



# THE LIVESTOCK CONSERVANCY™

***Conserving rare breeds since 1977***  
***Spring 2023 | Volume 40, Issue 2***

## NEWS

Library & Other Updates, page 3

Thank You, Alison, page 4

Murray McMurray Poultry Census, page 6

Black Welsh Mountain Sheep, page 10

Vote for Board of Directors, page 13

Raising Silver Marten Rabbits, page 24

*Alison Martin, Ph.D., Executive Director of The Livestock Conservancy since 2015, is returning to her role as Program Director. Martin will guide conservation initiatives to save endangered breeds like the Clydesdale horse pictured here at George Washington's Mount Vernon. Clydesdales are listed as Threatened on the Conservation Priority List. Photo by Jeannette Beranger.*



## CONTACT US

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

*The Livestock Conservancy News* (ISSN 1064-1599) is published quarterly by The Livestock Conservancy, a nonprofit tax-exempt corporation established to conserve endangered livestock and poultry breeds. The Livestock Conservancy is a membership organization researching, educating, and communicating this purpose.

## INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Judy Brummer  
*Interim Executive Director*  
jbrummer@livestockconservancy.org

*Judy Brummer, M.D., of Shumway, Illinois, will serve as The Livestock Conservancy's Interim Executive Director. Brummer grew up on a family farm in Southern Illinois, raising cattle, hogs, horses, and grain crops. Today, she raises Rocky Mountain Horses. Brummer served on the Rocky Mountain Horse Association board for ten years, including six years as President. A former member of The Livestock Conservancy's Board of Directors, Brummer's goals include maintaining the current programs of The Livestock Conservancy, strengthening the organization's collaborative partnerships with agriculture industry stakeholders, and serving rare breeds. The former emergency room physician recently retired and will work full-time as the Interim Executive Director until the position is filled.*



## LIVESTOCK CONSERVANCY STAFF

Jeannette Beranger  
*Senior Program Manager*  
jberanger@livestockconservancy.org

Charlene Couch, Ph.D.  
*Senior Program Manager*  
ccouch@livestockconservancy.org

Karena Elliott  
*Development Director*  
kelliott@livestockconservancy.org

Wendy Jennings  
*Administrative Assistant*  
wjennings@livestockconservancy.org

Emily Rose Johnson  
*Communications Coordinator*  
erjohnson@livestockconservancy.org

Cindra Kerscher  
*Program Manager*  
ckerscher@livestockconservancy.org

Alison Martin, Ph.D.  
*Program Director*  
amartin@livestockconservancy.org

Jaye Ray  
*Programs Assistant*  
jray@livestockconservancy.org

Jeanne Serrette  
*Development Assistant*  
jserrette@livestockconservancy.org

Angelique Thompson  
*Senior Operations Director*  
athompson@livestockconservancy.org

## TECHNICAL ADVISOR

D. Phillip Sponenberg, DVM, Ph.D.

## LIVESTOCK CONSERVANCY BOARD MEMBERS

Patricia "Pat" K. Johnston, Dexter, OR  
*President*

Jay H. "Jerry" Calvert, Jr., J.D.,  
Bryn Mawr, PA  
*Vice President*

Richard Browning, Ph.D., Nashville, TN  
*Secretary*

Lucien "Bud" Wood, Webster City, IA  
*Treasurer & Finance Committee Chair*

Gloria Basse, Damascus, VA  
*Development Committee Chair*

Marie Minnich, M.D., Danville, PA  
*Programs Committee Chair*

Timothy J. Safranski, Ph.D.,  
Auxvasse, MO  
*Governance Committee Chair*

David L. Anderson, Fillmore, CA  
Silas Bernardoni, Darlington, WI  
Richard Blaney, Ph.D., Live Oak, FL  
Rebecca Burgess, San Geronimo, CA  
Norman Burns, Fishers, IN  
Keisha Cameron, Grayson, GA  
Adam Dixon, Wilton, CT  
Cynthia Dvergsten, Dolores, CO  
Nancy Irlbeck, Ph.D., Moscow, ID  
Sandra Nordmark, Ceresco, MI

## SOLICITATION DISCLOSURES

*Colorado:* Residents may obtain copies of registration and financial documents from the office of the Secretary of State, 303-894-2860, www.sos.state.co.us/ re: Reg No. 20133007164.

*Florida:* Registration #CH37293. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free 1-800-435-7352 within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.

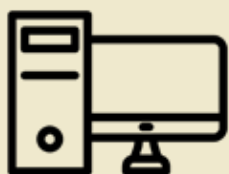
*Maryland:* A copy of the current financial statement of The Livestock Conservancy is available by writing PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312. Documents and information submitted under the Maryland Solicitations Act are also available, for the cost of postage and copies, from the Maryland Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401, 410-974-5534.

*North Carolina:* Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 1-888-830-4989. The license is not endorsed by the state.

*Virginia:* A financial statement is available from the State office of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services upon request.

*Washington:* For additional information regarding the organization's activities or financial information, The Livestock Conservancy is registered with the Washington State Charities Program as required by law and information may be obtained by calling 1-800-332-4483 or 360-725-0378.





## STRONGER TOGETHER

There's still time to participate in The Livestock Conservancy's Cultivating Leadership in Breed Organizations online training series. The nine-part webinar series is offered live once from 6:30-7:30 pm Eastern Time on the third Thursday of each month.

To register for the upcoming modules or the entire series, visit The Livestock Conservancy online store at <https://livestockconservancy.org/resources/online-store/>.

"Managing Risk," April 20, 2023

"Managing a Herdbook or Registry,"  
May 18, 2023



The Livestock Conservancy is now an approved environmental partner with 1% for the Planet. Contributions made through this organization can be designated to support heritage breeds of livestock and poultry. Learn more at <https://onepercentfortheplanet.org/>.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST LIFE MEMBER!

The Livestock Conservancy would like to give a special thanks to **Charles L. Barnes** of New Castle, VA, who recently chose to support conservation programs by becoming a Life Member.

To become a Life Member, contact Karena Elliott at 806-570-0874 or [kelliott@livestockconservancy.org](mailto:kelliott@livestockconservancy.org)



## LIVESTOCK CONSERVANCY LIBRARY

Breed histories are one of the most important tools for conserving rare livestock and poultry. That's why The Livestock Conservancy maintains an extensive library of books, guides, pamphlets, reports, catalogs, and directories dating back nearly 200 years.

For example, *Farmers Bulletin No. 920, "Milk Goats,"* is a USDA pamphlet describing the diverse breeds of milking goats and their management. *Turkey Management* by Marsden and Martin is a complete 1939 manual about how to breed, manage, and market turkeys.

Information in The Livestock Conservancy's library documents individual breeds and provides details shared in more than 190 breed profiles found on the website. Some of our collection's information, drawings, and photographs are out of print and perhaps found nowhere else in the world.

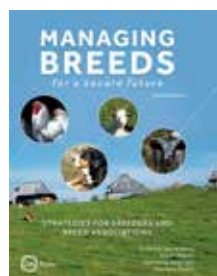
*The Writings of Isaac Hunter* dates from the early 1900s and includes articles

written for magazines about the sheep and poultry industries in the U.S. *The Guide Book and Standard, Rabbits, and Cavies* from 1928 features illustrated breed descriptions and breed standards, as well as information on feed, housing, member lists, and recipes.

*The Cotswold Flock Book* by the Cotswold Sheep Society lists registered flocks and an essay on the origin, history, and present-day position of Cotswold sheep in 1892. *Rare Breeds* by Lawrence Anderson is a small 30-page, undated book with a basic description of rare breeds of animals found in the U.K.

The Livestock Conservancy welcomes donations to the library, especially if publications are more than 75 years old. The Livestock Conservancy cannot pay for shipping, but will provide a receipt recognizing your donation in grateful appreciation for helping document the history of rare breeds.

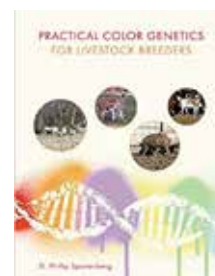
## BOOKS AVAILABLE IN OUR STORE



New Edition



New Edition



First Edition



Features Dr. Martin



## THANK YOU, ALISON!

*Above, Dr. Alison Martin inspects a Karakul sheep hide. Karakuls are listed as Threatened on the Conservation Priority List. Martin was always interested in livestock and poultry. In the top left photo, she holds a rabbit as a teen. That interest carried through to her work with The Livestock Conservancy as both Program Director and Executive Director. In the top right, she holds a Sussex chicken, listed as Recovering. In the bottom right, Martin learns to drive a pair of Heritage Shorthorn oxen, listed as Threatened. Photos courtesy of Martin.*

Alison Martin, Ph.D., was appointed Executive Director of The Livestock Conservancy in December 2015. Under her leadership, the organization experienced unprecedented growth.

While serving as Executive Director, Martin has worn two and sometimes three hats. She continued to serve as Program Director and as the sole fundraiser for the first three years of her tenure until hiring a full-time development director in 2019.

The Livestock Conservancy's Board of Directors committed to separating the positions of Executive Director and Program Director while developing a new strategic plan. Martin was deeply engaged in this work. In February 2023, she asked to once again lead Program staff as Director in coming years.

"I am proud of having led The Livestock Conservancy through the strongest growth it has ever experienced," she said. "Now I look forward to guiding the expansion of conservation initiatives to save endangered breeds under the new Five Year Strategic Plan."

Her leadership was characterized by dedication and success in conservation programs, communications, financial oversight, organizational management, and staff leadership.

Fundamental conservation work under Martin's direction included the annual livestock census, evaluation of Conservation Priority List (CPL) rankings, breeder support, and education. The results of the 2015 Poultry Census enabled Orpington and Wyandotte chickens to graduate from the CPL in 2016. The CPL rankings of even more breeds were stabilized thanks to Martin's efforts in cryopreservation, detailed breed census, breeding recommendations, partnerships, and even rescues of genetically significant herds and flocks. A total of eight breeds graduated in eight years under her watch.

Martin took a special interest in Santa Cruz Island sheep. She brought breeders together and managed the registry for many years. Today, they are more secure than they were seven years ago.

Her promotion of heritage livestock and

poultry combined with breeder education has been a successful conservation strategy. Outreach events, including the Mother Earth News partnership launched in 2010, introduced thousands of new and receptive audience members to heritage breeds. Public events, breed association meetings, the annual Livestock Conservancy conference, publications, and web resources have all grown and improved under her leadership.

The Livestock Conservancy reached a new level of success when Martin developed the "Next Generation Farming: Heritage Breeds for the Northeast" grant proposal for The Manton Foundation. This two-year conservation initiative launched Shave 'Em to Save 'Em and Livestock Conservancy Microgrants. It also included conservation measures for American Milking Devon cattle, including population analysis, genetic testing, milk testing, promotion, and semen banking.

Today, funding from The Manton Foundation continues to strengthen relationships with breed associations and



clubs for a more significant conservation impact. "Cultivating Leadership" is the first professional development program ever created for breed organizations. Pedigree registration services for rare breeds were also launched in late 2021.

The 2021 Murray McMurray Poultry Census, the Archer/Jones Poitou Census, and the Brown Foundation Gulf Coast Sheep Census continued fundamental conservation work under her leadership with exciting momentum.

Martin launched The Livestock Conservancy's *Annual Report* and published the second edition of *Managing Breeds for a Secure Future* and the first edition of *Advanced Reproductive Technologies for Equine Breed Conservation*. Brand consistency also improved through trademarking The Livestock Conservancy's name and logo.

Online information grew significantly amidst the travel restrictions of the COVID pandemic. The Livestock Conservancy now provides more than 370 educational content pages on the website, bringing more than 504,683 unique visitors to the [livestockconservancy.org](http://livestockconservancy.org) website. Visitors from 218 countries rely on the information The Livestock Conservancy develops, publicizes, and maintains. This is the initial contact most people have with the organization and is critical for attracting younger breeders.

As a financial leader, Martin has produced net profits annually since 2016. She also led the organization in achieving the 2018-2021 strategic goals and expanded solicitation efforts by 30 percent. The acquisition of new members reached all-time highs, and the annual budget exceeded \$1M for the first time. The Livestock Conservancy successfully transitioned from a financial review to its first financial audit in 2019. No deficiencies were found in the annual audits, a significant accomplishment for an organization of this size.

Martin doubled staff and expanded the use of interns and contractors to cost-effectively broaden access to needed skills. She also moved to a cloud-based platform to accommodate off-site staff and work-from-home during the pandemic, continuing "business as usual." The organization now operates using a hybrid model and looks forward to adding additional remote staff members in coming years to better represent farmers across the United States.



"Alison is stellar, and I have known all of her predecessors," said Phil Sponenberg, Ph.D., DVM, Technical Advisor for The Livestock Conservancy since 1977. "Few other national or international organizations have managed to blend science and practice as effectively as The Livestock Conservancy."

Thanks to Martin, The Livestock Conservancy reached milestones unimaginable before her efforts, creating lasting relationships important for years to come. The Livestock Conservancy continues to be the leading national organization in the United States devoted to conserving endangered livestock and poultry breeds.

"I remain confident we can and will continue this trajectory under a new Executive Director," Martin said. "Much more work remains to save rare breeds of livestock and poultry from extinction."

The search for a new executive director will begin once the Five Year Strategic Planning process, currently underway, concludes before the end of 2023. During this search, The Livestock Conservancy Board has appointed Judy Brummer, M.D., as Interim Executive Director so Martin can devote most of her attention to shepherding conservation and science programs to the next level.



## 2021 MURRAY MCMURRAY POULTRY CENSUS UPDATES

*A young light Brahma cockerel, photo by Jeannette Beranger. After data was analyzed from the 2021 Murray McMurray Poultry Census, six chicken breeds, including the Brahma, will graduate off the Conservation Priority List in 2023.*

Accurately counting livestock and poultry populations in the U.S. is fundamental to the work of The Livestock Conservancy. An accurate census helps determine extinction threat levels for rare breeds. Census data only includes breeding animals since this is the population necessary for breed survival.

Conducting a poultry census is particularly challenging because there is no registry process for birds that indicates breeding population activity. A targeted and comprehensive survey is needed generally every five years to count populations from both private and commercial poultry keepers who are actively breeding purebred or standard bred birds. No crossbred birds are included in these counts.

Murray McMurray Hatchery partnered with the Livestock Conservancy for the 2021 Murray McMurray Poultry Census. This was the most complex heritage breed count in the 46-year history of The Livestock Conservancy. Nearly 2,000 breeders and hatcheries submitted information about 7,500 flocks. Generous funding provided by Murray McMurray Hatchery underwrote hundreds of staff and contractor hours to secure and analyze the poultry census data.

The Livestock Conservancy chose to census American Poultry Association (APA)-recognized large fowl birds, and bantams that have no large fowl counterpart. The goal was to identify

older and unique genetics within the poultry community. A few breeds not recognized by the APA but that are on the Conservation Priority List (CPL) were also included for chickens, ducks, geese, and turkeys. Census information was received for a total of 119 breeds.

For the first time, data on individual color varieties within breeds was also included. Nearly 90 percent of respondents keep chickens. Fewer than 40 percent of breeders keep ducks. Around 20 percent keep turkeys and about 18 percent raise geese.

Detailed charts and tables sharing specific counts by breed may be viewed online at [livestockconservancy.org/mcmurray-national-poultry-census/](https://livestockconservancy.org/mcmurray-national-poultry-census/).

### CHICKENS

The APA's American class of chickens – mostly dual purpose, brown egg layers – far outnumbers birds within the other classes and account for 25 percent of the total birds bred by the private sector. American breeds are very practical for people wanting to raise their own food.

The 2021 Murray McMurray Poultry Census asked for the average flock size held by respondents. Nearly three quarters of the 5,328 chicken breeding flocks held by family farms contain ten birds or fewer, with the majority of flocks containing five or fewer birds. Only 170 private breeders had flocks of 50 or more birds. In contrast, hatchery flock sizes

range from 100 to more than 10,000 breeding birds, making them important reservoirs of genetics for many breeds and a natural starting point for people who are curious about raising their own poultry. The recent census found a total 238,042 breeding chickens in 2021.

Nine breeds, including the Malay, Nankin, Catalana, Modern Game, Redcap, La Fleche, Kraienkoppe, Holland, and Dorking were either entirely unreported by hatcheries or down to a small handful of birds. Private sector breeders are extremely important to the conservation of these breeds.

Having many small flocks is advantageous for conservation because it diminishes the risk of a single major breed population being impacted by a natural disaster or disease outbreak at one location. One disadvantage of small flocks, though, is maintaining or improving productivity and breed standard within individual flocks. Owners may struggle to hatch sufficient numbers of birds each year to select the best chickens to become the next generation of breeders. Selection is usually best when only the top ten percent are kept for breeding, and that is difficult to achieve in small flocks of five breeding birds or less.

Education for small flock owners is available on The Livestock Conservancy's website to learn more about breeder selection while maintaining genetic



diversity. *Managing Breeds for a Secure Future* is an additional resource that describes several breeding strategies for maintaining genetic diversity in poultry.

Because of significant declines since 2015, Aseel, Catalana, Cubalaya, Java, and Shamo chickens moved to Critical on the 2022 CPL. Several old bantam breeds also declined in population and their genetic status and history in the United States are being studied further. These include the Belgian Bearded D'Uccle, Booted Bantam, Rosecomb Bantam, and Japanese Bantam.

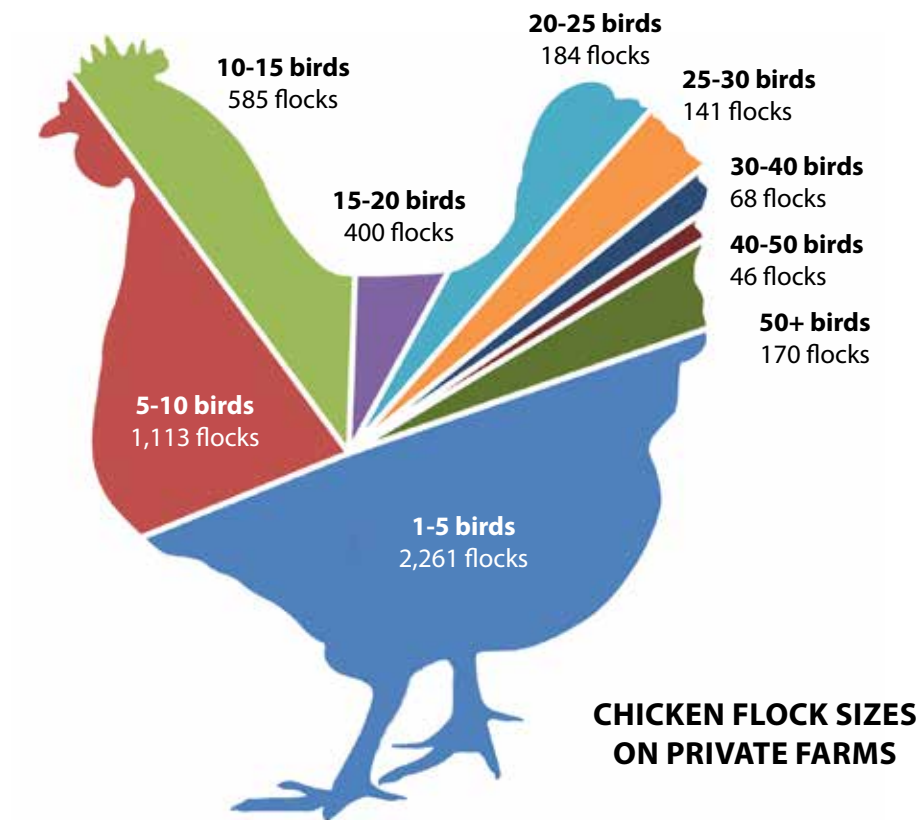
For the first time, the poultry census asked for information about color varieties within breeds. This level of detail revealed the sobering fact that of the 44 breeds with multiple varieties, only 15 breeds had no varieties at major risk of loss, defined as fewer than 10 flocks. Three color varieties recognized by the APA were not reported at all in the census, including the Buff Cornish, White Houdan, and Wheaten Japanese Bantam. The Livestock Conservancy would like to hear from breeders who maintain flocks of these varieties.

The next steps in assessing color varieties and comb types will be asking poultry breeders and geneticists which of the most vulnerable varieties could be recreated from more popular varieties within their breeds, and which would require crossing in from other breeds. Developing and perfecting a color variety takes a great deal of work, time, and talent. Varieties that would be most difficult to recreate are worthy of the most attention to expand breeding populations before they are lost forever.

With the rise in popularity of keeping chickens, there are certain breeds that have had a renaissance both in the private sector as well as hatcheries. Six breeds have sufficient numbers to graduate off of the CPL, including the Rhode Island Red, Polish, Plymouth Rock, Delaware, Brahma, and Australorp.

## DUCKS

A total of 12,265 breeding ducks in the private sector were counted in the 2021 McMurray Poultry Census across four weight classes. Heavy ducks are most popular, and include the Pekin and other breeds most often used for meat production. The second most popular class were Light Weight breeds, many of



*A pair of Cayuga ducks on pasture, photo by Jeannette Beranger. Cayuga ducks, currently listed as Watch on the Conservation Priority List, improved in popularity among private sector breeders, according to data reported in the 2021 Murray McMurray Poultry Census.*

which are raised for egg production by homesteaders and hobby farmers.

Non-commercial CPL duck populations have changed little since 2015. Private breeders continue to be the backbone for the Aylesbury, Dutch Hookbill, and

Australian Spotted duck breeds, which are not bred by hatcheries. All three breeds continue to be somewhat rare.

Hatcheries maintain fairly constant overall populations of ducks with 22,582 breeding birds reported in the 2021



survey. Hatchery populations played an important role in maintaining or expanding eight duck breeds, including Welsh Harlequin, Swedish, Silver Appleyard, Saxony, Khaki Campbell, Cayuga, Buff, and Ancona.

One bright spot is the Cayuga duck population, which has become more popular since 2015. Their counts among private breeders grew from around 300 breeding birds to nearly 1,000. Cayugas at hatcheries also grew from 979 to 1,599 breeding birds, helping move the needle for this endangered breed!

Unlike chickens, color varieties within duck breeds don't appear to have suffered. However, Black Crested and Buff Runner ducks were reported in fewer than ten breeding flocks each, so those varieties bear closer monitoring.

## GEESE

Cotton Patch geese have experienced a great rise in popularity since 2015. Thanks to family farms, breeding populations doubled and Cotton Patch geese moved from Critical to Threatened on the CPL in 2022.

Pilgrim and Sebastopol geese have also increased in counts with both private and commercial breeders, while Toulouse, Emden, and Chinese populations remained stable.

Many goose populations have declined since 2015. Shetland geese dropped from 79 to 25 breeding birds, and Steinbacher geese also continue to be very rare with only 21 breeding birds counted. Neither breed has hatchery populations. Pomeranian geese also dramatically declined both in private and hatchery populations.

Geese are the least numerous species of poultry kept by census respondents. Less than 18 percent of private poultry owners keep breeding populations of geese. This may be the cause for a trending decline of goose flocks in U.S. hatcheries. Color varieties among the goose breeds are fairly stable, except for the White African goose with 11 flocks and the Buff Pomeranian with 19 flocks.

Fortunately commercial hatcheries continue to play an important role in goose conservation, with 6,910 reported in hatcheries. These flocks provide goslings to family farms and homesteads who raise geese for home consumption and the holiday market. More details



*Top, Cotton Patch geese on pasture, photo courtesy of Shannon Whidden. Bottom, young Beltsville Small White turkey toms, photo by of Steve Ashman. Both populations have increased significantly in the past few years, according to census data.*

on census results from hatcheries can be found through the link shared at the beginning of this article.

Demand for goose among chefs and gourmets has also risen, especially as a seasonal delicacy. The Livestock Conservancy believes there is opportunity to put more breeding birds on the ground to fill this growing demand. Website resources including the Pick-A-Goose Breed chart and individual breed profiles can help with selecting the right goose for production goals.

## TURKEYS

The population of heritage turkeys remained steady between 2015 and 2021. Turkey breeding flocks at commercial hatcheries are the most important players in the recovery of heritage turkeys with 11,088 breeding birds. Small breeders also play a separate

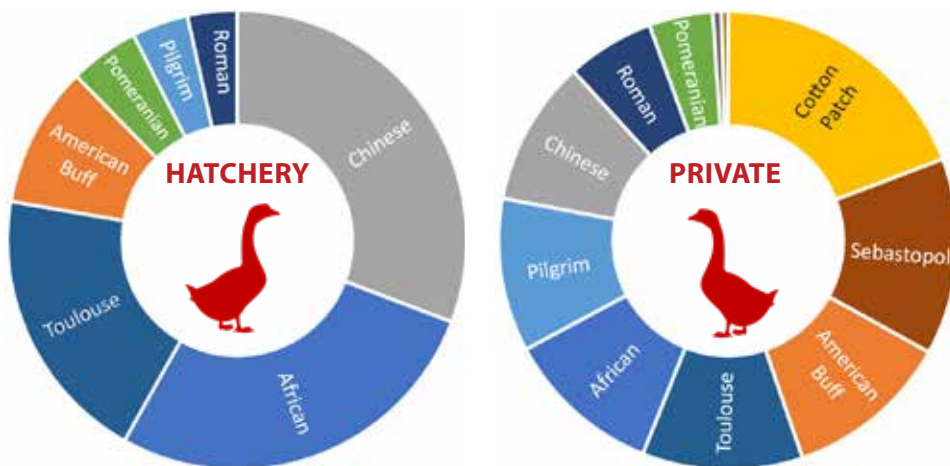
and important role in maintaining diversity. However, overall numbers of breeding turkeys on farms declined sharply from 5,857 to 3,679, since 2015.

The general pattern with turkeys is that numbers decreased in the private sector but increased at mail-order hatcheries. Despite this change, as of this census, officially there are no standard varieties of turkey that are critically threatened.





Among private breeders, most varieties have remained stable with similar numbers between 2015 and 2021. Varieties with fewer non-commercial breeders include the Bronze, Midget White, and Slate. This contributed to declines in total numbers of all three varieties, though hatcheries filled some of the gap for Slate turkeys by increasing their number of breeding birds.

Hatcheries also increased populations of Black, Bourbon Red, and Chocolate





Both private (non-commercial) breeders and mail-order hatcheries play important roles in conserving the genetic diversity of geese. These graphs represent the estimated number of breeding geese by breed. Hatcheries did not report any Cotton Patch, Sebastopol, Shetland, or Steinbacher geese in their breeding flocks.

					
NUMBER OF BREEDS IN CPL CATEGORY	CHICKENS	DUCKS	GEESE	TURKEYS	# BREEDING BIRDS
<b>CRITICAL</b>	12	4	4	0	< 500
<b>THREATENED</b>	14	3	3	2	< 1,000
<b>WATCH</b>	16	8	3	6	< 5,000
<b>RECOVERING</b>	4	1	0	0	< 10,000

More detailed charts and tables from the 2021 Murray McMurray Poultry Census are available online at <http://livestockconservancy.org/mcmurray-national-poultry-census/>.

varieties. Once critically endangered, The Livestock Conservancy assisted in placing starter flocks of Beltsville Small White turkeys with new breeders, including two hatcheries. In 2015, there were only 65 Beltsville Small White breeding turkeys reported by hatcheries. In 2021, that number grew nearly 8-fold, and 510 breeding birds allow more small farms to raise this breed. The rise in popularity of Beltsville Small White turkeys may, however, have contributed to the decline of the Midget White because of their similar size.

Overall the outlook for turkeys remains favorable, largely thanks to hatcheries who are maintaining larger flocks of breeding birds and private breeders who are contributing to genetic diversity by maintaining many, smaller flocks.

Heritage turkeys have great flavor and healthy immune systems. For many small farms, they are a perfect fit for pasture-based production and holiday marketing. They also have long productive life spans. Breeding hens are

commonly productive for five to seven years and toms for three to five years.

