

# Red Wattle Hog Association newsletter

Nov. 2013

Our elections are over and it's time to introduce the new officers, their positions, and their contact information. Thank you all for your support and encouragement. The RWHA has a great team in place and with your help this will be this best year ever for all of us.

President: Jenifer Kraus. 446 180<sup>th</sup> Ave. Hays, KS. 67601. 785-628-3074. [jkraus@ruraltel.net](mailto:jkraus@ruraltel.net). Jenifer will be serving 2 years to complete the term of Ray Lepkowski who was unable to finish his term.

Vice President: Theresa Sheieffelbein. 24960 County S., Wykoff, MN. 55990. 507-352-4207. [hindsightheritagefarm@hotmail.com](mailto:hindsightheritagefarm@hotmail.com). Theresa will be serving 3 years.

Board Member at Large: Neil Perin. 11995 Pedigo Rdg. New Mansfield, OH. 45766. 614-378-2041. [arcadianacres@gmail.com](mailto:arcadianacres@gmail.com). Neil will be serving 1 year.

Board Member at Large: Sam Plank. 7291 Rd. 1. West Liberty, OH. 43358. 937-441-0046. Sam will be serving 1 year. There is no email address available.

We are all grateful for the wisdom, guidance, experience, patience and countless volunteer hours that our outgoing board members devoted to the RWHA. Ray taught us a lot and we're sure he learned something in return. Jan Black provided wisdom and patience and was instrumental in leading the RWHA to becoming an outstanding organization operating totally on our own. Thank you both for your dedication.

By membership majority vote the RWHA By-Laws will be amended as follows:

- 1.) The association reserves the right to cancel or refuse privileges of the association to any member upon the written request of three (3) members in good standing and with the approval of 80% (4 out of 5) majority of the Board of Directors. Reasons for dismissal shall include but not be limited to: detrimental conduct and dishonest dealings. Member will be notified of action taken by registered letter signed by the Board of Directors who voted in favor of the disciplinary action.  
*The amendment changes the requirement to 80% or 4 out of 5 board members from the previous 100% requirement.*
- 2.) Board members may be impeached by the board for failure to perform their duties as outline in the by-laws of the association or follow the rules for the association as set forth by the majority vote of the board. The member must first be warned of the infraction in writing. If the board member does not become compliant with the rules of the association, the member will be removed by the remaining four members of the board or a 4/5<sup>th</sup> majority of votes by the membership. Membership may ask for a recall of a board member by filing a formal complaint signed by 15 members in good standing. The complaint must detail the reason for the request. This request for resignation and rebuttal by the board member in question will be presented to the membership and a vote of ¾ of the full membership. Board members must attend/log in or be available for 3 out of 4 of the required quarterly meetings during the year. When calling the required quarterly meetings, the President must chose a time, date and type of meeting in a one month time period that all board members are available. *This allows for a board member to be removed from position when not performing the duties of the position and changes from any board member remaining in their elected position throughout the term.*

The RWHA is your association. It is member driven. Every member is encouraged to participate and to ask questions, provide suggestions or to voice your concerns. Your board will work hard for you. Please feel free to contact any board member if we can be of assistance.

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In order to keep the breed population as current and correct as possible everyone should report when a registered hog is out of production. If they are retired from breeding, too old, injured, sick, or passed away, the RWHA needs to know. Being taken out of production never means they are removed from our registry. They will always show up in the registry and pedigrees. Being removed from production simply means that the RWHA can keep track of the registered hogs that are still producing offspring. Knowing those numbers helps the RWHA and the breed. If you didn't know or just forgot, please get your records out and notify any board member. All they need is the name or registration number.



The RWHA annual membership renewal time is near. Beginning Nov. 1, 2013 we will begin accepting renewals for 2014. There is a 30 day grace period ending effective Jan. 31, 2014 on which if any member has not renewed they will fall off the membership roster. Our membership form can be found on our website by going to the RWHA tab, click, and the next screen shows all our forms. You can print and mail or you may choose to renew thru PayPal. Click on the PayPal icon and it will guide you thru. For anyone using PayPal, please remember that it doesn't provide a space for phone numbers. Unless the RWHA already has your number, it won't be listed in the contact information unless you send it to us. For anyone using our membership form, please remember to write as plainly as possible. Sometimes they are very difficult to read. For anyone who does not want their contact information made public we need a written statement to that effect for our files.

Nov. and Dec. 2013 will be free for any new membership received between Nov. 1 and Dec. 31 and membership continues thru 2014.

**fb** The Red Wattle Hog Association face book is now an official site. Lots of members and non-members go there to share, learn, ask questions, swap stories, buy or sell, and even brag. It's the one place you can go to and brag or showoff and everyone shares in your success. Anyone can also ask questions regarding RWHA rules, guidelines, or polices as long as they are brief or simple and can be answered briefly. Any questions or concerns that require an in-depth reply should be directed to any board member. This will help keep the flow of participation normal without interfering and will also assure there are no misunderstandings. Sometimes the written word doesn't come across like the writer intends, or is interpreted differently by different people. These are times when a one on one conversation is more productive. If you haven't visited the RWHA face book site you should. You may learn something or be able to share your knowledge and experience, and you'll meet some great red wattle people there. The RWHA Board of Directors will also be using it as one avenue to help keep our membership informed of any updates and news. The easiest way to find the RWHA facebook site is to go to any facebook and type in Red Wattle Hog Association in the "search for people, places, things" line at the top of the screen. The Facebook site will come up and you just click on it. Another way is to use Google and type in <https://www.facebook.com/groups/163024997085878/> This will take you a screen that says Facebook Login. Click on that and it will take you straight to the Red Wattle Hog Association Facebook. Once there you can either bookmark the sight or save it to your favorites and

you won't have to search or use that long address again. It's open to anyone to read and to post. All we ask is that everyone be respectful of others because we are all at different learning stages with our hogs and could have different situations or experiences, and that we are all mindful that children also read these posts and see the pictures so please keep it "G" rated, or gentle. No question, suggestion or comment should be considered naïve or ignorant. Everyone should feel comfortable coming together to learn and share. Cindy Huggins and Theresa Schieffelbein are administrators of the sight so if you have any questions or have trouble with the sight, please feel free to contact them.



All payments for registrations, transfers, or duplicate certificates should be made out to: Mountain Niche Registry RWHA and mailed to: Mountain Niche Registry, RWHA, 397 Deep Creek Rd., Chehalis, WA. 98532. All payments for membership to the RWHA should be made out to: RWHA, and mailed to Kathy Bottorff, RWHA, 41 Jones Rd. Horse Cave, KY. 42749 Mountain Niche Registry Service is just what it says. This office handles our registrations, transfers and duplicate certificates, along with keeping our website updated. Please do not contact Mountain Niche with questions regarding breeding, pedigree, farm, feeding and so forth. These questions should be directed to your board members. Mountain Niche Registry is very good at what they do and we are fortunate to have them, however they are not equipped for other questions, problems or concerns. We cannot overwhelm them with something that the RWHA should be handling.

**DNA** Remember that UC Davis is offering DNA parentage testing for Red Wattles. It's easy to do. Just pull a few hairs, label them and send them in. Go to UC Davis Veterinary Genetics Laboratory on any search engine and you'll be guided thru the process. There is no DNA test available that determines any hog breed. UC Davis will collect and hold red wattle genetic information and will be able to determine lineage. For example, sires and dams, siblings, cousins, and on and on. In the future as funding becomes available they will also develop testing for specific breeds. Red Wattles will be ahead because as members send in samples they will already be on file. This can be a valuable marketing tool for breeders and Red Wattles. We urge everyone to try to participate. There is a fee however it can compensate you many times over in the future. You don't ever have to send in all your hog's samples at once. As you have extra funds, go pull some hairs and send them in. If you have any questions please contact any of your board members.



We're looking for ideas from our membership on marketing piglets, hogs, and pork so it can be shared with everyone. Please send in what has been successful with you and what works in your area. Everyone should know how great Red Wattles are, and we want everyone to succeed. Please also get to know other Red Wattle breeders in your area. There will be times when they can be helpful and you can work together. It's a great time to take advantage of your regional meetings or team together and get your region started.



Please send in your suggestions for advertising. We're looking for farm and agriculture and even cooking magazines. Advertising in these publications not only helps the RWHA, it also helps the membership. People see the ads and start contacting the RWHA and members. Your membership funds go to pay for advertising as well as other RWHA projects and expenses. Lets' all do our part to make those funds work hard for each one of us. If you have a favorite publication and know their circulation is widespread, please let us know about it.



Unfortunately there is no annual person to person RWHA meeting this year. In taking our survey we determined there were only 3 members that would be able to attend. The board is looking into the possibility of a webinar meeting of some kind so that the membership can participate from their homes. If this is possible, we are also hoping to record the meeting and have it placed on the RWHA website for everyone. Time, Distance, and Finances make it difficult for most members to attend meetings. The RWHA annual meetings have never had great attendance due to those obstacles so there never has been good representation from our membership. Even though there will be no face to face or in person meeting this year we hope everyone will take advantage of the wide variety of communication available today that wasn't around a few years ago. Cell phones make it much easier and cheaper to call now, and email and Facebook are quick. We also now have a website and newsletter that weren't available a few years ago. The RWHA is member driven and every member is urged to participate. Please share your comments, suggestions, questions, and even concerns or gripes with us. We will do our best to keep everyone informed, and to assure you that your opinion matters. Don't think the only time you can bring any topic up is at an annual meeting.



Mike Olhausen of Shiner, TX. has been busily searching, researching and combining Red Wattle history. He's located a lot of interesting pictures and articles and placed them on the RWHA website forum for everyone. Please go to our forum on the website and take a look. From Forum, scroll down to Red Wattle History and click. You'll see "My RW history document SO FAR", dated Sept. 27, 2013. Click on that title. You'll see the link <http://www.olhausen.us/farm/rw/RW-Hist-with notes.pdf>. Click on that and wait for the history to load. We know you'll enjoy. Mike is continuing to search out information. Please contact him if you have historical pictures, articles, studies, or documents. There are many holes and blank spaces in our history and with the help of everyone we can put our Red Wattle history together to learn and enjoy.



Mike Olhausen is also responsible for developing our Red Wattle Google map on our website homepage. We hope everyone takes advantage of this opportunity. Go to our website homepage and you'll see the map. Click on Red Wattle Hog Owners. The next screen will tell you what you need to do in order to be added. This can be a very helpful marketing tool for your business. This map is in the process of being updated. If you are currently on the map and need to have changes made please let Mike know. Since we only list current RWHA members on our website in our membership area, only RWHA members will be listed on the map. This releases the RWHA from any liability of advertising for non-members who breed and sell Red Wattles.



The board received an overwhelming positive response from the membership to organize a RWHA Scholarship fund. Our thoughts, and based on membership suggestions are to provide an annual scholarship in a particular amount to members, members children, or members grandchildren who pursue higher education thru college, vocational, or trade schools in the farm, agricultural or veterinary

vocation.

The board is in the process of determining requirements for the scholarship and the amount given. Your suggestions are needed so please contact any board member with your thoughts and ideas. Funding for the scholarship will come from various projects the RWHA sponsors and from donations. This funding will also be kept in a separate account and will be monitored by the board. Everyone will be kept up to date as we make progress, finalize and put the scholarship into place. We should all be proud that the RWHA has progressed to the point that we are able to do this.



The RWHA is blessed with many talented members who volunteer their services. Even though you may never know, a lot of their work is used by you. Just as an example, Mike Olhausen contributed a huge part in helping to develop the RWHA registration form. He also designed our badges that we are trying to get organized and sold to the public. Income from the sale of patches or badges will go to funding our scholarship fund. They will also help you in your marketing program. We have volunteers who help research, and volunteers who write articles for our newsletters. The RWHA is really member driven and we would not be successful without help and input from our membership. Whether its projects or suggestions or even complaints, it's all helpful to each one of us and especially the RWHA as a whole.



The RWHA has always recommended the breeder or seller of recovery hogs or breed-up hogs being sold as recovery or breed-up hogs first obtain approval for registration prior to selling the hog(s). New owners often fail to understand the process and don't complete the application or provide proper pictures. This causes frustration and delays which causes more frustration. There is also the risk of the hog(s) being declined and an unhappy buyer to be dealt with.

Also as a reminder, the RWHA rules state any breeder of a red wattle that still has possession of the hog has up to 18 months of age to register that hog. This is to allow those breeders who choose to follow results of the hog's first litter before registering to assure the hog is breeding offspring as expected. If piglets or hogs are sold as registered or to be registered, the registration application must arrive at the registry office no later than 6 months from date of purchase. This is a rule because the registry office and the board are receiving applications as much as two years old. In many cases the hogs have been resold and have grown offspring that have also been sold to new owners. The breeder may no longer be breeding red wattles and may have even moved. It makes it very difficult to track lineage. Registration is important so please follow-up and complete the process before the 6 month cut-off date. The Board of Directors has been lenient with late applications if lineage can be confirmed, however too many continue to come in. Please be sure to follow up with any hog you have sold for registration and assure it's done within the allowed time frame. Follow up with your buyers, or look on the RWHA website. The RWHA always recommends that the seller provide completed and signed copies of the registration request form to the buyer before the buyer leaves the property with the piglet or hog. This provides a much smoother transition and assures the buyer that if the seller does not follow thru on the registration, the buyer can. This is also a good and easy marketing tool to follow. Make sure that customer is properly taken care of and he or she will recommend you to other buyers.

# Fodder

By: Josh Goebel, Hickory Ridge Heritage Farm

While researching swine breeds I found the Red Wattle. I wanted something different, better. I am happy to say that after a trip to Phillip Jensen's farm, I had a small starter herd of 3 bred gilts. The gilts were barely moved in when they started to farrow. I wasn't quite prepared when the first litter came. I scurried through town in search of iodine for navels and found some at the local hospital. My wife, two kids, two friends, their two kids and I stayed with it until 2am when the last of the litter was born. The following afternoon, my wife called to let me know that she was delivering the next litter, and for a city girl she did a great job!

I free range my pigs on 12 acres of mostly hardwood timber pasture with about a 1% grain to weight ration. In my research for alternative feed, I stumbled upon barley fodder or barely sprouts. This sounded great to me but I had no greenhouse and no barley. I thought of buying a commercial fodder system until I saw the price. It was a little on the expensive side. I built my own. I built a rack that is 9 feet tall and 42 inches wide. The rack has a 10 degree slope. This rack holds 10 vinyl PVC gutters that you would find on a house. Five gutters on the top rack and 5 on the bottom. The entire system uses a recycling pump that is set in a catch basin and the trays are fed with a 1 gallon per hour dripper that runs around the clock. This is plumbed with ¼ in. lawn sprinkler tubing and fittings.

The greenhouse that I sprout the fodder in was made in 2 hours from some poly and hardware that an Amish friend of mine had. The frames were bent to arc against the wall of the barn and in two hours I had a greenhouse!

The sprouts are soaked in a bucket overnight and in the morning they are spread out on the gutter trays to sprout.

I grew sprouts like crazy until the grass started coming in. The pigs seemed to prefer foraging for their food rather than eating the sprouts. I quit producing sprouts in late June but will start up again in the fall as long as the cost of heating works out. I figured that I can sprout barley for about \$.08/lb. without figuring capital expense. I have about \$400 into the whole greenhouse.

Barley can be purchased through companies on line. I buy mine from my Amish friend or Albert Lea Seed House.

I would be happy to help anyone set up a similar system for their own use.



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Attached are blank samples of sow breeding and herd records. You may find them useful in your own record keeping, or you may want to make adjustments for how you need to keep your records and files.