

Red Wattle Hog Association

Newsletter Spring/Summer 2013

Book Winners

In March the RWHA received an anonymous donation of 3 books to be given away to three lucky winners. ALBC agreed to draw names from our membership and the lucky winners are: Heather Burch, Kirsten Pollock, and Chris Young. The book is titled *Managing Breeds for a Secure Future, Strategies for Breeders and Breed Associations* and is written by Dr. Phillip Sponenberg and Donald Bixby. Congratulations to these lucky people and we hope you use them often. The RWHA is very appreciative to the donor.

Other books you might find helpful are: *Storey's Guide to Raising Pigs*, and *Dirty Hog*, both written by Kelly Klober. Check them out at the library to make sure they would be helpful before you buy.

There's not a lot of information available for raising heritage hogs on pasture. You'll have to take the information and make it work for you based on what you do and where you live. If anyone knows of books, magazines, or articles that can help please let us know so we can share.

ALBC's efforts to save the Choctaw Hog

In April ALBC sent out the call to help save a rare breed of hog located in Oklahoma on and near the Choctaw Indian reservation. Their research shows there are only 100 -150 Choctaw hogs in existence. Donation will go to feeding, tagging, fencing, veterinary care, shelter and so forth to help bring these very important hogs back from almost extinction. Notice for comments and suggestions were placed on the forum of the RWHA website and several members made private donations. The RWHA Board of Directors voted to donate \$100.00 toward this worthy effort. As an association of a breed that once was almost lost we feel honored to be able to contribute.

Official RWHA Updates and Information on the Website

Rather than clog up everyone's email boxes with news or updates that could be accidentally missed, the RWHA will be putting those in the forum section of the RWHA website: redwattleproject.org. It's also an attempt to get everyone to use our site for things other than just looking up pedigrees or memberships. There's lots of great information there and places to ask questions, sell your hogs, show off pictures, share recipes, and even read up on our history. Snail mail updates will be sent to the people that don't use a computer. If you haven't already, please take a look. It's growing bigger and better. Remember that membership to the RWHA is not the same as membership to the forum section of the website. You can look at the forum but not comment unless you are a member of the website. Easy to do. Just click on login in the forum section and you'll get directions. If you have any suggestions for topics or to make the forum better please let us know.

Advertising for Red Wattles

Our recent ad placed with ALBC



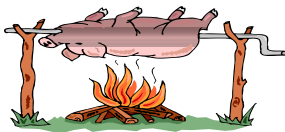
Red Wattles are a heritage breed that makes an ideal homestead hog. They are very easy to care for and do well on both small acreage and larger farming set ups. They are easy keepers, growing large and fast on pasture supplemented by smaller amounts of grains. They're very gentle, friendly with people and each other, and are patient mothers. They're known for their lean tasty pork that's more red in color than conventional pork. Red Wattle is well known for its mouthwatering sweet flavor that is described as a gentle mix of pork and beef. The pork is highly prized and becoming more popular and sought after.

The wisdom and dedication of the Red Wattle Hog Association along with its members and breeders have brought the Red Wattle from a critically endangered breed with only 47 registered animals, to its current population of close to 2000.

For more information please contact the association at redwattles@hotmail.com or 270-565-3815

The RWHA has also advertised in Stockman Grass Farmer and we've received inquiries from all across the country.

This is a great way to get our Red Wattles more known to the public. We're looking for other places so if you have any ideas please let us know. Farm magazines, cooking magazines, anywhere the public sees, and by the way, "Does anybody know Paula Dean?" !!!



2013 RWHA Annual Meeting

The annual meeting this year will again be held in Columbia, MO. at the Small Farm Trade Show and Conference. The dates are October 31 thru November 2. There's always classes to attend, vendors, and other farm items and projects to enjoy in addition to the RWHA meeting. We'll keep you up to date on what's available and we'd like to hear from you on ideas for our gathering. We always have extra pens for you to bring piglets or hogs to sell or showoff. Kelly Klover will be there to help teach us what to look for in a good breeding hog and a good meat hog. There may also be a piglet/hog auction and a raffle. We'll also have Red Wattle T-shirts and caps to give as door prizes and to sell, and we're looking into having Red Wattle BBQ available for everyone too. Maybe even a class for soap making using Red Wattle fat! Please let us know what would be of interest to you. You have a few months now to plan so we hope to see all of you there!

UC Davis. Parentage DNA Program

University of California, Davis, CA.

Ranked #1 Agriculture College in the nation

UC Davis is now offering DNA parentage testing for Red Wattles. Previously their list included only Large Black, Kune Kune, and "other". The RWHA has worked with them to also include Red Wattles as a separate group.

There is no test to determine any swine breed yet however they can determine parentage and it's very much like the tests used for humans today.

The process normally costs \$40.00 for now but UC Davis will give us a break by reducing the price to \$30.00. The RWHA Board of Directors has also voted to approve a one-time only \$10.00 membership discount for each member or farm that submits samples. This would be for one membership, not per hog.

This can be used as a marketing tool confirming breeding and can add money to your bottom line by showing your outstanding breeding stock and practices. Eventually it can connect sires, dams, offspring, "aunts, uncles, grandparents, and cousins".

There's also the real possibility of UC Davis obtaining the additional funds for DNA tests to confirm the gene(s) that make up our Red Wattles and they would already have the hair samples from all our submissions.

All DNA parentage information will be listed on our website in the animal listing under "I", or information for the hog. This will be kept as a permanent record for the hog even if it's sold, out of production, or deceased. UC Davis will keep permanent records too so there will be a total of 3 identical records following the hog indefinitely.

Please look them up. You're under no obligation just to look. Go to UC Davis Veterinary Genetics Laboratory. VGL. Click on Pig. You'll see a box that says information and another that says forms. There's great information to read and if you decide to proceed just back out and click on the forms. You can do it all on line except send in the hair samples. You can fill the forms out and pay on line and you'll get an automatic receipt, or print and send the forms in with your payment and hair samples. They will need 30 to 40 hairs with the root bulbs attached. *It hurts you more than it does the hog.* Place the hairs in an envelope and send them in with the hog's identification. It's an easy process but if anyone needs help please contact any board member.

This could open the door faster and easier to discovering the gene(s) that make up our Red Wattles. We hope most of our members participate. We know it can be a financial burden and we're helping by reducing the price on what we can. You can also send in samples as you have the spare finances. You don't have to do them all at once. This is an ongoing process. In time we can have genetic parentage records for all or most of our registered stock and it will become a major selling factor which will help to increase your profits.

UC Davis tells us they are working on making the process even easier and the online applications may change. When this happens we will keep you updated.

Jenifer Kraus, your board member in Hays, Kansas, worked in length with representatives at UC Davis to gather information and make this happen. Thank you Jenifer for your dedication to the breed and to the RWHA.



Regional Meetings

David Denham of Kilgore, TX. is hard at work for everyone in the Texas region. He's busy contacting all members in Texas as well as meat processors, restaurants, freezer lockers, truck drivers, chefs, and cooking schools, leaving no stone unturned in his quest to help you get Red Wattle pork on every table in the state. He has some great achievable ideas but he can't do it alone. We hope you all will join in. He's a go getter so don't be left in his rearview mirror!

Sam Plank of West Liberty, OH. is also doing the amazing things. Give him a call to see what help he needs. We can accomplish much more if we all work together.

If you haven't begun a regional meeting in your area you're behind the 8 ball. It's much easier working as a team than trying to do this solo. In the process you'll make good friends and contacts and everyone can learn and share. Why compete with each other when it can be easier and more profitable to work together?

We all understand that it can be difficult for some members to make it to our annual meeting. We also know that circumstances are different all over the country, and unique to specific areas. Regional meetings are a way for our members to work together, teach, ask questions, and network in areas familiar to them and in ways the Board of Directors may not be aware of or be able to help with.

Pork Booklet

The Board of Directors is busy doing research on pork and marketing. We'd like to take you from types of feed all the way to the plate. We're working with meat scientists on pork quality, processors on cuts, and USDA on requirements as well as many others that are expert in their fields. It's an ongoing process and there are many people involved and excited to help us out. Please let us know if you have any questions, comments, concerns, or want to help. It's a big job but in the end it will help us all.

Artificial Insemination or "AI"

The RWHA now has an artificial insemination protocol in place. Copies can be found on the website home page and also in the forum section under "News". It was left open to the public for your comments, questions and concerns before being voted into place by the Board of Directors. To our knowledge there is no institution at this time that carries Red Wattle sperm. The questions have been brought up often so we all know it's coming. It can be helpful to those looking to add diversity to their herd but not able to travel great distances for boars. Currently only the protocol is in place, however as the program is utilized, boars will be added with all their information listed in order to assist you in your choice. Overuse and abuse of artificial insemination has harmed many animal breeds. We've worked diligently with many experts to develop an initial program to help curtail most of those problems and to provide a safe and structured program for our members and the breed.

