

Red Wattle Hog Association Newsletter, spring 2012

Announcements, Information updates, and other good stuff

We have added two new tabs to our homepage that we hope everyone will find helpful and use often. Our **Breed Guide Standard** and the **Card Grading System** tabs are located in the same areas for member login, forum, etc. This information can be used in the selection of breeding stock and is very user friendly. It can also be printed so you can take it along with you. This information is available to anyone.

We've added a new option to the Pedigree Analysis page. You can now enter four hypothetical grandsire/dam registration numbers and analyze the resulting hypothetical pedigree. This provides a way to analyze a hypothetical mating of two unregistered animals (as long as their parents are registered). Good to use if considering purchasing young piglets that haven't been registered yet. This feature is only available to site members logged into the Members Area of the site. Members Only Use.

We have updated the Pedigree Registration form that is sent to ALBC for registration of breeding stock. The new version can be found in the same place. Click on the RWHA tab. Look to the right side, inside box. There is not an option for wattles for the animal you are registering. 2 well-formed and well attached wattles are a requirement to register under all circumstances. These wattles should be hanging from the back lower jowl area. We have also separated the total litter information from the animal you are registering by a bold line as some people found it confusing. The information under NAME is for the animal you are registering. The information under LITTER is for the total litter including the one you are registering. Please begin using this form now.

Many of you have expressed an interest in artificial insemination, AI. I am trying to gather information on facilities that may be of service. If you know a facility, please let me know so I can pass it along. I also caution anyone choosing to use AI. Please do your homework and proceed responsibly. The Red Wattle gene pool is shallow. Unless AI is utilized properly it could further deplete or harm our already critical numbers.

I get many calls and emails from people unable to locate suitable boars. Boars in a new litter are usually castrated early so plan ahead. As a suggestion, please use Buy, Sale, Trade on our website. Post that you have an upcoming litter and are accepting names for a waiting list. Post that you are searching for a suitable boar. People will contact you. That area is looked at more often than anyone thinks but no one posts on it. What better place to advertise than on our own website? The Buy, Sell, Trade section on the forum will be pruned or cleaned out periodically so hopefully most items will be up to date. Anyone including newbies hoping to purchase, can look at the forum. Only members may post.

I recently received a call from the Tulsa Zoo in Oklahoma. Per the caretaker, they believe they have the only Red Wattles held in any zoo worldwide. They have a new litter just in time for Spring break visitors. They want to show them off and teach others about Red Wattles. They have requested to be added to a website called zooborns that highlights new zoo animals all over the world. RW's are not on there yet but keep checking at zooborns.org and click on the pig category. It's a fascinating site to look at. Thank you Tulsa Zoo for helping us make everyone aware of Red Wattles.

We have a gentleman in Canada who raised RW's many years ago with his father. He is interested in getting back to them. If anyone is interested in helping this man by sending good breed stock his way and navigating the import challenges, please contact me for his information. He would like to hear from anyone with RW's to learn more and share information. It's possible he will become a member and share a wealth of knowledge and materials for us, and we can assist Canada in improving their breed stock.

Transportation can be nearly impossible for livestock especially when you don't have the time to do it yourself and compatible breed stock is scattered across the nation. The RWHA does not recommend or endorse any livestock carriers. Please research prior to using any carrier. The responsibility is yours. We know that Bob May is used for livestock. His website is: bobmaylivestock.com Phone # 530-200-0866. Email: CA.BobMaylivestock@yahoo.com. Al Zeigler is also a livestock carrier who travels coast to coast. Phone number: 641-843-8594.

Your
Help
Needed

In order to keep our registered breeding stock numbers up to date we are asking that you please inform me of any registered hogs in your names that have passed away, expired, been butchered, or even retired from breeding service, within the last 3 years. All registered hogs are kept in the database and counted, even the expired ones. Our goal is to increase the population of Red Wattles so they are no longer critically endangered however in order to accomplish this we must have more correct numbers. Your hogs history and pedigree information will still be documented and used. We must keep that information for the descendants. Our goal is only to have more accurate numbers. Please email or snail mail me with the hogs names and registration numbers or whatever information you may still have available.

In an effort to accommodate all our breeders/producers we need to know your specific requirements for how you raise. Ear notching for identification has always been a requirement however we have not enforced it. Some form of identification will become a requirement for registration and will be enforced. For example, if you raise certified humanly and the bylaws state you cannot ear notch, we need to know in order to accommodate your specific needs. You will need to provide documentation specific to your farm or your name. Remember that there is no need to notch, identify or register feeders. Please forward your documentation and specific needs to me so we will have it on record.

The **RWHA** recommends that the seller provide the buyer at time of purchase with a completed copy of the pedigree registration form that is sent to ALBC. The **RWHA** also recommends that the seller send a copy to ALBC along with the registration fee. When selling breeding stock that has never been registered it is not necessary to register in your name and then transfer to the new owners. Completely fill the registration form out. Give a copy to the new owner. Be sure to fill in the owner information with the new owner/purchaser name, address and phone number. ALBC will register under the new owner name and you will be listed as breeder. The new owner will receive the registration from ALBC in the mail.

I have an old news article from ALBC archives about Red Wattles. It's interesting but too lengthy to put in the newsletter. If you are interested, please let me know and I will forward you a copy.

(Proportions may be slightly off. I had to shrink the pictures)



This young guy is a breeding machine but a gentleman. He's a sweet heart too. Yes, he does have red highlights when you're closer.

Like father, like son.
Practice, practice, practice!

If you would like to show off please send me your pictures.

We are also looking for pictures to possibly develop into a teaching brochure. We're looking for size and form, color variations, ear and wattle formations, teat formations, legs, and basically any and all parts of your Red Wattles and any all ages. Close ups would work best to highlight a specific area and not be distracted by other body parts. We not only want the best, we want the bad or ugly too, to show in comparison. No one except me will ever know who the owner or breeder is, nor the hog name or registration numbers. It's not meant to judge anyone or their stock. The brochure is meant to teach so that everyone can have examples to strive for the best and feed out the rest. The goal is to educate all our producers on what to look for in the best breed stock and what to cull for feeders. Be proud of what you've worked so hard for. We all know we have clunkers too so please share those pictures as well.

This is your Association and your newsletter. Participate. If you don't make your voice heard, others will do it for you.

Advice on buying Red Wattles

By: Dot Parker Jordan *edited slightly for space*

- 1.) Do your homework. Go to redwattleproject.org. Study the breed standard guidelines and card grading system located on our home page. Ask questions on the forum or contact the RWHA if there is anything you don't understand. Don't be shy.
- 2.) Make sure your place is ready before buying. One strand of electric fence won't hold a hog that hasn't already been trained to respect it. Hog panels well secured to the ground with posts work well until you are used to each other. You can run a strand of electric just inside this secure enclosure to train the hogs to respect electric fencing before you put them out to pasture.
- 3.) If you don't have pig experience, get a feeder pig. Raise it. Process it. Eat it. Be sure you are "pig people" before you spend a lot of time and money on registered stock.
- 4.) Look up the pedigrees of pigs you are considering. If it is young stock that hasn't been registered look up the parents on redwattleproject.org.
- 5.) Get out to some farms and look at some hogs. If you are considering piglets, look at the parents too. It will give you some idea of the genetic traits they bring to the piglets.
- 6.) Ask questions-lots of questions. You will be glad you did in the long run.

A few suggestions:

How many piglets were in the litter? How many piglets does the sow (mother) usually have? Is the sow a good mother? Lots of milk? How many teats? How many piglets does she usually wean?

Ask about the boar (father). How many litters has he sired? Does he settle the sows easily (on first breeding)? Is he easy to work with? How many teats does he have? {Boars may not have any use for teats but they pass this trait on to their female offspring.}

- 7.) When you have carefully selected your RW's ask for a copy of the parents registration papers. Be sure the breeder gives you a copy of the filled in registration form or a transfer form filled in if the pig is already registered. (Per RWHA, the breeder is obligated to send in the registration/transfer application for the buyer.)
- 8.) If the breeder says the hogs are purebred but unregistered, be sure to have the breeder write down all the known history of the hogs. You will need this in order to use the Recovery Program. Documentation is extremely important. *There is no guarantee that unregistered hogs will be approved by the RWHA Board of Directors.* Bear this in mind when you are thinking of purchasing unregistered stock. What will you do with them if they cannot be registered? Be aware the recovery program is coming to a close on Jan. 01, 2013. After this date unregistered stock will no longer be accepted in the herd book.
- 9.) Keep all of the paperwork you are given in a safe place. Record keeping is VERY important. It helps us all to become better RW stewards.
- 10.) This is a big investment. The more you know before you bring RW's home the better off you will be. If that little voice inside your head keeps telling you that something isn't quite right, look elsewhere for your hogs. Once you've found your RW's, sleep on it overnight. Don't let the excitement of the moment over rule your judgment.
- 11.) Red Wattles are critically rare. The breed needs stewards that are prepared to steward them into the future. Be sure you are ready for that responsibility.

LARD: a book review

By: Dot Parker Jordan



I love this book! Finally lard has been returned to its rightful place in the kitchen. As RW breeders one of the great products we can offer our customers is pure RW lard. I've been cooking with it for years but we have found it hard to market up until now. Lard is making a comeback and for good reason. "Foodies" and chefs are rediscovering the virtues of lard.

The editors at GRIT magazine have combed through their data base of 130 years of reader submitted recipes to create a cookbook dedicated to one of my favorite Red Wattle Hog products: Lard.

The book advises readers: "Most of the lard available at the grocery store is a by-product of 'the other with meat' ...it undergoes such processing, including deodorizing and bleaching that it barely resembles the real thing – and is far from healthy. But thanks to heritage hog breeders and other committed members of the culinary community, high-quality unadulterated lard can still be found. "What a great endorsement for heritage hogs!

LARD includes a simple tutorial on rendering your own lard for those who can't find rendered lard or those who want to render their own. And it is truly simple to render lard.

It was fun to read through the recipes, many of which I have been using as long as I can remember. Like the recipe for "Sky High Biscuits" we call them "Angel Biscuits" but the recipe is the same. "Mashed Potato Donuts" are still my kids' favorite donuts hands down. Of course there are several pie recipes; after all, tender flaky pie crust depends on quality lard. And for those of you that have never eaten Southern fried chicken for Sunday supper, go to page 89. You won't be sorry.

It even includes the "Plain Cake Mix" recipe my grandma used to make up in bulk and store in the fridge for quick cake baking. It is easy to put together and keep in the back of the fridge. It was Grandma's version of "convenience" food.

In addition to the recipes, the book is sprinkled with stories from folks who remember lard fondly as a pantry staple. I enjoyed reading these as much as trying the recipes.

You can order the book from the website: www.lardcookbook.com

I need suggestions very soon on where you would like to have the annual meeting, Are there topics you would like to see discussed or demonstrations you would be interested in?

Have you renewed your annual RWHA membership? Update cutoff is April 01, 2012

The Recovery & Breed-up programs end Jan. 01.2013. Documentation received after that date will be declined.

The shortest distance between two points is a straight line. I, myself have taken every detour that has come my way. I have meandered, drifted, rambled and gallivanted along the path toward my vision of an idyllic Red Wattle herd. I have never wanted to just raise Red Wattles. I have wanted to raise great Red Wattles., the kind that are more of the original animal and not just a red hog with wattles. That is my goal.

To get to this goal there is no better map than keeping records. I met a breeder in Kansas that has raised some great Red Wattles. He knows what he is doing and how to achieve his goal. He was generous enough to share with me a page of his record blanks so that I could use them for my fledgling herd. Unfortunately for me, the gilt that I bought from him was hungry enough to chew them up on the way back to Minnesota. So I had to try to recreate them.

I remembered enough of what he showed me to create a record system of my own. I started out with a "herd page" that shows all of my pigs. I use this form for a general picture of my herd. If I ever have an exceptional pig, I can trace it back to see where he comes from and see if I can duplicate that. It works the same way if I get a hog that has a defect that I don't want. I can check out his family tree to see if there is a pattern and avoid a reoccurrence of that defect. The other record that I keep is an individual record for each animal. That record tells me everything that I need to know about that animal. I include any vet work that I needed to do or if there is anything of note about them. This record goes along with the pig if I sell it and goes to the "meat" file if I butcher it or sell it for meat. All of these records are kept in a 3 ring binder along with each of my registration papers.

Some of my customers have asked me for copies of my forms. The beauty of it all is that you can create your own map to a successful herd.

I still meander. I am new at breeding Red Wattles and new things that I read or hear about and I still research the original lines and standards. I still attend workshops to learn how to do things differently but at least now I know where I have been and I am able to hit fewer detours so that I can get that much closer to my ideal herd.

(In an effort to save space I have not included Theresa's herd or individual blank forms. They have all the information that anyone could use to keep better track and history of their animals and they're simple to use. If you would like copies, please let me know and I will forward them to you).

Special thanks go out to Dot Parker Jordan and Theresa Schieffelbein for their contributions to our newsletter. I'm always in need of material so please consider writing.

Also a special thanks to Doug Meyer for his outstanding work on our website. He does much more than any of us realize. If you have any suggestions on how to make our website more useful please let me know. These people are star members!