



*mailed to 103 owners
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The American Minor Breeds Conservancy

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Dear Breeder of Red Wattle Hogs:

An informal wattle hog breeders meeting was held in conjunction with the American Minor Breeds Conservancy annual meeting and conference on September 28 in Wichita, Kansas.

Mr. Wenglar explained the history of his pigs and establishment of the Wenglar registry. It was agreed that a uniform ear marking system should be adopted in order to number registered pigs and ensure that their identity could be clearly demonstrated as an insurance for breeders and buyers alike. It was also suggested that the pedigree information generated by the Wenglar and other registries be examined and developed into either a complete herd book, or at least into charts to show the range and development of blood lines within the breed.

Elizabeth Henson, Project Director for AMBC, has already done this for a number of breeds and demonstrated how useful it can be to trace levels of inbreeding and help breeders to select new boars or additional sows for their herds, while guarding against the loss of strains or bloodlines within the breed.

She offered, through AMBC, to do the same for Red Wattlers. Mr. and Mrs. Wenglar expressed their interest in this project which it was hoped could be followed up and made available to the breeders.

It was agreed that with the rapid dissemination of stock from Mr. Wenglar and other breeders, it would be a good idea to form some kind of breeders' association in conjunction with the registries which could supply lists of registered breeders, pigs for sale and possibly even a news sheet. This would enable breeders to keep in touch with each other, exchange stock and promote the breed. Once again, AMBC offered help with staff and expertise in establishing such a system.

The breed characteristics, growth rates and disease resistance were discussed. Some actual figures were presented but it was agreed that in order to better understand and promote the breed, verifiable growth rate and health data should be collected and made available to the association.

As a red wattle or waddle pig breeder, you are invited to comment on these suggestions so that we can work with the registration organizers to develop a system to help you, the breeders, to ensure the survival of this fascinating breed.

I enclose a questionnaire which you may wish to use and will help us to gather the information. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours,