States and Canada, or they have been in the Americas for many years. For those breeds, CPL classification is based on domestic numbers. For international breeds, American populations are one only part of a global total. For these breeds, numbers provided by organizations in other countries help to determine their CPL placement.

LIVESTOCK

The 2021-2022 breed census confirmed the ongoing commitment of

heritage breed associations and breeders to conservation of their breeds. Their hard work maintained stable population numbers for many breeds, despite a difficult year for many farmers. While most breeds did not change categories, a few important changes did occur.

HERITAGE SHORTHORN - NATIVE CATTLE

Heritage Shorthorns, also known as Milking Shorthorn – Native, take an encouraging step from Critical to Threatened this year. The breed's inherent versatility and some significant promotional efforts by breed associations and breeders in recent years, helped increase the Shorthorn's popularity. The Heritage Shorthorn's docile nature, milk producing ability, feed efficiency, maternal instincts, and good rate of growth make them the ideal cattle for a variety of farming situations.

Through the foresight of several breeders, there exists a large reservoir of Heritage Shorthorn semen that dates as far back as the 1950's. This valuable resource, which is still fairly uncommon for rare breeds, offers Shorthorn breeders access to genetic material for diversifying their herds.

From family milk cows to commercial beef production, Shorthorns are a true dual-purpose breed. As discerning farmers and consumers become more aware of all the breed's positive attributes, Heritage Shorthorns numbers should continue to grow.

BRITISH SOAY SHEEP

British Soay come onto the CPL in 2022 as a Threatened breed. This is an ancient, short-tailed sheep that descends from a feral population on Soay, an island in the St. Kilda archipelago of Scotland's Outer Hebrides. While the primary population remains on the islands, some of the sheep were brought onto the U.K. mainland, and were later exported to Europe and North America. The population on the islands fluctuates between about 800 to 2000 sheep, and the population is now closed to emigration or immigration.

About 450 Soay sheep were registered in the U.K. in 2021, and about 90 British Soay were registered from North America. Registration occurs through the Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST) Combined Flock Book.

Soay sheep are small (50-80 lbs.), nimble and almost deer-like sheep, with slender bones and clean faces and legs. Their small stature belies the breed's



2022 CONSERVATION PRIORITY LIVESTOCK BREEDS

Critical (C) Breeds with fewer than 200 annual registrations in the United States and an estimated global population less than 2,000. For rabbits, fewer than 50 annual registrations in the U.S., estimated global population less than 500, fewer than 150 recorded at rabbit shows in the previous 5 years, and 10 or fewer breeders.

Threatened (T) Breeds with fewer than 1,000 annual registrations in the U.S. and an estimated global population less than 5,000. For rabbits, fewer than 100 annual registrations in the U.S., and estimated global population less than 1,000, fewer than 300 recorded at rabbit shows in the previous 5 years, and 11-30 breeders.

Watch (W) Breeds that present genetic or numerical concerns or have a limited geographic distribution, with fewer than 2,500 annual registrations in the U.S. and an estimated global population less than 10,000. For rabbits, fewer than 200 annual registrations in the U.S., estimated global population less than 2,000, fewer than 500 recorded at rabbit shows in the previous 5 years, and 31-60 breeders.

Recovering (R) Breeds once listed in another category, but have exceeded Watch category numbers and still need monitoring. For rabbits, more than 500 recorded at rabbit shows in the last 5 years, and more than 60 breeders.



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NORTH AMERICAN BREEDS

CATTLE 
 Canadienne (C)
 Milking Devon (C)
 Randall or
 Randall Lineback (C)
 Texas Longhorn (CTRLR -
 Cattleman's Texas
 Longhorn Registry) (C)
 Florida Cracker (T)
 Pineywoods (T)

GOATS 
 San Clemente
 Island (C)
 Spanish (W)
 Myotonic or
 Tennessee
 Fainting (R)

PIGS 
 Choctaw (C)
 Mulefoot (C)
 Ossabaw Island (C)
 Guinea Hog (T)
 Red Wattle (T)
 Hereford (R)

RABBITS 
 Silver Marten (C)
 American (W)
 American
 Chinchilla (W)
 Giant Chinchilla (W)
 Palomino (W)
 Silver Fox (R)

SHEEP 
 Florida Cracker (C)
 Gulf Coast or
 Gulf Coast Native (C)
 Hog Island (C)
 Navajo-Churro (C)
 Santa Cruz (C)
 Jacob - American (T)
 Karakul - American (T)
 Romeldale / CVM (T)
 Barbados Blackbelly (W)
 St. Croix (W)
 Tunis (W)

BREEDS IMPORTED BEFORE 1900

CATTLE 
 Dutch Belted (C)
 Heritage Shorthorn - Native* (T)
 Red Poll (T)
 Guernsey (W)
 Galloway (R)
 Dexter (R)
 Red Devon (R)

*Milking Shorthorns that qualify for the "Native" designation are identified as pure, old line, dual purpose Milking Shorthorns, by the AMSS office.

PIGS 
 Tamworth (W)

RABBITS 
 Belgian Hare (R)
 Beveren (R)

SHEEP 
 Cotswold (T)
 Dorset Horn (T)
 Lincoln (T)
 Oxford (W)
 Shropshire (W)
 Southdown (R)

BREEDS IMPORTED AFTER 1900

CATTLE 
 Kerry (C)
 Lincoln Red (C)
 Ancient White Park (T)
 Belted Galloway (W)
 Ankole-Watusi (R)

GOATS 
 Arapawa (C)
 Oberhasli (R)

PIGS 
 Large Black (C)
 Meishan (C)
 Gloucestershire
 Old Spots (T)

RABBITS 
 Blanc de Hotot (C)
 Silver (C)
 Argente Brun (T)
 Checkered Giant (T)
 Creme d'Argent (T)
 Standard Chinchilla (T)
 Lilac (W)
 Rhinelander (W)

SHEEP 
 Teeswater (C)
 Black Welsh
 Mountain (T)
 Clun Forest (T)
 Leicester Longwool (T)
 Soay - British (T)
 Wiltshire Horn (W)
 Shetland (R)

hardiness, resilience, and self-sufficiency. Isolated on Soay for thousands of years, the breed was shaped by the harsh North Atlantic environment into a cold-hardy, parasite-and-disease-resistant sheep. Ewes can lamb easily for up to 10 years and they are good mothers. The breed can thrive on marginal pasture that would be inadequate for other sheep breeds, but they can become overweight quickly on lush grass or grain.

Soay wool is shed in the springtime and can be rooed by hand. Fiber quality varies from wooly to kempy with colors ranging from light brown to near black. Soay also produce a mild-tasting, low-fat meat. With their small size and lighter impact on the soil, they are useful for ecologically-sound grazing.

Two types of Soay sheep are present in North America: the British Soay and the American Soay. The latter is a larger sheep that is not listed on the CPL. British Soay sheep born in North America can be registered in the RBST Combined Flock Book if their parents were registered in that Flock Book. The British Soay sheep will be added to the Shave 'Em to Save 'Em Initiative this year.

POULTRY

It's been just over five years since our last poultry census, and many changes in breed numbers have occurred since then. The 2021 National Poultry Census was completed last winter, and the very detailed data provided by more than 2,000 breeders is being analyzed for a final report. The 2021 census took a different approach from past surveys by counting not only the numbers of flocks but also the sizes of the individual flocks. Information on the color varieties within the breeds was also gathered.

CHICKENS

The species with the most changes this year is the chicken. A total of 18 chicken breeds became more endangered during the last five years. The Buttercup, Catalana, Java, and Shamo move down from Watch to Critical this year. Each breed's numbers plummeted from more than 1,000 breeding birds to fewer than 500 breeding birds reported in the U.S. The Cubalaya, Houdan, Sebright, and Aseel also fell in numbers, and moved from Threatened to Critical. The Ancona, Andalusian, Buckeye, Cornish, Dorking,



Buttercup chicken



Houdan chicken



Cornish chicken



Nankin chicken



Pomeranian geese



Slate turkey

Poultry photos by Jeannette Beranger.

Hamburg, Langshan, Minorca, New Hampshire, and Sumatra, moved from Watch to Threatened.

The good news for chickens is with the Crevecoeur, Modern Game, and Nankin breeds. All three moved from Critical to Threatened. The Faverolles, which have enjoyed a big uptick in interest, moved into the Watch category. They are attractive birds that lay well and are also good meat birds, assuring their place on many farms.

DUCKS, GEESE, AND TURKEYS

Only three breeds within these species have CPL changes this year. There are no changes for ducks, but within geese, the Pomeranian slipped in numbers and moves from Threatened to Critical. The

Slate turkey also declined in numbers and moves from Watch to Threatened.

