

A TRUE ORIGINAL, THE TEXAS LONGHORN (CTRL)

The Cattleman's Texas Longhorn Registry was formed by a simple goal. To conserve the "original" type of Texas Longhorn. Why bother? Crossbreeding had this iconic cattle breed stampeding to extinction. What is a real Texas Longhorn? They are a unique living history; the result of evolving over hundreds of years without the interference of man (the ONLY cattle breed with this distinction), into the iconic symbol it is today with a time-tested genetic resiliency, perfect for future-proofing the breed.



On June 24, 2021, Texas State Senate recognized the CTRL with Proclamation No.173 stating: "...the Cattlemen's Texas Longhorn Registry has played a fundamental role in

the conservation efforts in support of the Texas Longhorn". It is an honor we are proud of and take seriously.

Native Americans were in West Texas 37,000 years ago. In 1493, on his second Atlantic crossing, Christopher Columbus brought cattle to Hispaniola in the Caribbean, and decedents of those cattle were in Mexico in 1521. By 1528 Europeans were in the interior of what was then Mexico with their cattle, and two hundred years later the religious outpost at Alamo was a Spanish administrative hub. The Republic of Texas was a sovereign state in North America from 1836 to 1845 when it joined the United States, but the Texas Longhorn had been established in the Lone Star State for many generations.

History confirms the Texas Longhorn's contribution to Texas. The breed's unique adaptability provided the much-needed means of survival during the torrid years of Reconstruction through the post-Civil War era.

Approximately 10,000,000 Texas Longhorns traveled the long trails North, paving the way for Texas to become an economic mobility hub and the unrivaled leader in the United States it is today. No other animal or human has made a greater contribution to the State of Texas.

Genuine Texas Longhorn cattle are the living cultural history of the Lone Star State. The Texas Longhorn's hardiness and adaptability lets it thrive in locations and climates other breeds hardly survive. Their ease of calving is legendary, with the highest unassisted birth rate of all breeds at 99.7%. Stressless birthing means no veterinarian bills, happy calves, and fast re-breeding. High fertility, excellent mothering abilities and longevity makes genuine Longhorns a unique genetic pool. The Texas Longhorn tends to be immune to a tick-borne disease called Texas Fever or Cattle Tick Fever, and natural disease resistance means you are looking at a low maintenance, low input, long living, easy to own breed.



Descendants of the original Spanish Criollo cattle, historically correct Texas Longhorns were not known to have extensive horn length but rather were noted for their twisty horns. Original Texas Longhorns have many unique breed characteristics, not the least of which is their incredibly varied appearance. Horn twists, hide colorations and patterns will all be different, but are nonetheless magnificent and their variety of colors spectacular. It is said no two zebras are the same, and that goes for Texas Longhorn calves, who are inquisitive, playful, and fearless. You might know exactly who the dam and sire look like, but the calves will always be a surprise!

Nearly a hundred years ago, in 1927, ranchers and Texas Longhorn enthusiasts in recognition of their historical importance to Texas and our Nation, convinced the US Congress to appropriate funds to protect the almost extinct historic Texas Longhorn. A herd was established that to this day is federally protected at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge in southwest Oklahoma.

In the early 1960's a society was formed by dedicated ranchers to highlight and focus conservation, but after a few years some founders and breeders knew more was

needed for genuine Texas Longhorns to survive, the real thing was charging toward an extinction event.

Nearly forty years ago a small group of dedicated Texas Longhorn cattle raisers got together to thrash out how to guarantee the future of real Texas Longhorns by preserving the genetics from extinction. Food supply chain developments and crossbreeding each shared a hand in making the original Texas Longhorn's future extremely dark. These men and women, the founding members of the Cattleman's Texas Longhorn Registry, wisely recognized the answer for the planet was not a -112 degrees laboratory freezer with a few racks of test tubes of DNA. Genuine Texas Longhorns had to be grazing on farms and ranches. Preserving would not do, conservancy was the way forward.

At the turn of the decade after the eighties it was clear something needed to be done. The Cattleman's Texas Longhorn Registry heard the call. None of the founders thought it would be an instantaneous remedy – some of them were the children of those 1927 heroes thus they had a feeling it would take time. Today there are fewer than fifty stock growers across the South that breed and ranch historic Texas Longhorns. Extra to Registry members, a few herds exist on federal or state-controlled land and CTRLR is proud to partner with these rangers in our joint conservation efforts.

The meat of an original Texas Longhorn is lower in fat and cholesterol compared to other beef, in line with modern nutritional trends, with 10% less saturated fat and more heart healthy omega-3 fatty acids. There is little shrinkage when cooked and best of all, they taste great!



If you consider yourself as a Longhorn enthusiast and respect its standing in Texas history, a breeder preserving DNA vital for all breeds, or an advocate for this incredible Texas icon then our mission will interest you.

The past confers the Cattleman's Texas Longhorn Registry its history and the future bequeaths the mission.

<https://www.ctrlr.org/>

Photos and article courtesy of Debbie Adams