

pair of 6-month-old Waddle Hogs at left, soon will be included in the Gunter breeding program. A 4-month-old sow is on the right.

# Farmer's big, red hogs waddling to comeback

By JOAN MORRISON  
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When H. C. Wenglar was a boy in 1907, it was his duty to feed the hogs, turkeys, chickens and other animals on the farm. The hogs were big and red, and he remembered their meat was good to eat. They were called Red Wattles — the name referring to their color and the wattle of skin on each side of the face.

Because there were no vegetable oils to cook with, housewives looked to the hog for lard and Poland China hogs provided a lot of lard. According to Wenglar, Poland China hogs were tops by 1915.

"Everybody was breeding all their hogs to the Poland Chinas and the Red Wattles slowly disappeared," he said.

Wenglar retired in 1965 in Jacksonville, Texas, and started growing his own vegetables and meats. The memory of the big red hogs made him decide he wanted to include them on his farm. But Wenglar couldn't find any.

It took seven years of searching, but he finally found three in the back country around Jacksonville. After four years of careful breeding, Wenglar again has his big red hogs.

The breed recently was registered with the Animal Research Foundation under rare and new breeds of animals and their popularity is growing. But Wenglar calls them Waddle hogs — he wanted it that way because that's what his great-grandfather and grandfather called them.

Warner ranchers John and Pauline Gunter have invested about \$3,500 in the Red Wattles and hope to introduce the breed in Oklahoma.

"It's something we're going to try," Pauline said. "We've had hogs before, but none as large as these.

"I really want to get one ready to butcher and see how the meat is. All I've heard is from Mr. Wenglar and he claims it's very good," she said. "He says you have to put oil in the pan to fry the sausage."

Currently, the Gunter herd includes a sow — about 850 pounds worth — that soon will be 2 years old. She was purchased in June and is sired by a boar weighing more than 1,200 pounds.

"He's about 4 feet tall and you can ride on him," Wenglar said.

"I've been watching her rear

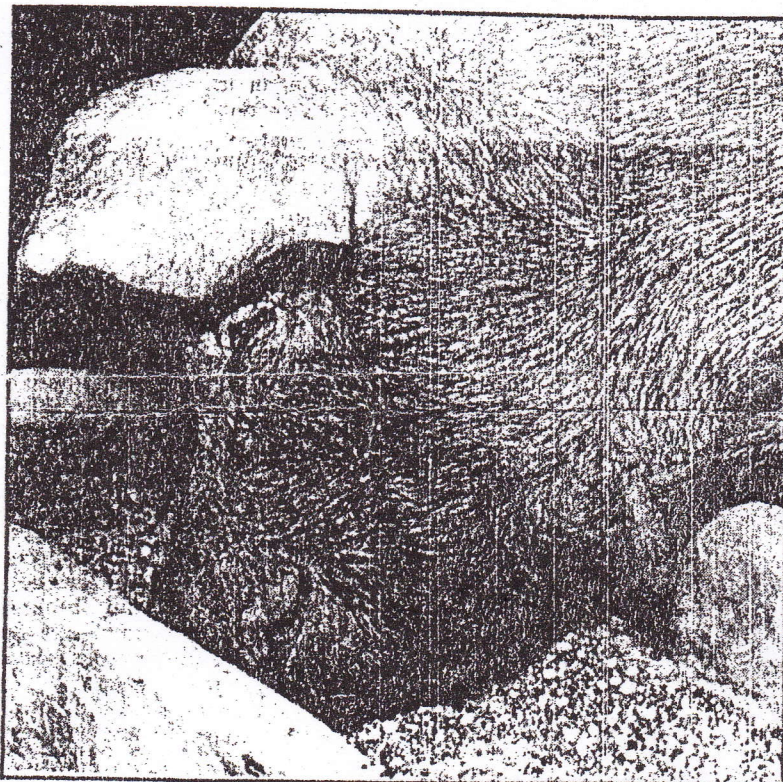


Photo by Joan Morrison

**WHAT IS A WADDLE HOG?** It's a breed of large, red hogs developed by H. C. Wenglar of Jacksonville, Texas. So named because of the wattle of skin on each side of its face, shown here along the jaw line.

have a litter any day now," Pauline said.

They also have a sow and boar that are 6 months old and a 4-month-old sow. These were purchased in March. The 6-month-old pair already weighs more than 300 pounds, she said.

The Gunter home recently burned and they live several miles from the farm where the hogs are kept.

During the summer months, hogs are not very active and don't eat a lot. They also can get very hot in a short time, Pauline explained.

"I come down here and wet her down about four times a day," she said. "I keep an area in the barn watered for her, but since she is going to have babies, I put her in a farrowing pen at night. I sure don't want her to roll over on the pigs, or drown them in the mud puddle."

She said her husband expects the sow to have about 12 or 13 piglets. Four already have been sold for \$500 each. The rest will be kept to enlarge the Gunter herd.

"We will keep all the gilts for sure," she said.

The young boar and sows will be

close because she is supposed to be ready to breed at 10 months, she said.

"We will need to get another boar or two later on, after we get better established. John doesn't want to have to inbreed them," she said.

In a pamphlet distributed by Wenglar, results of a weight gain test on Red Waddle hogs was published.

The test was made at Texas A&M University by Johnnie McKay, an extension agent, and Dr. T.D. Tank-sley, professor and extension swine specialist at the school.

Testing was during June, July and August. Feed conversion was one pound of meat to 2.60 pounds of feed. Pigs averaged 1.63 pounds daily gain. The carcass was a typical USDA Grade No. 1, back fat was 1.08 on a 205-pound hog. Hogs reached 215 pounds in 159 days after birth.

"I have people waiting to buy the hogs in 44 states, as many as 25 in a state," Wenglar said. "And buyers from Canada, Mexico and Great Britain are waiting."

Wenglar said he didn't intend to