The big success story of the year is the Cotton Patch goose. The breed was very near extinction, but has become more secure in the last five years and moves from Critical to Threatened. These geese are a regional American treasure with a deep history in the Southern agricultural practices that kept families together and fed for generations. The Cotton Patch is a small-to-medium-sized goose. It has the autosexing trait of white ganders and grey or grey saddleback geese. The breed is fortunate to maintain a foothold in its traditional setting while also expanding in numbers among poultry breeders across the nation who appreciate their heritage and unique attributes. The 2021

2022 CONSERVATION PRIORITY POULTRY BREEDS

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

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

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

Recovering (R) Breeds once listed in another category, but have exceeded Watch category numbers, and still need monitoring.



THE LIVESTOCK
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NORTH AMERICAN BREEDS

CHICKENS



Holland (C)
Cubalaya (C)
Java (C)
Buckeye (T)
New Hampshire (T)
Rhode Island White (T)
Chantecler (W)
Delaware (W)
Dominique (W)
Jersey Giant (W)
Rhode Island Red -
Non-Industrial (W)
Plymouth Rock (R)



DUCKS

Ancona (W)
Cayuga (W)



GEESE

Cotton Patch (T)
Pilgrim (T)
American Buff (W)



TURKEYS

Beltsville Small White (C)
Black (T)
Royal Palm (T)
Slate (T)
White Holland (T)
Bourbon Red (W)
Bronze (W)
Narragansett (W)
All Other Varieties* (W)

*Varieties that are distinct, but not APA recognized include Chocolate, Jersey Buff, Lavender, Midget White, and other distinct color varieties. Does not include broad-breasted varieties because they are not endangered.

Breed identity in poultry is challenging. Breeders of all kinds, including exhibition, production, and hatchery, are diligent in breeding standard-bred birds. Other breeders sometimes resort to crossbreeding to achieve their goals and promote their birds as standard-bred. The Livestock Conservancy is unable to validate each breeding program, but buyers are encouraged to ask if birds are purebred and meet breed standards.

BREEDS IMPORTED BEFORE 1900

CHICKENS



Campine (C)
Houdan (C)
La Fleche (C)
Malay (C)
Redcap (C)
Sebright (C)
Sultan (C)
White-Faced
Black Spanish (C)

Ancona (T)
Andalusian (T)
Cornish (T)
Crévecoeur (T)
Dorking (T)
Hamburg (T)
Langshan (T)
Minorca (T)
Modern Game (T)
Sumatra (T)

DUCKS

Polish (W)
Brahma (R)
Cochin (R)
Leghorn -
Non-Industrial (R)



DUCKS

Aylesbury (C)
Buff or Orpington (T)
Rouen - Non-Industrial (W)



GEESE

Pomeranian (C)
Sebastopol (T)
African (W)
Chinese (W)
Toulouse - Dewlap (W)

BREEDS IMPORTED AFTER 1900

CHICKENS



Aseel (C)
Buttercup (C)
Catalana (C)
Shamo (C)
Yokohama (C)
Icelandic (T)
Lakenvelder (T)
Nankin (T)
Old English Game (T)

Russian Orloff (T)
Spitzhauben (T)
Faverolles (W)
Phoenix (W)
Australorp (R)
Sussex (R)



DUCKS

Dutch Hookbill (C)
Magpie (T)
Saxony (T)
Silver Appleyard (T)
Campbell (W)
Swedish (W)
Welsh Harlequin (W)
Runner or
Indian Runner (R)



GEESE

Roman (C)
Shetland (C)
Steinbacher (C)



Colonial Spanish, Choctaw strain, foals play at Rickman Spanish Mustangs Ranch in Oklahoma. Photo by Brittany Sweeney.

poultry census found roughly 950 geese, with many small flocks in the U.S. and Canada. There are also a few large flocks and a good many medium-sized flocks in North America. That population structure offers great hope for the security and future of Cotton Patch geese.

COLONIAL SPANISH HORSES

The Colonial Spanish group consists of a number of different populations that all descend from horses brought to the New World by Spanish explorers and conquistadors hundreds of years ago. These horses served as valuable mounts, pack, and draft animals for explorers, indigenous peoples, cavalry, and ranchers, and they were once widespread and numerous. Over time, feral, tribal and ranch herds became differentiated from one another by both natural and human selection.

Despite their enduring hardiness, endurance, and beauty, numbers of Colonial Spanish horses declined greatly during the 1800s, and many regional strains were simply folded into other breeds that were growing in popularity.

A few of the remaining pure Colonial Spanish strains were carefully stewarded for generations to maintain their genetic integrity and distinctive traits. Some strains have established independent,

stand-alone registries and conservation programs, and those strains are listed individually on the CPL.

Strains with populations that are too small to easily stand alone are classified under the CPL heading of "Colonial Spanish Horses." These include the Choctaw, Baca-Chica, Santa Cruz, Sulphur, and Wilbur-Cruce horses, as well as some other small but purebred populations. With persistently low numbers of registrations for several years, this Colonial Spanish group moves from Threatened to Critical in 2022. While the strains are low in numbers right now, each one persists due to the work of tenacious breeders who are dedicated to conserving the horses.

Many of these horses are found in the Western states, where they fit beautifully into roles like ranch work, competitive trail riding, endurance, packing, and equitation. Some are even making a name for themselves on the East Coast within fox-hunting, driving and dressage circles. With more collaboration, promotion, and genetic conservation, these hardy and intelligent horses deserve to see a resurgence in the future.

SECURING A STRONGER FUTURE

There is no simple recipe for saving breeds. A great many factors play a role

in securing breed populations, including some luck, but those that do move up on the CPL and eventually graduate seem to have some things in common:

- Strong breed associations and groups that are committed to maintaining the pure breed;
- Owners and breeders who understand the value of registration for breed conservation and commit to registering their animals;
- Associations and clubs that maintain consistent support and communication with their membership and provide mentorship for new breeders; and
- Marketing and promotional strategies for the breed, its uses, and its products.

Collaborative efforts among breeders, and even among breed associations, can help secure a strong future for heritage breeds. As we move together through this new year of conservation, The Livestock Conservancy will continue to work with individuals and groups to facilitate such partnerships. We will continue to support breeders and breed associations with sound technical content and advice. Working together, we can ensure that irreplaceable heritage poultry and livestock breeds will enrich many lives in future generations.

2022 CONSERVATION PRIORITY EQUINE BREEDS

Critical (C) Breeds with fewer than 200 annual registrations in the United States and an estimated global population of less than 500.

Threatened (T) Breeds with fewer than 1,000 annual registrations in the U.S. and an estimated global population of less than 5,000.

Watch (W) Breeds that present genetic or numerical concerns or have a limited geographic distribution, with fewer than 2,500 annual registrations in the United States and an estimated global population less than 10,000.

Recovering (R) Breeds once listed in another category, but have exceeded Watch category numbers, and still need monitoring.



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¹ Each of these breeds has an independent, stand-alone registry and conservation program. Each has also contributed to the Colonial Spanish breed.

² Includes horses whose pedigrees are absent of outcrosses after 1930.

³ Includes several different registries, each with somewhat different goals (SMR, SSMA, SBHA, AIHR, HOA). Under this umbrella some strains have independent conservation programs and are noted individually.



HORSES

American Cream (C)

Banker¹ (C)

Canadian (C)

Colonial Spanish³ * (C)

Florida Cracker¹ (C)

Galiceno¹ (C)

Marsh Tacky¹ (C)

Morgan - Traditional² (C)

Newfoundland Pony (C)

Rocky Mountain/
Mountain Pleasure (T)

Puerto Rican Paso Fino (T)

Belgian (R)

*Colonial Spanish Strains:

Baca-Chica (C)

Choctaw (C)

Santa Cruz (C)

Sulphur (C)

Wilbur-Cruce (C)

BREEDS IMPORTED BEFORE 1900



HORSES

Cleveland Bay (C)

Hackney Horse (C)

Shire (C)

Suffolk (C)

Clydesdale (T)

BREEDS IMPORTED AFTER 1900

DONKEYS



Poitou (C)

Miniature Donkey (W)



HORSES

Caspian (C)

Dales Pony (C)

Dartmoor (C)

Exmoor (C)

Fell Pony (C)

Highland Pony (C)

Akhal-Teke (T)

Gotland (T)

Irish Draught (T)

Lipizzan (T)

SHORTHORNS: WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By Joseph Schallberger, DVM, Ph.D.

Breeders considering Shorthorn cattle may have difficulty understanding the differences in the types of Shorthorns and the terminology used to describe them, both historically and today. For some readers parts of this article will be redundant, but for others it may clarify what type of Shorthorn is characterized by a particular name. A chronological approach is taken beginning with Shorthorns in the 1790's up until today.

TEESWATER AND DURHAM SHORTHORNS

Initially Shorthorns started as a landrace, which means they were bred to fit a particular localized environment and market. The first Shorthorns were developed in the Tees River Valley in the Teeswater District of Durham County, England. Therefore, they were referred to as Teeswater or Durham cattle. Eventually the Shorthorn was added as a descriptor.

SHORTHORNS VS. LONGHORNS

Historically there were Longhorn cattle in England prior to 1800. English Longhorns differ from the Longhorns associated with Texas today, which descend from Spanish rather than British cattle. Naturally the term Shorthorn emerged as a descriptor for cattle with shorter, curved horns as they became more popular during the 18th century.

SCOTTISH SHORTHORNS

Scottish Shorthorns can be described as "beefy" Shorthorns. The famous Scottish Shorthorn breeder Amos Cruickshank was the real pioneer in the development of this type of Shorthorn. Many Scottish Shorthorns were imported into the USA and Canada from Scotland in the 19th and 20th century. The term "Scottish topped" in writings of the period simply means that the sire shown on a pedigree is a Scottish Shorthorn.

DUAL PURPOSE SHORTHORNS

The term Dual Purpose essentially goes back to the origins of Shorthorns when great cattle breeders took sides debating the merits of various Shorthorn bloodlines. Perhaps the most



iconic statement about the emerging duopoly in Shorthorns was "Bates for the pail and Booth for the butcher." In one sense this statement encapsulates both the versatility and uniqueness of Shorthorns from the day they were developed. Dual Purpose Shorthorns are simply Shorthorns that can be used for efficient production of both milk and beef. Shorthorns rose to fame around the world as they became family cows, milk cows, beef cows, and oxen. No other breed of cattle can match the diverse capabilities of the Shorthorn.

BEEF SHORTHORNS

Beef Shorthorns are described phenotypically. This term is used in many countries around the world including Australia and the UK. There was some discussion in the USA to use this term,

but it never came to fruition. Instead, the more generic word "Shorthorn" was used. Today this type of Shorthorn is represented in the U.S. by the American Shorthorn Association (ASA).

POLLED SHORTHORNS

All Polled Shorthorns can be traced to a single polled cow in Minnesota in the 1890s. Her offspring became the foundation of hornless or Polled Shorthorns that were eventually incorporated into the American Shorthorn Herd Book in 1923. Polled Shorthorns may be phenotypically or genetically of beef, dual purpose, or milk/dairy type and are accepted in all U.S. Shorthorn registries so long as they meet all of the qualifications for registration.

DAIRY SHORTHORNS

The term Dairy Shorthorn is used in many countries instead of Milking Shorthorn because it is thought to be more descriptive and defining. When Shorthorn breeders in the USA met in 1920 to form a dedicated group to oversee Shorthorns, there was much debate about the term milking versus dairy. In retrospect, if "Dairy" were used it might have propelled this type of Shorthorn to the forefront of the Dairy Industry instead of being buried by Holsteins and Jerseys. Unfortunately, the term "milkers" became a derogatory term used by many Shorthorn breeders to heap scorn on this type of Shorthorn.

MILKING SHORTHORNS

At the meeting in 1920, Milking Shorthorn emerged as the preferred name for this type of Shorthorn in the U.S., Africa, and Australia. When the split between the beef and dairy enthusiasts in the U.S. Shorthorn organization occurred in 1948, the American Milking Shorthorn Society came into existence and persists until today.

MODERN SHORTHORNS (BEEF TYPE)

Almost all beef-type Shorthorns today, except Heritage Beef Shorthorns, are essentially an amalgamation of other beef breeds with varying degrees of purity. Most Beef Shorthorn breed registries around the world acknowledge this fact within their registries through either grade-up or percentage programs. Beef Shorthorns, as constituted today, dominate the breed numbers in most countries relative to Dairy or Milking types. Shorthorns, as they are known in the USA, are registered by the ASA.

MODERN SHORTHORNS (MILKING TYPE)

When the upgrade program was instigated at the American Milking Shorthorn Society (AMSS) in 1945, the definition of a Milking Shorthorn instantly changed, with the resultant dilution of the breed by other breeds. Today, Modern Milking Shorthorns may have high percentages of Red and White Holsteins in their pedigree with a smattering of other breeds, including Shorthorns. The term "Milking Shorthorn" is now somewhat of a misnomer because the Shorthorn part has increasingly been

replaced with these other types of dairy cattle - thus the "Modern" title.

NATIVE SHORTHORNS

AMSS started their Native program in 1998 to recognize Shorthorns whose complete parentage traces entirely back to the 1822 Coates Herd Book. It was an opportunity for Shorthorn breeders to capitalize on their dedication and investment to maintain breed purity. The term "Native" has fallen into some disfavor in light of linguistic and societal changes in recent years. It was meant to imply "native to the original homeland and lineage of the breed" and is still used in the context of naming the original population of Shorthorns in the U.S. The terms Native Shorthorn and Native Milking Shorthorn are used synonymously with Heritage Shorthorn.

DURHAM RED

The Durham Red classification of Shorthorns was designated by the ASA to create marketing opportunities in commercial markets utilizing the red color seen in Shorthorns. Durham Reds must be between 25% and 75% Shorthorn with the rest Red Angus. The term Durham Red has really never caught on, even though it was initially heavily promoted.

SHORTHORN PLUS

The ASA has embraced a new type of Shorthorn crossbreed called the Shorthorn Plus. To qualify as a Shorthorn Plus, an animal only has to be 25% Shorthorn. The other 75% of the animal could be Galloway, Devon, Dutch Belted, Angus, etc. These animals can be upgraded to purebred status over time by breeding them to purebred Shorthorns. The only caveat is that no percentage Shorthorn Plus that is black or partially black is eligible to be upgraded to purebred status, as defined by ASA. The term Shorthorn Plus is a great marketing ploy for crossbreeding.

HERITAGE SHORTHORNS

The name Heritage Shorthorn first appeared in 2015 as a way to encompass all Shorthorns (Dual Purpose, Beef, and Dairy) that trace their ancestry only to the 1822 Coates Herd Book. Heritage Shorthorns may be registered by Heritage Shorthorn Society (HSS),

ASA, or AMSS so long as their ancestry has been verified. All Native Shorthorns are Heritage Shorthorns, but the term Native has fallen out of favor because of its linkage with negative connotations in today's society. As the heritage livestock movement has ballooned, Heritage Shorthorn nomenclature has created tremendous new marketing opportunities for breeders and for this adaptable dual-purpose segment of the Shorthorn family.

SO WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The nomenclature used to describe various types of Shorthorns around the world has changed over time as they evolved from a regional to a global breed and then segmented into beef and dairy types, and yet again to differentiate segments of the breed that prohibit, allow or promote grading up and cross breeding, and for marketing purposes. For conservation purposes, only animals whose pedigrees trace fully to the 1822 Coates herdbook are recognized as representing the original Shorthorn genetics, and these are registered as Heritage or Native. As new technology continues to emerge in the cattle industry, the cattle that will ultimately dominate are composite beef and composite dairy cattle. There is no stopping this train, so it is important for Shorthorn breeders to understand what makes their cattle different through terminology, phenotype, and genotype.

This article originally appeared in the Shorthorn Bulletin, Vol 6., #1, April 2021 and has been modified for use by The Livestock Conservancy. Article and all photos are courtesy of Joe Schallberger.

Joseph and Susan Schallberger started the Heritage Shorthorn Society (HSS) in January 2018 to help preserve, promote, and expand the utilization of Heritage Shorthorn cattle in today's livestock environment. The extensive HSS website, www.heritageshorthorn.org, is the product not only of their own dedication, time and effort, but it also that of other members of the Heritage Shorthorn Society. The Schallbergers currently own Whispering Hills Farm in Oregon, where they raise Heritage Shorthorn cattle. Joe grew up on a dairy farm and is a retired Veterinarian. Sue is a semi-retired Veterinary Radiologist.

VOTE FOR THE 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The Livestock Conservancy
MEMBER

The Livestock Conservancy is governed by a Board of Directors that sets policy and priorities for the organization. Board Directors are elected by the membership to serve three-year terms, with the option to be re-elected for a second term, if nominated.

Board members are elected by the Voting Membership of The Livestock Conservancy – that is, members in good standing for at least six months prior to the vote. At least 60 Voting members are required for a valid vote. Each voting member should cast their vote for or against each candidate individually, and if the number of votes for the candidate exceeds the number against, then the candidate is elected.

SPRING VOTING

This year's elections are taking place a little sooner than usual. The By-laws adopted by the membership in December 2021 changed the start of the term of office for directors from November to July, to line up with The Livestock Conservancy's fiscal year. That means in 2022 some directors must serve longer or shorter terms than they were originally elected to serve.

Richard Browning (Secretary), Isabela Castaneda (Treasurer), and Rick Blaney will extend their service until June 2023. Andrew Heltsley completed his second term early and resigned from the board in March 2022. The first term for Gloria Basse, Cindy Dvergsten, and Lawrence Rushton will conclude June 30, 2022. Basse and Dvergsten were nominated for re-election to second terms; if re-elected, their second term begins July 1.

Future elections will continue to be held in the spring so that new directors can be seated on July 1. Directors who are currently serving will end their terms

2022 DIRECTOR BIOS

Board members have the opportunity to make a significant impact on the conservation of endangered breeds of livestock and poultry. As a valued member of The Livestock Conservancy, your vote each year plays a vital role in conservation and the future of our organization. Get to know our 2022 Board of Directors candidates below.

GLORIA BASSE (2nd Term)

Gloria Basse grew up on a dairy farm in southeast Wisconsin where they milked over 100 Guernsey cows. She was formerly the V.P. US Pork Business at Zoetis and served in marketing, sales, and leadership roles in Animal Health for 30 years. Gloria is a seasoned executive who has a history of successfully leading dynamic organizations to drive performance, and has a unique ability to lead teams and develop people. It is her keen understanding of business strategy and processes, strength in building teams, and ability to instill dedication to team success that has made her an effective and proven leader.



Currently, Gloria serves as the Senior Executive Director of Tonsity International, whose mission is to bring non-antibiotic, disruptive products to the animal health industry and producers worldwide. She is also a Senior Associate at The Context Network, a business management and strategy consulting firm providing services to the world's leading agriculture, biotechnology, and food companies.

Gloria holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science and Agricultural Journalism from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and an MBA in business from William E. Simon Graduate School of Business at the University of Rochester, NY.

Gloria recently moved from NYC to her small farm in southwest Virginia.

CINDY DVERGSTEN (2nd Term)

Cindy Dvergsten grew up on small farm in Minnesota and holds a degree in Natural Resource Management from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. In 1986, she and her husband, Mike, established Arriola Sunshine Farm. Cindy fell in love with



the concept of conserving endangered breeds while attending the Livestock Conservancy conference held

in conjunction with Dine Be'lina "Sheep is Life Celebration." She started with heritage turkeys and chickens, and in 2004, added Navajo-Churro Sheep.

Cindy is passionate about working with Navajo producers who want to be successful with their sheep, land stewardship, fiber art, and carrying traditional lifeways forward. She is a past board member of Dine Be'lina' and continues to serve as an advisor.

Cindy's professional experience includes 15 years of Federal Service, mostly with the USDA-NRCS. In 1996 she established Whole New Concepts, LLC. As a management consultant and trainer, Cindy works internationally with family-based agriculture, small businesses, and organizations. She has been a Certified Educator with Holistic Management International since 1997, and is an Accredited Professional with the Savory Institute. Previously she has served as president of the Colorado Holistic Management, president of the local Rocky Mountain Farmers Union Chapter, and chair of the County Planning Commission. In 2019 Arriola Sunshine Farm was designated as an "outstanding demonstration site" by Holistic Management International.

MARIE MINNICH (1st Term)

Marie Minnich grew up on a diversified family farm in northeastern Pennsylvania and became interested in fiber arts at a very early age. While learning to spin in 2007, Marie was introduced to

the wonderful wool produced by the heritage Romeldale-CVM sheep. This ultimately led to her decision to return to her farming roots. After acquiring her farm in early 2008, Marie started with a small flock of 15 sheep. She now own the largest registered flock of Romeldale-CVMs in the country.

Marie has served as the Treasurer of the National Romeldale CVM Conservancy, Inc. since 2010. She is also a physician, practicing in the field of Anesthesiology for more than 30 years. She received her BS in Biology from the University of Scranton after which she attended the Penn State University School of Medicine in Hershey, PA receiving her MD in 1980. She completed her residency in Anesthesiology at Vanderbilt University and a fellowship in Obstetric Anesthesia at the University of Arkansas. Marie completed her Masters in Medical Management at Carnegie Mellon and holds an MBA from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.



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VOTING BALLOT

Eligible members may cast one ballot per membership, for or against each Board candidate.

There are two ways of voting:

(1) Vote online with a digital ballot at <https://bit.ly/TLCVotingBallotSpring2022> or

(2) Use this printed ballot and mail it to PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC, 27312.

Ballots must be postmarked no later than Monday, May 16, 2022.

I attest that I am a member of The Livestock Conservancy for 6 months or more and I would like to vote for the following people to fill open seats on the Board of Directors:

GLORIA BASSE

___ For ___ Against ___ Abstain

CINDY DVERGSTEN

___ For ___ Against ___ Abstain

MARIE MINNICH

___ For ___ Against ___ Abstain

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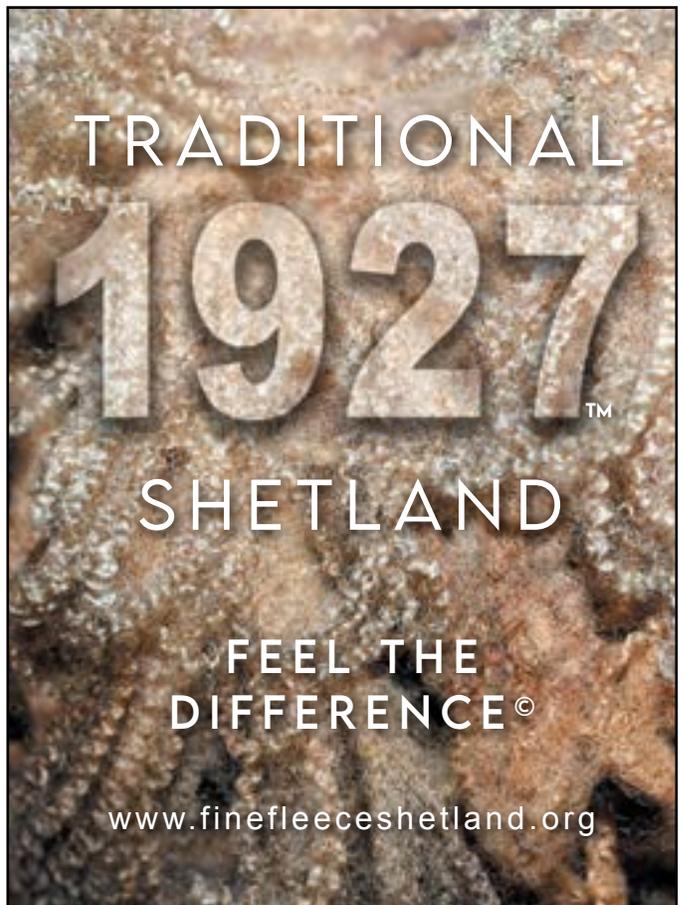


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FRED GROVERMAN

Fred Groverman dedicated his life to the improvement of production-type Shropshire sheep in the United States. It was a family affair begun by his father in 1934, making his flock the oldest continuously-owned purebred Shropshire flock in the world.

The elder Groverman's selection program focused on correcting a fad of excess facial wool and in 1950 he imported an open-faced ram from England, but passed away before seeing those progeny born. Fred Groverman, then in vet school at U.C. Davis, took over the flock in 1951. His excellent eye for conformation and meticulous records created the production improvements that he sought. Judicious use of imported genetics contributed to his progress, as did technological advances.

Fred was a member of the National Sheep Improvement Program and used the program's Estimated Breeding Values (EBV) to accelerate genetic improvement using the production data that he recorded on each animal. Fred was also an early adopter of ultrasound to evaluate carcass quality in Shropshire sheep. He provided DNA samples of his flock for genomic comparison of Shropshire sheep from several countries and multiple bloodlines. Breeders seeking to establish production flocks or to improve their existing flocks turned to Fred for breeding animals and found in him a willing teacher as well.

"I'm so lucky to have experienced his husbandry, stockmanship, and friendship," said longtime friend Cody Hiemke. "He was a rare breed that has



Left, Fred Groverman bringing in his Shropshire sheep, courtesy of Cody Hiemke. Right, Luther Clevenger holds a Gloucestershire Old Spots piglet, courtesy of Julie Clevenger.

helped save a rare breed."

"We do it from the heart," Fred said. "That's where the rewards are."

Fred's main contributions to Shropshire sheep and breeders were recognized in December 2021 with a Lifetime Achievement Award from England's Shropshire Sheep Breeders Association, just a short time before he passed away on February 12, 2022.

LUTHER CLEVINGER

Luther Clevenger leaves a significant legacy for the Gloucestershire Old Spots (GOS) pig breed community. His contributions live on in the Gloucestershire Old Spots Pig Breeders United (GOSPBU) herd book.

When many people retire, they travel, read more books, and generally slow down. Luther retired from a successful career in construction, sold his business, bought GOS pigs and then devoted the rest of his life to them. He and his wife Julie later purchased GOS pigs from

the United Kingdom to bring genetic variation into the American GOS herd.

Luther's breeding focus was on producing pigs with excellent body conformation and the gentle temperament that is characteristic of the breed. He and Julie developed a successful business in supplying pigs to regional restaurants and selling registered breeding stock throughout the country.

A testament to Luther's long-term vision was his recognition that his goals for the breed would not be completed in his lifetime. When asked if he thought there would be a return on his investment, he said, "Not in my lifetime, but perhaps in yours."

The leadership of GOSPBU now falls to Julie Clevenger, and while she mourns the loss of her husband, she has voiced her commitment to this breed. GOSPBU members are creating a microgrant program in honor of Luther's vision and hard work with the breed.