Jim Myers of Celina, OH. who is a RWHA member, has attended many classes and seminars with hours and weeks of study and is beginning his own AI company using Red Wattles. He can help answer a lot of your questions and give you direction. You can contact him at: jmyers@watchtv.net.

Theresa Schieffelbein, your board member in Wykoff, MN. has spearheaded this program and devoted many weeks to research and working with experts in this field.

Red Wattle members coming together and doing great things

Josh Goebel at Hickory Ridge Heritage Farm in Darlington, WI. has invited everyone for a weekend of good food, games, and to share and swap Red Wattle stories and experiences. Maybe a little bit of corn hole and wood splitting going on too. We'll let you know the dates soon.

Donna O'Shaughnessy at South Pork Ranch in Chatsworth State, IL. will show two piglets at the Garfield Farm Rare Breed Animal Show.

David Denham of Kilgore, TX. is busy with more new projects. He's worked with the local and state 4H boards and now Red Wattles will be in their own class and not competing with commercial hogs. His hopes are to help provide 50 needy children with Red Wattles to raise and enter. He could use help if anyone would consider piglet donations. One here and another from there will add up quickly and will benefit a worthy cause. 75% of all winnings will be placed in their individual college funds for their future. Any donations will also receive paperwork for tax deductions based on what the hog sells for the following spring.

David is also planning the First Annual RWHA BBQ contest/cook-off this fall featuring Red Wattle. Hold the dates of Oct. 25, 26, and 27 open for some great fun.

Memberships

I usually work up memberships and make bank deposits around every week, give or take a few days depending on the amount of memberships received. If you've sent in your membership by snail mail or thru PayPal and need a rush or have a question please let me know. Also, for anyone paying their membership through PayPal remember that I will have your name, address and email address, but I don't have your telephone number to include in the contact information on our website. Please contact me with your phone number if you want it listed.

Fun Tid Bits

Did you know that if you keep more than one boar with your gilt or sow that's in heat or cycling she can be bred by all the boars? You may have some piglets sired by one boar, and some sired by another all in the same litter.

Oscar, a Vietnamese Pot Bellied pig who lived with his owner Stacy Kimball in Dallas, TX, has the distinction of being the world's oldest living pig. He was born Oct. 29, 1989 and died Sept. 11, 2010 at the age of 21 years and 13 days.

There are pigs on every continent except Antarctica.

The largest pig recorded is a portly China White boar named "Big Bill" who weighed in at 2552 lbs. and stood 5 ft. at shoulder height and was 9 ft. in length.

Pigs have a keen sense of smell and are now being used by law enforcement to sniff out drugs.

Pigs are a source of nearly 40 medications and pharmaceuticals such as insulin.



Bred Jan	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Jan	
Farrow Apr	2	2	2	2	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	May	
Bred Feb	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28					Feb
Farrow May	2	2	2	2	3	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22					June
Bred Mar	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Mar	
Farrow Jun	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Jul
Bred Apr	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Apr		
Farrow Jul	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	Aug		
Bred May	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	May	
Farrow Aug	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	Sept	
Bred June	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	June		
Farrow Sept	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	Oct	
Bred July	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	July	
Farrow Oct	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	Nov	
Bred Aug	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Aug	
Farrow Nov	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	Dec	
Bred Sept	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Sept		
Farrow Dec	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	Jan		
Bred Oct	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Oct	
Farrow Jan	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	Feb	
Bred Nov	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Nov		
Farrow Feb	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	Mar		
Bred Dec	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Dec	
Farrow Mar	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	Apr	

Gestation calendar based on 114 days

For the purpose of the Red Wattle Hog Association the definition of a semen company is any one individual or company that collects red wattle boar semen for implantation, or anyone that buys semen to inseminate, and/or the collection and insemination in ways other than natural methods of live cover.

