

Red Wattle Hog Association Winter 2012

Minutes of the annual meeting of the Red Wattle Hog Association 2011 as transcribed by Kathy Bottorff.

The meeting was called to order by President Brian Jordan.

Members and guests present introduced themselves.

Minutes of the 2010 annual meeting were read by Dot Jordan and approved.

The 2011 Treasurer's report was reviewed by the membership. A motion to accept the treasurer's report as written was made by Buddy Coffman and seconded by Theresa Schieffelbein.

Motion was made by Brian Jordan to amend the bylaws to include the tech advisor as a member of the board. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Discussions followed regarding the RWHA becoming incorporated with reasons being to promote our product, to protect the board of directors, and to sell promotional items. Kathy Bottorff will check in the feasibility of becoming incorporated.

Discussions regarding the necessity of completely filling in the registration paperwork followed. Anneke Jakes of ALBC states she returns numerous forms for completion causing time delays and frustration for all involved.

The new selection guide was introduced by Dot Jordan that uses the card grading system and is now available to use as a tool in the selection of breeding stock.

The Board of Directors approved the Lifetime Achievement Award to be given to Clyde Grover who has been raising red wattles since 1988. He was presented with a plaque and cap.

New Business:

Anneke Jakes of ALBC has suggested standardizing animal names for registration. The positives are twofold, quick recognition of the breeder and to avoid the confusion of duplicate names. Her example would be to include the initials of the breeder or farm, followed by the animal's name. For example, Dove Creek Farm which would be: DCF Petunia, or John James Doe which would be JJD Petunia.

The subject concerning continuing to improve breed guidelines was discussed next. It was suggested for registry that gilts should have no fewer than 16 teats and boars no fewer than 14. It was decided among the members present that the gene pool is presently too small to implement at this time and can be a personal decision to work toward.

Kelly Klober led a discussion on developing a standing committee to determine what Red Wattle hogs should look like. Kelly suggested the committee briefly describe the Red Wattle standards to strive for and the possibility of using the star system. Blue, Red, Gold, in descending order based upon the true Red Wattle traits agreed upon. A few examples he gave were consistent coloring, muscle tone and structure, teat count, ear formation, and temperament.

Next Kelly suggested the 1st Nation Swine Program to be established to promote the breed, carcass testing, showing and publicity.

Kelly also discussed the pros and cons of A.I., artificial insemination. His opinion is that the diversity is necessary for this breed and conditional tiered pedigree to be in place indicating that natural breeding is done.

Dot Jordan opened the discussion of breeding for the show ring. All members present agreed the show ring is against the standard or is weighted and that the card grading system works well for the buyer and seller.

Dot Jordan, secretary, read the election results and they are as follows:

Jim Parker-President. To fill the term vacated by Brian Jordan with term ending 11/2012.

Jan Black-Vice President. To fill the term vacated by Jim Parker with term ending 11/2013.

Kathy Bottorff-Secretary/Treasurer with term ending 11/2014.

Board members at large are: Larry Sorell and Cindy Huggins.

Door prizes were distributed by numbers drawn. The prizes were: piggy bank, Red Wattle note cards, woman's T-shirt, and man's T-shirt.

Motion to adjourn was made by Buddy Coffman and seconded by Theresa Schieffelbein.

Don't forget to send in your RWHA annual membership dues. Membership is now a requirement in order to register breeding stock.



Important dates to remember.

Both the recovery program and the breed-up program are ending Jan. 01, 2013.

Ahhhhh the life.

The annual meeting in Columbia went very well with several long term producers on hand to help out and to answer questions of those coming by our exhibition. The card grading system was demonstrated and can be easily mastered to assist you in choosing breeding stock. Several members voiced their opinions on the direction they wish the breed to progress and also on tightening up the requirements for registration. Please let your voice be heard too by contacting me or any of the board members. We are open to any suggestions as our common goal is the preservation of Red Wattles with all the characteristic traits that make them so unique.

I'm requesting suggestions for a venue for our next annual meeting. Due to distance it's impossible for everyone to attend every year. If we vary the location more members would have the opportunity to meet other producers, share their knowledge, sell their product, and take part first hand in the meetings. Please email me your suggestion so we can determine the best place this year and have time to gather information and make reservations.

The card grading system is now available and everyone is encouraged to utilize these guidelines in choosing their breeding stock. Only prime stock should be selected for breeding leaving the rest to market as gourmet pork, and to fill our freezers. Should anyone need hardcopies or e-mails of the card grading system please feel free to contact me.

I'm looking for anyone interested in writing an article for our newsletter. Tell us about your place, your animals and your practices and we'll feature them in our newsletter. Share your knowledge and experience so we all can be better stewards of the Red Wattle. Don't forget to send pics!

I'm searching for old articles or anything about Red Wattles or breeders to add to our small inventory of historical documents. If any of you have newspaper articles, pictures, old breeding records or anything about "older" red wattles please copy and send them to me. As you all know there is not much history available so anything would be helpful.

RED WATTLE GOOGLE MAP

Mike Ohlhausen, a member from Shiner, TX. has put his Computer talents to work and made a map detailing Red Wattle owners across the nation. He started out making a Map for local breeders then decided to expand in the hopes of helping all Red Wattle producers. Mike details location, contact information, and even a brief description (that you compose) of your farm. All of this is at no charge to you. We're all finding it very helpful, which in turn will help Red Wattles. Since most of us also have other farm animals and produce it's his hope that his map will help out in those areas too. It's also a great marketing tool for anyone wanting to highlight their operation. He currently has many producers listed in both Google and Bing and hopes to add more.

You can reach Mike at his contact information listed above if you wish to be added or if you have any questions. He is open to suggestions to improve the site and is willing to work with anyone who would like to volunteer their tech assistance.

Mike's maps can easily be found or you can contact him if you need assistance. Doug Meyer our tech administrator has also added a link that you'll find on our website homepage. If you haven't tried it, you should. You're guaranteed to be hooked and want to be a part of it too.

Mike created these sites on his own time and without compensation in an effort to help all producers and he's certainly exceeded even his expectations. We should all let him know how appreciative we are.



Reminder for registration paperwork

Please remember to completely fill out the registration paperwork that is sent to ALBC. Use your best writing skills and don't forget to enclose the correct payment. If you use duplicate names from your farm try to make them slightly different. We have blank copies of the forms on our website or I can send some to you. Correctly completing the paperwork saves a lot of time, frustration and maybe additional registration fees due to their ages. We also have blank copies of herd records on our website that can help simplify your paperwork. Theresa Schieffelbein of Hindsight Heritage Farm, Wykoff, MN., did a great job in creating these for us, or you can adjust them to suit your needs. Keep your registrations and herd records in a secure place so they are not lost. Binders work well.

If a pig falls downhill would he be a sausage roll?



What would happen if pigs could fly? Bacon would go up.



Top picture is Prentice Red Wattle named Gredwad.

Bottom picture is Cox Red Wattle named Ozzie.

These two are part of the "old" bloodlines, for those of you that are interested in breeding toward the original as we know it, and would like to research the pedigrees. Note the variance in color, typical of red wattles, and the dark spots or freckles along the belly of Gredwad which is also seen frequently in red wattles.

If you have any information on the older animals/breeders please send copies to me either through snail mail or email.