### SUMMARY

The 2021 Murray McMurray Poultry Census conducted by The Livestock Conservancy confirmed that most breeding poultry flocks on farms, homesteads, and in backyards have between five and 25 birds. Of the 7,500 flocks self-identified by private sector, non-commercial breeders, only 122 flocks consisted of 50 or more birds.

Census participants enjoy multiple rewards from their investment of labor and resources into poultry. The majority of respondents – 632 – choose poultry breeds for utilitarian reasons, while another 556 individuals keep them for both exhibition and utility. Only 183 of the nearly 2,000 individuals who submitted surveys, keep poultry strictly for exhibition.

Thank you to the 2,000 breeders across America who responded to the survey help further rare genetic conservation.



### SUPPORT CONSERVATION

Want to support heritage breed poultry conservation? Consider adding a rare breed to your farm or homestead. First consider your production goals, housing, pasture access, egg needs, and climate to find the right breed for you.

#### Expert:

Cubalaya chicken  
Dutch Hookbill duck  
Toulouse goose  
Slate turkey

#### Intermediate:

Buttercup chicken  
Saxony duck  
Roman goose  
Midget White turkey

#### Beginner:

Dominique chicken  
Ancona duck  
Buff goose  
Black turkey

Detailed breed information for all CPL poultry is available on The Livestock Conservancy website at [LivestockConservancy.org/heritage-breeds/poultry-breeds](http://LivestockConservancy.org/heritage-breeds/poultry-breeds).

Help save endangered birds for the security of tomorrow's food system while providing meat, eggs, exhibition enjoyment, and breeding stock income.





## MODERN CRUSADER OF A HISTORIC WELSH BREED

*Oogie McGuire wears a cloak she made of Black Welsh Mountain sheep wool, inspired by an 18th century medieval woman's walking cloak. She raises this Threatened breed with her husband, Ken, on their Desert Weyr Ranch in Colorado. Photo by Brigid McAuliffe.*

Oogie McGuire is a Renaissance woman in modern times. An accomplished computer scientist and programmer, she applies her highly technical skills to the conservation of a sheep breed with its roots in the Middle Ages. McGuire joined The Livestock Conservancy in 2000 and shares her knowledge and skills generously. She loves a challenge and follows through with her visions. These qualities are a boon for members of the Black Welsh Mountain Sheep Association in which she is registrar and much more.

McGuire grew up in Paonia, Colorado. As a 4-H kid, she kept sheep and angora goats. After a long absence from sheep raising, she found herself desiring a traditional, medieval black Welsh cloak. While McGuire could have purchased one or sewn one from purchased cloth, she decided find Black Welsh Mountain sheep to raise and shear, buy a spinning wheel and learn to spin wool, purchase a loom and learn how to weave, and then make her cloak.

In the midst of her research on the cloak, McGuire realized the design in her head was not historically accurate for medieval times. Her final result

is best described as an 18th century woman's walking cloak woven from wool produced by her own Black Welsh Mountain sheep.

### DESERT WEYR RANCH

McGuire's mother raised sheep and goats for many years. She had a wide variety of breeds, including Black Welsh Mountain. When her mother passed away, McGuire retained the Black Welsh Mountain and some Shetland sheep. She and her husband Ken moved them to California where they were living at the time. They began refurbishing the Colorado property where they planned to stay "for two or three years" before reselling. By the time the humans and animals were settled, they decided against moving again. That was the origin of Desert Weyr Ranch.

Their Black Welsh Mountain sheep graze in lush pastures under an apple orchard planted in 1905. The trees provide shade to the sheep and a crop every few years. Fruit is eaten by the flock once it falls to the ground since labor to pick the fruit is impractical. The Shetland sheep were dispersed rather quickly because they stripped bark off the apple

trees. The Black Welsh Mountain sheep only do that occasionally.

"It seems to be a problem of mineral balance," Oogie said.

The McGuires use managed intensive grazing, a method that improves pastures by breaking the ground and depositing manure. It also keeps sheep healthy by breaking parasite cycles.

At the time of this interview, the McGuires had about 98 sheep including 40 ewes of breeding age and yearlings for sale and replacements. They plan to breed 26 ewes and the rest will be sold. Oogie does not breed lambs their first year, so she keeps more rams than needed for breeding because she maintains two bloodlines. She keeps a primary ram, a back-up ram, and additional quality rams to sell as breeding stock. This allows her to sell starter flocks with unrelated ewes and rams. Her decisions are always driven by conservation of the species.

The Desert Weyr Ranch flock is entirely grass, hay, and orchard-fed. They are supplemented with minerals, but no grains. The lamb crop is 140 to 160 percent. Their forage-only diet does not support triplets, but the ewes often drop



twins. Oogie has included twinning in her past selection criteria so that Desert Weyr's lamb crop is above the national average of 110 to 125 percent for Black Welsh Mountain sheep. Oogie is very data-driven, which is a great trait for breeders of rare heritage livestock.

### HISTORY OF THE BREED & REGISTRY

Sheep farming remains an important part of Welsh agriculture, according to a 2020 article at [thesheepsite.com](https://thesheepsite.com). The article summarizes a three-year research study that concluded, "Native Welsh sheep breeds are an invaluable and unique genetic resource for future breeding and conservation programs."

Researchers studied the DNA of 18 native Welsh sheep breeds and traced genetics of the Black Welsh Mountain back to Scandinavia. The researchers discovered the genetic history of this breed is influenced by sheep brought to Wales by Vikings in the 9th century.

McGuire explained that all Welsh sheep breeds were designed to heft, a verb describing how various flocks graze together. Lambs graze with their dams on the heaf, the land belonging to that farm. The dam leads the lambs to food, water sources, and shelter. The sheep know their territory and stay within the family group.

A certain level of intelligence is required to learn the environment and pass it onto the next generation. The climate in Wales is wet and cold, but the flocks are adapted to lambing outside in brutal weather. During one extreme winter, shepherds found Welsh Mountain ewes that had lambed under snowdrifts and kept their lambs alive. Ewes with rougher coats were more likely to survive blizzards. They are a vigorous, tough breed, especially in conditions resembling those of Wales.

Historically the Mountain sheep in Wales were predominantly white, with black or brown sheep born occasionally. About a century ago, some Welsh shepherds began breeding the black sheep together. They selected offspring for black color, finer wool, and improved body conformation. This new breed called Black Welsh Mountain sheep was announced in 1922.

Black Welsh Mountain sheep were first imported to North America by Thomas Wyman of Easton, Maryland, in 1972. The American breed registry



was later established in 1990, adopting the rules and standards of the British Society established in 1904. The breed's conservation status is currently listed as Threatened on The Livestock Conservancy's Conservation Priority List. This means that there are fewer than 1,000 annual registrations in the United States and an estimated global population of less than 5,000 Black Welsh Mountain sheep.

The American Black Welsh Mountain Sheep Association has about 45 active shepherds. Since not every sheep owner breeds their animals, the association is very proactive in promoting the breed and assisting interested shepherds in assembling starter flocks to assure the breed's future success.

There are several genetic clusters within the breed, and breeders are encouraged to breed within those clusters so that every sheep has a potential genetic outcross. Each cluster has unique strengths and weaknesses.

Recognizing the importance of maintaining genetic diversity within the breed, the association's board of directors launched a DNA analysis project. Dedicated individual breeders fund this endeavor, which costs about \$30 an animal and includes about 150 sheep representing all of the genetic clusters. To participate, shepherds submit tissue samples from ear notches to obtain genetic material. DNA testing then helps provide an outcross between genetically close clusters.



*Left, Oogie and Ken McGuire hold a shepherd staff and a ram horn at their Desert Weyr Ranch. Right, Oogie McGuire holds a Black Welsh Mountain lamb. Photos courtesy of Oogie McGuire.*

### REBUILDING THE REGISTRY

McGuire has also made a positive impact on both the American Black Welsh Sheep population and the shepherds who raise them. She serves as registrar for the American Black Welsh Mountain Sheep Association, which covers the United States and Canada.

In her usual thorough manner, McGuire rebuilt the registry from scratch between 1999 and 2000. When semen was imported from the United Kingdom to North America, the registrar at that time did not provide pedigrees for the semen-bred sheep to owners. McGuire recreated the registry and has served as registrar ever since. One of her current projects is converting the registry into a new system while writing software from scratch. This huge personal effort will keep annual fees to a minimum for the 50 or so breeders in the association.

The registry switched to electronic animal identification around 2013. The sheep wear Shearwell ear tags that include an electronic chip applied at birth. The advantage of the electronic ID is specific animal confirmation, avoiding transcription errors and hard-to-read ear tag numbers that can be worn off.

"You can lose a tag and might have to replace it, but the sheep will be accurately identified by the electronic chip," McGuire said. "In any pedigreed breed, it's critical you know who they are. Tracking individuals in a rare breed is especially important."

Commercially sold electronic tag readers were costing breeders up to



*Black Welsh Mountain sheep on pasture at Desert Weyr in Colorado. Photo courtesy of Oogie McGuire.*

\$1,800, a large investment for small flock owners. The McGuires reduced the cost to about \$350 when Ken designed a reader built with PVC pipe for less than \$100. Oogie wrote the free, open source software for it, and uses an Android tablet that costs around \$60.

"The software we wrote, LambTracker, is really designed to manage all the flock management tasks," she said. "It's targeted at rare breeds. You can do your mating plans, keep track of medications or vaccines given, and slaughter withdrawals. It's a very comprehensive management system."

### CRYOPRESERVATION

McGuire is also providing ear notch tissue samples to the USDA's National Animal Germplasm program (NAGP). In NAGP's laboratories the tissue samples are used to refine a protocol for producing cell lines that can be cryopreserved and used to recreate the original animals through cloning.

Cryopreservation of tissue samples provides an alternative method to conserve rare genetics. McGuire has worked closely with NAGP for many years to refine artificial insemination techniques for sheep, and semen from many of her Black Welsh Mountain rams are kept in the NAGP's livestock germplasm collection.

### SHAVE 'EM TO SAVE 'EM

McGuire is also an active member of The Livestock Conservancy. She began participating in the Save 'Em to Shave 'Em (SE2SE) Initiative when it was launched in 2019. This program matches

heritage breed wool and fiber with spinners, knitters, weavers, crocheters, and other fiber artists. It has exposed thousands of people to a wide range of heritage sheep fleeces.

As an official Shave 'Em to Save 'Em Fiber Provider for Black Welsh Mountain sheep, McGuire reported an increase in sales within the first six months of enrolling in the program. Last year, her wool sales were higher than the previous three years combined.

To learn more about the program connecting fiber artists with fiber providers, or to enroll, visit [rarewool.org](https://rarewool.org).

### MORE THAN WOOL

In addition to wool and breeding stock, McGuire also sells meat from her Black Welsh Mountain sheep. It's her main source of sheep-based income, making up about 65 percent of her sales.

"It's important that every animal have a job, on the farm," McGuire said. "Whether to provide meat, fiber, milk, breeding stock, or labor."

Black Welsh Mountain sheep are one of the prime mutton breeds. In the United Kingdom, mutton is considered meat from sheep that are more than two years old when butchered.

"Black Welsh Mountain mutton is very mild," McGuire said. "It's hard to get people to try it. But once they do, it's like the difference between veal and a well-aged Angus steak. Good mutton should have a rich, luscious flavor."

### LOOKING FOR NEW BREEDERS

The American Black Welsh Mountain Sheep Association is always looking

for new breeders for this rare breed. For those getting into sheep and rare breeds, McGuire recommends that effective breeders work within the breed, register their animals, and maintain the paperwork needed.

"If all you want is a couple of cute pet sheep or a milk cow for yourself, you might still want a rare breed, but don't take one of the animals needed to keep the breed going out of the breeding gene pool," McGuire said. "We need every lamb. Even a tiny flock with two ewes and a ram can be an important part of conservation if the breeder will do the work. That means, document the lambs and select within the breed parameters including good teeth, toes, teats or testicles, and temperament."

To learn more about the association, visit <https://blackwelsh.org/>.

\*\*\*

*This article was written by Cathy R. Payne. When she retired from teaching in 2010 and started a sustainable farm, Payne decided to focus on heritage breeds. She became a member and raised Khaki Campbell ducks, Silver Fox and American rabbits, Gulf Coast sheep, and American Guinea Hogs. She sold her farm in 2018 and now advocates for heritage breeds year-round as a part-time Program Research Associate for The Livestock Conservancy.*

*Payne is also the award-winning author of "Saving the Guinea Hogs: The Recovery of an American Homestead Breed," with a foreword by D. Phillip Sponenberg, DVM, Ph.D. It is available for purchase on The Livestock Conservancy's web store.*



# VOTE FOR 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES



The Livestock Conservancy is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors that sets policies and priorities for the non-profit organization. Directors are nominated by the Governance Committee and elected by the voting membership to serve three-year terms, with the option to be re-elected for a second term.

Voting members must be 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; if the number of votes for the candidate exceeds the number against, the candidate is elected.

Members may choose to cast their ballot electronically or by submitting a paper ballot via the U.S. Postal Service. Instructions for both options follow.

Members that would like to nominate another Livestock Conservancy member to serve on the board of directors in the future can request a nomination form by email at [info@livestockconservancy.org](mailto:info@livestockconservancy.org) or by phone at 919-542-5704.

## EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

With Alison Martin's decision to return to her full-time role as Program Director, the Board of Directors has appointed Judy Brummer as Interim Executive Director, with plans to begin the search for a permanent executive director. These changes call for leadership continuity on The Livestock Conservancy's Board.

The Livestock Conservancy by-laws allow the Board to extend the term of an officer by one year under exceptional circumstances. At the February 11, 2023, board meeting directors determined these circumstances exist. By vote of the board at that meeting, Vice President Jay H. "Jerry" Calvert, Jr. and Secretary Richard Browning will both extend their terms by one year, concluding on June 30, 2024.

## 2023 DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

Board members make a significant impact on the conservation of heritage livestock and poultry. Member votes each year also play a vital role in saving endangered breeds and in the future of the organization.

Please learn more about the following 2023 Board of Directors candidates and vote for the individuals who will help lead The Livestock Conservancy for the next three years.

### DAVID L. ANDERSON, SECOND TERM

David Anderson was born and raised in the farming countryside of southwestern New York state. As an adult, he relocated to California where he now resides with his wife Michele. Anderson has been a pro-active community leader, including five years of service on the board of the local unified school district and as a member of the local area advisory committee.



Anderson is a life-long breeder and exhibitor of standard-bred poultry, including large fowl chickens, bantams, turkeys, geese, and ducks. He served six years as president and ten years on the Board of Directors of the American Poultry Association (APA), North America's oldest livestock organization established in 1873. Anderson is a general licensed poultry judge and has served as an expert poultry witness in court during multiple trials in California. He was inducted into the California Poultry Hall of Fame and the APA Hall of Fame in 2006.

Anderson holds a BA degree in Psychology with advanced studies in Systems Management from the University of Southern California. He is now retired after enjoying a successful career in the aerospace industry and space program, including 30 years as founder and president of Key Group, a management and marketing consultant firm providing support primarily to aerospace-oriented service companies. He was also part owner and officer in various companies, and served on the board of directors of two other corporations.

### DENNIS BIRES, J.D., FIRST TERM

Dennis Bires has had careers as a practicing lawyer and a law professor teaching tax and estate planning courses at the University of Tulsa. He has served as legal and tax counsel for numerous nonprofit organizations, including the Woody Guthrie Center Museum and Archive, the Bob Dylan Center Museum and Archive, and the Tulsa Community Foundation. Bires also served with Educare Centers, private preschools for children from indigent families, and Still She Rises as a private defender and social services coordinator for indigent defendants who are mothers. He's also worked with the Center of the Universe Festival, a music and art festival.



Bires was leader of the Docent Program at The Nature Conservancy's Tallgrass Prairie Preserve and was founding director and professor at the Summer Institute in Slovakia, a for-credit law study in Eastern Europe. He also served as board chair of the Woody Guthrie Center, and advisory board member of Friends of American Song Archives.

Bires was a presenter at The Livestock Conservancy's 2014 conference in Austin, Texas, on "Tax Treatment of Hobby Farms," and authored the cover story for the summer 2005 issue of the quarterly newsletter, "The Milking Shorthorn in American History." He and his wife Marian raise Galloway and Milking Shorthorn cattle for their home freezer.

### NORMAN BURNS, SECOND TERM

Norman Burns is the President and CEO of Conner Prairie Museum in Fishers, Indiana. The museum houses a wide collection of heritage breed livestock and is an active breeder of Ossabaw pigs, Tunis sheep, and English Longhorn cattle.

Burns was raised on a small farm in middle Tennessee with Hereford cattle. He has been actively involved in museum administration, entrepreneurial leadership, fundraising, preservation, conservation, animal husbandry, education, and cultural heritage tourism for more than 34 years. He conducted

hand-shearing demonstrations and many other tasks with heritage breeds and heirloom plants at living history museums in Tennessee and Indiana before



turning to administration. As the CEO and Executive Director of six different historic properties and general museums, Burns has developed nationally-recognized, innovative programming.

Burns also served on various boards, committees, and task forces for local and regional cultural tourism agencies, and in similar capacities for local, state, regional, and national museum organizations. He currently serves as the incoming Chair for the American Association for State and Local History.

#### **KEISHA CAMERON, SECOND TERM**

Raised in Brockport, New York, a small town just outside Lake Ontario, Keisha Cameron grew up as the daughter of Southern preachers.

From a young age, she was passionate about connecting and communicating with people who shape the community and cultures around her, always exploring languages, histories, and stories.



Cameron pursued a major in Speech Pathology and American Sign Language (ASL) and interpreted at Ashland University. She later attended Hampton University on a track and field scholarship until her father's passing in 1995. As a working mother of three, Cameron returned to SUNY Empire State College to study Social Theory, Structure and Change, an interdisciplinary program focused on socio-cultural anthropology.

Professionally, Cameron spent more than a decade co-managing 5 Acre Studios, a creative brand marketing and photography company owned and operated with her husband Warren. She worked briefly as Community Relations Manager for Barnes and Noble and as a Refugee Employment Specialist with World Relief. These experiences helped Cameron build skills in community engagement, since she frequently dealt with the intersections of inter-cultural

differences, racial inequities, economic security, and community well-being.

In 2009, using an anti-racist/anti-othering framework, Cameron founded The Exchange, a multi-cultural arts and education organization dedicated to promoting belonging through education, hospitality, and play. She also worked with the Montgomery Improvement Association, helping commemorate the 50th Anniversary celebration of the famous bus boycott and the start of the Civil Rights Movement. She has also played host to countless international visitors, missionaries, dignitaries, and exchange students.

Cameron's High Hog Farm in Grayson, Georgia, includes Buckeye and Dorking chickens, as well as Gulf Coast sheep. She is also an official Shave 'Em to Save 'Em Fiber Provider.

#### **CYNTHIA CAPERS, FIRST TERM**

Cynthia Capers is a retired trauma nurse and pharmaceutical biotech clinical researcher. She is also a sorority member of Sigma Gamma Rho, Inc., and the founder and owner of Heniscity Farm in Pegram, Tennessee.

Her farm was created to extend across the ancestral journey to Mother Earth, unifying cultural gaps to the land and reducing hunger along the way. National Poultry Improvement Program (NPIP) certified, Heniscity Farm specializes in heritage breeds and domestic free-range poultry. From the big city of Chicago to a small-town feathered fowl aficionado, Capers has more than 20 years of experience poultry of all kinds.



A graduate of Tennessee State University's (TSU) New Farmers Academy, Capers is also a member of American Pastured Poultry Producers Association (APPPA), a licensed egg grader, and an industrial hemp grower. She is also developing a small flock poultry curriculum in partnership with TSU. Recently, Heniscity Farm was chosen as the first livestock farm certified under the Cumberland River Compact.

Capers is currently teaming with a United Nations' based group to ensure equality in agriculture across the globe. Although new to general farm methods, she is considered the local poultry expert

in the Nashville area and believes heritage breeds must be on the agricultural radar as entry-level livestock.

#### **THERESE COUCHER, FIRST TERM**

Therese Coucher first read about The Livestock Conservancy in a magazine article written in the 1980's about a woman who imported several Poitou donkeys from France. As a lifelong animal lover growing up in the western U.S., she was fascinated. The article mentioned The Livestock Conservancy's goal of conserving rare breeds of livestock and poultry from extinction, so she joined the cause.



For many years, Coucher bred Komondor dogs and maintained their registry. She also raised Angora rabbits, and kept and showed Morgan horses. Now, she keeps chickens to provide fresh eggs and lives with two Berger Picards, an ancient breed of sheepdog.

Coucher is also a tapestry weaver, woodworker, artist, Master Gardener, and Master Naturalist. From 2017 to 2022 she served as a volunteer with The Livestock Conservancy, working on the annual livestock census. She reached out to more than 100 livestock breed associations and registries each year to gather data used to determine changes to the Conservation Priority List. Today, the census reflects many years worth of worldwide data for hundreds of breeds thanks to her efforts.

#### **DAVID DAY, J.D., FIRST TERM**

David Day and his wife, Brenda, reside on a small farm outside Noblesville, Indiana, where they raise Lincoln Longwool sheep and sell wool as an official Shave 'Em to Save 'Em Fiber Provider.

Day is also a senior partner in a central Indiana law firm. He has been in private practice for almost 46 years, focused primarily on advising public school districts and assisting small businesses and families in business matters, with an emphasis on succession planning. He served as managing partner in his law firm for more than a decade, and is currently transitioning to a less active





law practice while assisting with special projects at the firm.

Day has provided both legal advice and board service to a number of nonprofit and civic organizations, including leadership roles on an elected school board, president, treasurer and board member of the Indiana Sheep Association, board member of two national sheep breed organizations, and a former board member of The Livestock Conservancy and Conner Prairie Museum.

Day is a native of Indiana and holds a bachelor's degree from Ball State University and a law degree from Harvard Law School.

#### **LAURA MARIE KRAMER, FIRST TERM**

Laura Marie Kramer is the Director of National Accounts for Standlee Premium Western Forage, a third generation forage farm located in Southern Idaho, where she manages the baled division of the company along with national accounts.

She has a passion for forage production and matching the right hay with the right livestock producer. Her background is in Ruminant Nutrition with two decades of experience working with farmers.



Kramer is a graduate of Texas A&M University, and completed her post graduate work at Texas Tech University. She grew up on a family farm in rural Maryland, raising Jersey dairy cattle. She founded La Bella Farm in Georgetown, Delaware, in 2009, where she raises Hog Island Sheep after learning about them from The Livestock Conservancy, and is an official Shave 'Em to Save 'Em Fiber Provider. She also keeps Andalusian, Delaware, Dominique, and Sussex chickens. An avid horsewoman, Kramer also spends her free time riding her two draft horses and competing in Eventing.

#### **KEITH OHLINGER, FIRST TERM**

Keith Ohlinger runs Porch View Farm, LLC with his family in Howard County, Maryland. He set out to continue his family farming legacy by building a Garden of Eden that was both profitable and enhanced the ecosystem. On the farm, they rotationally graze Legacy Dexter cattle and raise trees on a 22.3 acre silvopasture that uses keylines for

water management and living hedges to increase carbon sequestration and wildlife habitat.

Ohlinger found heritage breeds perfect for his farming operation and has raised San Clemente Island goats, Hog Island sheep, Gloucestershire Old Spots and Tamworth pigs, Beltsville Small White turkeys, Pilgrim geese, Welsh Harlequin ducks, and Silver Fox and American Chinchilla rabbits.

Ohlinger is an active advocate for all types of agriculture, and serves on numerous commissions, councils, and task forces helping the agricultural and forest product industries.



#### **TIMOTHY J. SAFRANSKI, PH.D., SECOND TERM**

Timothy Safranski grew up in Oregon on a small, diversified livestock farm. A career in the animal industry was the goal, and hogs – Hereford Hogs among them – helped show him paths in that direction.

Safranski completed his Bachelor of Science degree at Oregon State University while living in the sheep barn and then made his way to the Midwest. He earned his Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees at the University of Missouri, then spent a couple years working for USDA-ARS in Clay Center, Nebraska. Currently, he serves as Professor of Animal Science and State Swine Extension Specialist, leading an integrated extension and research program in genetics, genetic conservation, and reproductive management, and teaching the Swine Production class at Missouri University.

Safranski has presented on five continents and 25 states about swine genetics, reproduction, and management. He and his family raise crossbred cattle, Katahdin sheep, American and Silver Fox rabbits, Bourbon Red turkeys, and various chicken breeds on 91 acres in Callaway County, Missouri. He also chairs The Livestock Conservancy's Board Governance Committee.



## **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 at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TLCVote2023>
- (2) Use this printed ballot and mail it to PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC, 27312.

**Ballots must be postmarked no later than Friday, May 5, 2023.**

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:

#### **DAVID L. ANDERSON**

\_\_\_ For \_\_\_ Against \_\_\_ Abstain

#### **DENNIS BIRES**

\_\_\_ For \_\_\_ Against \_\_\_ Abstain

#### **NORMAN BURNS**

\_\_\_ For \_\_\_ Against \_\_\_ Abstain

#### **KEISHA CAMERON**

\_\_\_ For \_\_\_ Against \_\_\_ Abstain

#### **CYNTHIA CAPERS**

\_\_\_ For \_\_\_ Against \_\_\_ Abstain

#### **THERESE COUCHER**

\_\_\_ For \_\_\_ Against \_\_\_ Abstain

#### **DAVID DAY**

\_\_\_ For \_\_\_ Against \_\_\_ Abstain

#### **LAURA MARIE KRAMER**

\_\_\_ For \_\_\_ Against \_\_\_ Abstain

#### **KEITH OHLINGER**

\_\_\_ For \_\_\_ Against \_\_\_ Abstain

#### **TIMOTHY J. SAFRANSKI**

\_\_\_ For \_\_\_ Against \_\_\_ Abstain



SCAN HERE  
- TO -  
LEARN MORE



OFF 25lb size or greater of  
Calf-Manna®

0095668-220067

MANUFACTURERS COUPON

EXP: 12/31/23



CONSUMER AND RETAILER: LIMIT ONE (1) COUPON PER PURCHASE OF SPECIFIED PRODUCT AND QUANTITY STATED. NOT TO BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER COUPONS. LIMIT OF TWO (2) IDENTICAL COUPONS IN SAME SHOPPING TRIP. Void if expired, reproduced, altered, copied, sold, purchased, transferred, or exchanged to any person, firm, or group prior to store redemption, or where prohibited or restricted by law. Any other use constitutes fraud. Consumer: You pay any sales tax. Retailer: Manna Pro will reimburse you for the face value of this coupon plus \$4 handling if submitted in accordance with Manna Pro, Coupon Redemption Policy (available upon request). Mail coupons to: Inner Dept #95668, Manna Pro, Mfr. Rev. Office 801 UNION PACIFIC BLVD STE 5, LAREDO TX 78045-3475. Cash value .01004. No cash back if coupon value exceeds selling price. Valid only in the USA.



Nationwide Shipping Available  
Charcuterie & Select Cuts  
info@jensenreserve.com  
770-363-4487  
www.JensenReserve.com  
Loganville, Georgia |



National Romeldale CVM  
Conservancy

Shepherding for the fiber artist. Shepherding for the future.



We welcome everyone interested in assisting our efforts to preserve the breed's original genetics. For more information, as well as a list of breeders, fiber sources, and meat producers visit our website:

www.nationalcvmconservancy.org



Thank you to members and advertisers for supporting the production of this newsletter. To advertise in this publication, call 919-542-5704 or email [info@livestockconservancy.org](mailto:info@livestockconservancy.org).



*Proud Sponsor  
of the 2021  
Poultry Census*

**Dedicated to Preserving  
Rare and Exotic Breeds**

For 104 years, McMurray Hatchery has been a trusted, family-owned company dedicated to providing our customers with the highest quality poultry. We have the widest selection of rare and Heritage breeds, and the supplies you need to raise a successful flock.

**MURRAY McMURRAY  
HATCHERY**

EST. 1917

MCMURRAYHATCHERY.COM | 800.456.3280

**American Cream Draft Horse Association**

Explore the joy and amazement of this critically endangered breed. They will steal your heart ...  
Contact us how you can become a part of their survival.



Visit us at  
[www.ACDHA.org](http://www.ACDHA.org)

**KERRIE BECKETT, Secretary**  
226 Schellinger Rd, Poland, ME 04274  
[kerrie.beckett@yahoo.com](mailto:kerrie.beckett@yahoo.com)

**The "Cream" of Drafts**  
America's Only Native Draft Horse

**Whippoorwill Farm**  
Icelandic Landrace Chickens  
15 Years of Preservation




**Shipping Hatching Eggs and Day Old Chicks**

Web: [www.davidgrote.com](http://www.davidgrote.com)  
Web: [www.icelandicchicken.com](http://www.icelandicchicken.com)  
Email: [davidwgrote@cheqnet.net](mailto:davidwgrote@cheqnet.net)  
Facebook: @icechickensofwpwfarm  
Instagram: wpwfarmandstudio

6885 Bartlett Rd • Iron River, WI 54847  
Phone: 715-372-5255

**CHICK N STUFF**

Michael Smith  
(901) 490-0022  
Veronica Campbell-Smith  
(731) 607-7324



Visit: at 430 Crump Landing Road  
Crump, TN 38327  
Mail: PO Box 87 • Adamsville, TN 38310  
NPI#: 63-490 • License # 39501  
See us on Facebook!

**FROM EMBRYO TO CHICK**  
A Cooperative Virtual Learning Experience



A 4-H embryology program on YouTube in partnership with The Livestock Conservancy and Chatham County  
4-H Extension: <http://bit.ly/ChickVideosYouTube>

**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS**

<b>PLATINUM</b>		<b>GOLD</b>	
<b>SILVER</b>		<b>BRONZE</b>	Marushka Farms Premier 1 Supplies KW Cages
<b>PARTNER</b>	Battenkill Fiber Carding and Spinning Mill Metzer Farms Meyer Hatchery Seven Springs Farm	<b>STEWARD</b>	Bleak Hill Lincoln Longwools National Romeldale- CVM Conservancy Whispering Hills Farm Joe Schallberger
	<b>SUPPORTER</b> Heritage Shorthorn Society Joe Schallberger The Lippitt Club, Inc.		



# CLASSIFIEDS



**JACOB SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION**  
Dedicated to conserving Jacob sheep through registration and education.  
Discover this majestic, heritage breed!  
[www.jsba.org](http://www.jsba.org)

**EXPLORE AND EXPERIENCE  
LEICESTER LONGWOOL**




*Dedicating efforts to preserve a rare and historic breed.*  
[LEICESTERLONGWOOL.ORG](http://LEICESTERLONGWOOL.ORG)



**Bold and Beautiful**

**Barbados Blackbelly**  
Sheep Association International



**American Blackbelly**

[www.blackbellysheep.org](http://www.blackbellysheep.org)

**Karakul Shepherds Alliance**  
— where the flocks gather



[info@karakulshepherds.org](mailto:info@karakulshepherds.org)  
Ads, Census, Open Flock Book & Sharing  
Deborah Hunter, Registrar 206.371.0995 cell

**NASSA**  
**North American Shetland Sheepbreeders Association**  
<http://www.shetland-sheep.org>



**Discover how easy producing exquisite wool can be:**

- 11 Natural Colors of Soft Wool
- Newborn Vigor • Great Mothers
- A Hardy, Heritage Breed
- Supportive Breed Organization



**TRADITIONAL**  
**1927™**  
**SHETLAND**

**FEEL THE DIFFERENCE®**

[www.finefleeceshetland.org](http://www.finefleeceshetland.org)





## The American Romeldale/CVM Association, Inc.

For information on the sheep, wool and Breeder listing of this Critically Endangered Breed

[www.arcainc.org](http://www.arcainc.org)

[americanromeldale@gmail.com](mailto:americanromeldale@gmail.com)

[registrar@glmregistry.com](mailto:registrar@glmregistry.com)

## NAVAJO-CHURRO SHEEP ASSOCIATION

Established 1986

Website: [www.navajo-churrosheep.com](http://www.navajo-churrosheep.com)

Registrar:

c/o Kim Kerley  
397 Deep Creek Rd.  
Chelan, WA 98832  
[kimkerley@earthlink.com](mailto:kimkerley@earthlink.com)

Business Office:

c/o Bonnie Barcus  
P.O. Box 190840  
Boise, ID 83719-0840  
[spladanceacres@gmail.com](mailto:spladanceacres@gmail.com)



America's oldest domestic sheep breed

Great mothers, easy lambing, hardy  
Lustrous double coated fleece

## CALLING ALL FIBER ARTISTS

Spin, knit, felt, weave, or crochet with rare wool from endangered sheep. Explore new types of fiber to earn incentives while crafting.

The Livestock Conservancy's **SHAVE 'EM TO SAVE 'EM** Initiative connects fiber artists to shepherds raising endangered sheep listed on the Conservation Priority List. Create for a cause today.

**SIGN UP AT RAREWOOL.ORG**



SHAVE 'EM  
TO SAVE 'EM  
A Livestock Conservancy Initiative



Let us introduce you to the rarest of the rare breeds of sheep in the US today ...

### CVM/Romeldales

They provide fabulous fleece and roving in a palette of colors including greys, black, white, and many shades of brown from oatmeal to dark chocolate to reddish brown and rose grey.



Contact us for breeding stock, fiber, or yarns at  
[www.MarushkaFarms.com](http://www.MarushkaFarms.com)

## Desert Weyr

*Black Welsh Mountain Sheep*



Our flock is US and UK Registered,  
Scrapie Program Export Qualified  
and NSIP Recorded

**Ken & Oogie McGuire**  
16870 Garvin Mesa Road  
Paonia, CO 81428

(970) 527-3573

[www.desertweyr.com](http://www.desertweyr.com) [sales@desertweyr.com](mailto:sales@desertweyr.com)

## Ruminants for a small planet

Sheep for all seasons and all reasons

Productive foragers and grazers.  
Easy to manage with minimal fencing.  
Distinctive wool to spin, weave and knit.  
Very suited to sustainable farming on small  
landbase and multi-species pasturing.  
Lean, mild and tender meat.



For more information contact  
**The American Black Welsh  
Mountain Sheep Association**  
[www.blackwelsh.org](http://www.blackwelsh.org)  
P.O. Box 534, Paonia, CO 81428

# CLASSIFIEDS




**AMBA Registered  
Meishan Pigs**

**With seven boars and over ten sows we  
are able to offer breeding pairs, trios,  
as well as bred gilts**

**Imperial Farm**  
8834 GA Hwy 24 W  
Bartow, Georgia 30413

**Wendy Palmer**  
478-357-9588  
www.imperialfarm.net

**Contact us for information on how you can add Meishans to your farm**

**www.lbpbu.com**

1 (567) 674-2542  
16383 County Rd 75, Kenton OH 43326  
A place where each voice counts.

**LARGE BLACK PIG BREEDERS  
UNITED**

swineherd@lbpbu.com

Happy Hogging!

**LINCOLN REDS: DOCILE, FERTILE, DELICIOUS**




[www.LincolnRed.org](http://www.LincolnRed.org)

**The Dutch Belted Cattle Association of America**  
has the original and only herdbook for Dutch Belted Dairy Cattle

Since 1886 the DBCAA has been continuously recording the royal lineage of this noble breed, preserving and carrying it forward from its origin in the pastures of the Netherlands to the pastures of America's dairymen.


**THE SOURCE OF THE BELTED GENETICS FOR ALL OTHER BELTED CATTLE**



1820s: Grolle  
A.B. Record 16,21200 7797  
From the L.A. Wilson herd, Bismarck, ND

Cornell D. Upson, President  
3724 County Hwy 33  
Cherry Valley, NY 13320-3021  
607-264-3108

**www.DutchBelted.com**



2000s: Bunk Nook  
4-00 2019 15,210w 3, 7w 1279 1, 0w 472w  
5-00 12,014 14, 010w 14,00 1,000 1,000 443w  
Bred by Netherland, owned by Bismarck



Save the Date

**75th AHCA  
Anniversary Gathering  
June 16-17, 2023  
Chamberlain & Oacoma, SD**

Events begin at 8:00am daily

**Arrowwood Resort &  
Conference Center at Cedar Shore**  
**605.234.6376**  
\$139/night (1-4 people)  
Book your room by 5/1/23

**Speaker Line Up**

Amanda Radke – Ranch Mom, Children's Book Author  
& Motivational Speaker, South Dakota  
Celebrating Your Highland Heritage  
& Sharing Your Story With The World

Steve Campbell – Tailor Made Cattle, Idaho  
Minerals, Toxins & Epigenetics

Angus Mackay – Colrefur Fold, Scotland  
The History of Highland Cattle


Wally Congdon – Garr Canyon Ranch, Montana  
The Drover Road: Horns & Hair in North America

Entertainment by  
**Tris Munsick & the Innocents**


**South Dakota**

GREAT FACES. GREAT PLACES.

**American Highland Cattle Association**  
highlandcattleusa.org




**CHATCO  
CATTLE**



Diamond Pete • PCRBA Reg 2620

**Registered Pinewoods Cattle**

**Quality Breeding Stock & Bees**




CHATCO CATTLE COMPANY, LLC is committed to preserving over  
four centuries of natural selection through thoughtful breeding

[www.chatcocattle.com](http://www.chatcocattle.com)

Livestock Conservancy Member



**SOME THINGS ARE BETTER  
OFF LEFT UNCHANGED...**



**ALL ABOUT GENETICS**

• CATTLE FOR SALE •  
• VERY REASONABLE PRICES •  
FOR MORE INFO, VISIT:  
[www.FARRCROSSLONGHORNS.com](http://www.FARRCROSSLONGHORNS.com)

**PRESERVING  
THE ORIGINAL TYPE LONGHORNS**

**FARR CROSS**

JAMES & DEBBY FARR • TERRELL, TX • JAMES@HITCHEMUP.COM • (214) 202-8141


Background photo taken in Clayville, KY, around 1900 by L.P. Steyer. Thank you to Doreen Shupert of Atlas CU for sharing.

★ **LIVING TEXAS HISTORY** ★


**Celebrating 500 Years  
Arrival in the New World**

*Texas Longhorn: The Original Texas Beef*


Partners in Breed Preservation and Conservation



CATTLEMEN'S  
TEXAS LONGHORN  
REGISTRY  
[ctr.org](http://ctr.org)



Cattlemen's  
Texas Longhorn Conservancy  
[ctrc.org](http://ctrc.org)



**Pineywoods Cattle Registry & Breeders Association**

*~ Founded 1999 ~*



**PCRBA holds ground to this Cornerstone of Excellence**

**Preserve and Promote Pineywoods Cattle and assist breeders with  
Production and Profitability with Purpose**

- Landrace cattle bred to thrive in hot, humid, and harsh environments
- Natural selection has developed these hardy, long lived, low input and thrifty foragers & browsers
- Multi-purpose Pineywoods cattle make your goals a reality!
- Pineywoods still produce the finest Beef and Oxen just as they have for centuries
- Low impact & excellent calving rates make these high milking Momma Cows an ideal choice for restoring & regenerating native ranges




Product of USA

183 Sebron Ladner Place • Poplarville, Mississippi 39470 • 601-795-4672 • [PCRBA.org](http://PCRBA.org)

**Heritage Shorthorn Society**






Heritage Shorthorns have the versatility to be productive in any small farm setting, from functioning as the family milk cow to producing grass-fed beef.

Visit [www.HeritageShorthorn.org](http://www.HeritageShorthorn.org) to explore the possibilities that exist in owning these eye catching & calm cattle, to read about their amazing history, and to find breeders near you.



**Heritage Shorthorns Bring the Past & Future Together**

Email: [office@heritageshorthorn.org](mailto:office@heritageshorthorn.org)

# Peacock Hill Farm



**Kangal**  
Livestock Guardian  
Dog  
Puppies &  
Stud Service



**Low Country Goats**  
Bucklings for sale  
(Picture of Sire)



**Heritage**  
Turkeys

Eleanor 770-860-8989  
E@PeacockHill.Farm

# AH

ASHFORD HEIGHTS FARM



White & Natural Colored  
Leicester Longwool Sheep  
Adams, MA 01220  
teresa@ashfordheightsfarm.com  
www.ashfordheightsfarm.com



Preserving Breed Standards since 1983



- No Shearing
- Parasite Resistant
- Hoof-Rot Resistant
- Non-Selective Grazers
- Easy to Handle
- Fine-Grained Low-Fat Meat

**Polled & White!**  
[www.StCroixHairSheep.org](http://www.StCroixHairSheep.org)

## Bleak Hill Lincoln Longwools

Registered Breeding Stock



**Woolery \* Blankets \* Roving**

15198 Bleak Hill Rd. Culpeper, VA 20190  
[WWW.BleakHillLincolnLongwools.com](http://WWW.BleakHillLincolnLongwools.com)






## HERITAGE BREEDS GAVE LIFE TO AMERICAN AGRICULTURE

**And We're Proud to Return the Favor.**

At TSC, our company is built on serving the rural lifestyle. That lifestyle wouldn't exist without the rich heritage of livestock in America. That's why we are proud to support the Livestock Conservancy in their mission to protect and conserve these breeds for future generations.



**PURINA**  
Shop TSC for the most popular livestock, poultry and equine feed from Purina.

**DUMOR**  
Save money with our exclusive line of high quality feed, treats and supplements.

**Nutrena**  
TSC has a variety of Nutrena products that will keep you and your animals healthy and happy.

**AND MORE!**  
Shop your favorite brands and products at your local Tractor Supply Company store or online.

**TSC TRACTOR SUPPLY CO.** FIND YOUR NEAREST STORE AND SHOP LIVESTOCK, POULTRY, AND EQUINE FEED AND SUPPLIES ONLINE ANYTIME!  
[TRACTORSUPPLY.COM](http://TRACTORSUPPLY.COM)

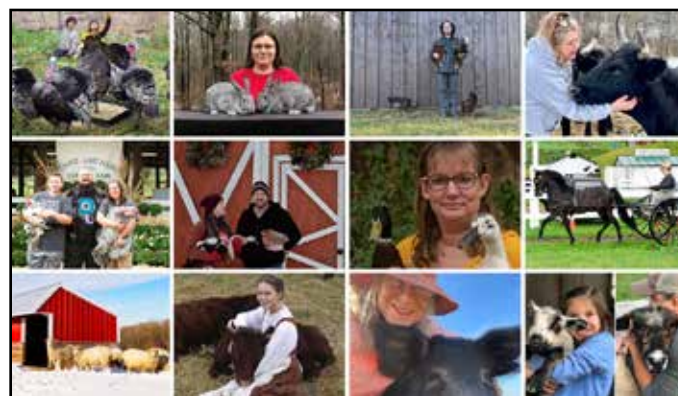
# Farm & Fence Solutions

Fencing • Sheep & Goat Equipment • Ear Tags  
Clippers & Shears • Poultry Supplies




Contact us for **FREE** catalogs!  
**FREE** Shipping on qualified orders.

**Premier1Supplies.com**  
**800-282-6631**  
2031 300th St • Washington, IA 52353



## LIVESTOCK CONSERVANCY MICROGRANTS PROGRAM

2023 Microgrant applications will open in May.

Learn more and apply at  
<https://livestockconservancy.org/resources/micro-grant-program/>

## Heritage Polled Shorthorns

*True Dual-Purpose Milking and Beef Animals*



Grass-fed Genetics

Specializing in Foundation Females that incorporate the fertility, docility, and longevity that Heritage Shorthorns are known for.

Johne's and Bovine Leukosis Free Herd

[www.WhisperingHillsFarm.com](http://www.WhisperingHillsFarm.com)



[office@whisperinghillsfarm.com](mailto:office@whisperinghillsfarm.com)  
503-704-2408



PO Box 477  
Pittsboro, NC 27312 USA

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Pittsboro, NC  
Permit #50

**Change Service Requested**

**DATED MATERIAL**

## THE HEIRLOOM FARM: RAISING SILVER MARTEN RABBITS

Brianne Orr of Pleasant Hill, Missouri, strives to breed rabbits for excellent temperament and stellar pedigrees. Her LarkSong Rabbitry focuses on critically endangered Silver Marten and Silver rabbit breeds.

"I raise pedigreed rabbits for breed preservation and promotion, as well as for show, pets, and other breeders," she said. "I run a very small, conservation-minded rabbitry and focus on producing show-quality specimens."

She started with a breeding quad of Silver Martens, and quickly expanded to become American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA), National Silver Rabbit Club (NSRC), and Silver Marten Rabbit Club (SMRC) registered.

Silver Marten rabbits are an excellent multi-purpose breed used for exhibition, meat, and fur. Martens are about three to four weeks behind traditional rabbit meat breeds in maturity. Does can reach up to 9.5 pounds while bucks may weigh 8.5 pounds. Their short fur is soft, dense and shiny. It also displays the fly back characteristic. Colors include black, blue, chocolate, and sable. A new lilac variety was added in 2022.

Litters range from five to ten kits, with six to eight being average. "Silver Martens are excellent year-round breeders and really only stop in hot summers," she said. "They're also excellent mothers."

Orr describes breed temperament as docile, intelligent, inquisitive, and playful. "I think Silver Martens would be a perfect



youth rabbit project," she said. "They are calm and gentle enough to stand up to the enthusiastic hugs."

She tells new breeders Silver Martens are also very cold hardy. "Keep them out of drafts, and in deep cold, pack their housing with straw," she said. "I've yet to have any health issues in my herd."

For more information about the history of the breed, visit <https://livestockconservancy.org/heritage-breeds/heritage-breeds-list/silver-marten-rabbit/>.

"The sweet-natured Silver Marten breed is an excellent choice for any experience level," Orr said. "They're not too big, fairly calm if handled properly, and very funny to interact with."

In addition to her rabbitry, Orr raises heirloom vegetables. The Heirloom



Farm offers a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) weekly vegetable and fruit box. She also handcrafts artisanal goat milk soaps, lotions and sundries and runs a Heritage Arts Folk School.

"I teach classes about many different things, including wool fiber prep, hand spinning, crochet, soap making, candle making, and more." Visit her website at <https://the-heirloom-farm.square.site> for more details.

"Every purchase supports the farm, which focuses on conservation and education regarding rare and heirloom breeds and varieties," Orr said. "I am striving to build a community that understands why saving and cultivating these plants and animals is so important."

*Photos of Silver Marten rabbits above courtesy of Brianne Orr.*