

# Red Wattle Hog Association

Winter 2015/2016 Newsletter

We had more responses to the RWHA elections this year than ever before. Please feel free to contact any board member with suggestions, questions or concerns. This is your association and you do have a voice.

Your RWHA Board of Directors and contact information is: President, **Jenifer Kraus**, 446 180<sup>th</sup> Ave. Hays, KS 67607. 785-628-3074, [jkraus@ruraltel.net](mailto:jkraus@ruraltel.net). Vice President position is temporarily vacant.

Secretary/Treasurer, **Kathy Bottorff**, 41 Jones Rd. Horse Cave, KY. 42749. [redwattles@hotmail.com](mailto:redwattles@hotmail.com). 270-565-3815. Board Member at Large, **Walt Wickham**, 5184 138<sup>th</sup> Ave. Maquoketa, IA. 52060. 563-652-9989. [wickhamfarm@gmail.com](mailto:wickhamfarm@gmail.com). Board Member at Large, **Dale Stevens**. 3210 Barton Agricola Rd. Lucedale, MS. 39452. 601-766-3578. [sandridgefarm@att.net](mailto:sandridgefarm@att.net)

Sam Plank of West Liberty, OH., is leaving us this year as Board Member at Large. Sam is a great asset to the RWHA and we all appreciate his contributions and dedication to the RWHA. We're confident that he will continue to be a strong voice in the RWHA.

Theresa Schieffelbein recently resigned her position as RWHA Vice President. She worked diligently and with passion toward making the RWHA the outstanding association it is today. She has assured everyone that her enthusiasm and dedication will continue with Red Wattles.

Per the RWHA by-laws if the position has less than one year to serve, the president may appoint a replacement.

The RWHA Board of Directors met Nov. 29, 2015 and all members were present. Theresa Schieffelbein was the Vice President board member at this time. The topics of discussion and actions are summarized below and the minutes will be posted in their entirety on the website in the forum section.

- **The board will research the feasibility of reserving exclusive chosen farm prefixes for RWHA members who voluntarily request it. A right of use fee from "0" to a one-time fee of \$25.00 was discussed to assist in covering additional website work and management.**

**Decision:**

*If determined feasible, a voluntarily chosen farm prefix will remain exclusive for any member meaning no other member will be allowed to use that prefix. Prefixes are voluntary but a member may choose to reserve his/hers exclusively. Red Wattles are registered under the breeder name and a registration number that is never duplicated. This method protects the exclusivity of the registered hog, the breeder and the owner. \*\*This discussion was tabled until further information can be obtained from our webmaster.\*\**

- **Discussion was made on the RWHA total payment or reimbursement of all boars now in use and all new boars registered in 2016. