

Red Wattle Hog Association Newsletter

Mar. 2013



We've launched our Regional Meeting plans that we hope will bring people who live in 12 specific regions together. Many people find it difficult to attend the annual meeting. Finances, time constraints, and finding someone to do your chores make attendance difficult. We hope that regional meetings will make it easier to meet other breeders, communicate, share ideas, discuss what is particular in your areas, as well as bring comments, ideas, problems and solutions to the national board. If you didn't get regional information please let someone on the board know and we'll get it to you. We're looking for volunteers to head up each region, contact members, and put your meetings together. It's up to you how you want to get together. In person, phone calls, emails, snail mail. The board can't start this for you but we are here to help you in any way that we can. If you participate you're sharing valuable information and you're learning too. Any volunteers please contact Theresa Schieffelbein at hindsightheiritagefarm.com or 507-352-4207.

The board is planning on putting out a booklet about pork production. Great tasting pork is, and should be the main goal of every Red Wattle breeder. We want to help everyone learn how to produce and market great pork. Hogs of any breed are farm animals and if they're not eaten, they disappear. It's our hope that this booklet will give you direction from beginning to end, starting with feed and particular living conditions, and all the way to marketing your product. We started weeks ago by interviewing meat scientists. We have asked third generation butchers to critique red wattle pork. They gave advice on what to look for, good and bad, questions to ask your processor, what to look for at the processor, packaging, labels, and so much more. They will continue to work with us and give advice to help you. We'll also help with marketing. It doesn't do any good to have a great product if no one knows about you. We're contacting experts in all fields to try to bring you the best and most updated information. Please let any of the board members know if you have any questions or ideas. You may have a great idea that no one has thought about.

We're also researching artificial insemination, or AI. It's not been used with red wattles that we know of but it's coming whether some people like it or not. Progress has been made in that industry and we all know we'll be exposed to it sooner or later. We're trying to research the effects it may have on heritage hogs and those that are lower in population than some. Using boar semen would make it easier and cheaper on some breeders but it wouldn't be good to overuse a few particular boars. We should also make sure that the boars used are of really good quality. Guidelines need to be thought about for your protection as a breeder, and also for the protection of the breed. We could use your thoughts and suggestions.

We're working on compiling pictures for a calendar too. It's a wonderful marketing tool for the RWHA and can be for individual breeders too. We're looking for pictures. Some people have already submitted theirs but we need more. If you want us to, we'll have your contact information put on your picture. We also want to include a gestation calendar, ear notching guide, and several other good recordkeeping papers with the calendar. If you have any suggestions please let us know.

We've been busy at work along with a few volunteers researching Red Wattle history. We've traveled for interviews with long term breeders and had them dig through cobwebs in attics and cellars. Quite a few of them are still around and they still love their Red Wattles. We've searched libraries, newspapers and magazines and even interview neighbors and other family members. We're working hard on compiling more history for you and the RWHA. I know most of you will be excited to see what we've found. We're not done either. In the future we'll be busy putting everything together for you and our hope is to have it placed on the website for everyone to see. There are lots of interesting articles and pictures for you to see. I know you'll enjoy it. If anyone out there has any "OLD" information, please let us know. We'll accept copies. We'd welcome anyone wanting to help.

We hope everyone was able to go to the Stockman Grass Farmer website to request their free issue of the magazine. The RWHA wrote a small article free of charge, and also advertised with them. It's a great publication for small farmers. If anyone has any suggestions for advertising please let us know. We're looking for alternatives.

Master Breeder Kelly Klover has generously offered to attend our next annual meeting. He's even suggested a pig/hog auction if enough people are interested, and he'll be the auctioneer! This would also be great advertising for the RWHA and you. We'll keep you up to date as that progress.

An anonymous person has donated the RWHA with 3 books to give away to our membership. There will be a drawing soon by a neutral party of all members, and the names selected will be mailed the books. The book title is ***Managing Breeds for a Secure Future. Strategies for Breeders and Breed Associations***, written by D. Phillip Sponenberg and Donald E. Bixby. This book contains helpful information and guidance for anyone and we hope the winners use them often. Winners will be announced in our next newsletter. Good luck to all.

In an effort to respect our member's privacy the RWHA has chosen to only send official RWHA information by snail mail. Please feel free to email or phone any of the board members individually at any time and we all will do the same. This is an added and unexpected expense but we feel a necessary one. We thank you for your patience and your understanding.

To continue to provide you with educational materials we wanted to share this with you. This “recipe” comes from Jenifer Kraus in Hays, Kansas. Crops and availability are different all over the county so you may have to substitute the major grains but the basic amounts are good measurements. KSU stands for Kansas State rations, a measurement developed by their state. Each state has this and you can find your own by contacting your local County Extension Office. They all should be fairly similar. Oats like most other grains should be rolled or ground. They are harder to digest unless broken down which causes livestock not to get the proper nutrition from them.

- Milo.....1350 lbs.
- Oats.....250 lbs.
- Soybean Meal Hi-Pro Bulk...368 lbs.
- Mono-Calcium Phos. 21% ... 13 lbs.
- Calcium Carbonate..... 10 lbs.
- Fine Rock Salt3.7 lbs.
- KSU Trace Mineral.....1.5 lbs.
- KSU Vitamin.....1.5 lbs.
- Lysine.....1.5 lbs.



This recipe for feed can be changed to accommodate feed in your area such as corn. I have it made 1 ton at a time for 16%. The price in my area rolled and bagged is \$381.18 at this time. Feeders have full feed delivered in bulk. Right now I have bred sows getting 4 lbs. a day with access to grass wheat. We’ve noticed the feeders that have full feed actually spend less time grazing as they are lazy when they have a self-feeder.

Most board members are not and can-not be experts in every field. The board studies and researches to learn and to pass that information along to you. We also rely heavily on experts in a lot of fields pertaining to swine, pasture hogs, and small farmers. We’re currently working with many in several different areas and have good relationships with them. Their interest is peaked too because they’ve had limited opportunity to work with a heritage pasture raised hog. We’re always striving to bring as much information to you as possible and we reach out to those with the knowledge. Individual people, organizations, universities, veterinarians, libraries, and master breeders. The list is long and I could keep going. If you need help or have a question please let us know. We also welcome suggestions so please keep them coming.

Reviewed and approved by all Board members.