1. Any boar approved for the AI program must be approved by the RWHA board. He must meet all the requirements for a blue card boar.
2. Only boars that are fully registered through the Red Wattle Hog Association shall be used for the AI program. Recovery boars may not be used for the AI program until such time that the genotype for the Red Wattle has been identified and the recovery boar would test to be a minimum of 85% pure Red Wattle.
3. All boars approved for AI will have 5 pictures submitted to the RWHA board. The pictures submitted must show the left side, right side, directly from the front, directly from the rear. These pictures must clearly show the legs of the boar. An Additional picture looking down on the back of the boar showing the entire back from head to tail must also be submitted.
4. Any company that owns a boar to be used in an AI program and will be performing the semen collection will not have to be a member in order to have the piglet registered. The owner of the sow who farrows the litter from a successful insemination will be required to be a member of the RWHA to register offspring.
5. Each boar approved will have the pictures permanently posted on the Red Wattle Hog Association website along with the lineage of each boar. These pictures, along with any information pertaining to the boar, including a change in AI status, health status and genetic information will remain on the website for the lifetime of the RWHA. This allows the membership access to the information on these boars for future research.
6. Each piglet that is registered under the AI program will be given a registration number with the designation of AI. Example: #1234-AI. These designations will be permanent. This will allow members who wish to avoid AI genetics the ability to do so.
7. All piglets registered via the AI program will submit an official AI certification form on the collection company's letter-head and must state a contact number for the company. The certificate must be signed by the technician that performed the AI service and must be submitted along with the registration application.
8. In order to avoid some of the problems that other registries have had with the over-use of a small number of superb sires, the Red Wattle Hog Association will limit the maximum number of registered piglets that one boar can sire via AI to 30. In 3 years if the number of RWHA members using the AI program is less than 8%, the number of piglets can be adjusted to a greater number. The piglets that do not enter into the registry will not be counted toward the 30 piglet maximum.
9. Once a boar is approved for the AI program, the semen collector will be given a certificate of approval from the RWHA along with 30 registration numbers that are designated for that boar. These numbers will be distributed by the collector. It is our recommendation that the collector offers two numbers along with the certification of service to the sow's owner. This would encourage people to register only the very best of each litter and they allow the collector to use the boar for a longer period of time. No boar will be given more than 30 registration numbers for offspring. No exceptions.

10. Any boar that is used in the AI program and has reached his maximum of 30 registered offspring can be used in live cover and continue to have his piglets registered. Piglets born to live cover tend to stay in a more localized area and they generally do not travel across country. This means that if any problems are found in the future, the majority of offspring affected will be in a more centralized area and not across the country.
11. Any piglet that is kept by the collector as a replacement boar for the AI program can be registered without that piglet being counted toward the 30 piglet limit. This replacement must be used in the AI program. There will be only one replacement boar registered per AI approved boar. The collector may register a second boar only if the new replacement takes the place of a currently registered boar of the same direct line and the boar being replaced is taken out of the AI offering.
12. There can be no more than two boars of the same direct line (one generation) are used by one collector at any given time.
13. Any member found to be using AI and registering piglets as the product of live cover will be banned from the RWHA for a period of two years on their first offense. Any future offense for the same infraction will result in permanent ban from the RWHA.
14. Any semen collection agency that is found to be non-compliant to the rules set forth by the RWHA will be removed from the approved semen source list on the website and any un-used registration numbers issued to the company/agency will be considered void. That company will be banned from registrations for a period of 3 years.

From: dpsponen@vt.edu<mailto:dpsponen@vt.edu>

This is actually very, very good! I cannot think of anything to add. The wording is good, and the thinking behind the rules is very good and very well explained. This is an excellent first step, and sets the stage for getting experience with this in a manner that is safe for the breed.

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> Good work!

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> Phil

Memberships, Registrations and Transfers

Your membership application and annual dues come to me at 41 Jones Rd. Horse Cave, KY 42749.

Your dues payment is made out to RWHA.

Your requests for registrations and transfers go to Mountain Niche Registry RWHA at 397 Deep Creek Rd. Chehalis, WA. 98532. Those payments are made out to Mountain Niche Registry RWHA.

Your Board of Directors

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Scholarships

It's been suggested by several people that the RWHA consider setting up a separate account to fund college scholarships for members families. (their Offspring!) We'd like to know how everyone feels about this so please let us know. The majors would have to be something agriculture related, animal husbandry, veterinary sciences for examples. The RWHA would not have a lot of funds to contribute however with escalating education costs anything we can contribute would be helpful. We can also sponsor 4H competitions with a portion of the winnings going toward that fund. There are many things we can take advantage of to help build the fund. Please let us know what you think and give us your suggestions on the guidelines if all agree on beginning this cause.

ALBC

The RWHA still works very closely with ALBC. We are very grateful for all their assistance both past and present. ALBC has the resources, information, experience, and experts that we can't possibly have and we rely and call on them often.

ALBC also has a program that is available to the public if anyone wants to privately track their herd records. It's very much like our own registry. We know of a few members who also use this program in addition to the RWHA registry and they find it very helpful and easy. If you're interested then give them a call. They are there to help us all.

This newsletter was written and compiled by Kathy Bottorff, sec/tres. and forwarded to all board members for their review , requesting modifications if necessary.

Board members participating are Theresa Schieffelbien, Board Member at Large, and Jenifer Kraus, Board Member at Large, with no response from Raymond Lepkowski, President, and Jan Black, Vice President.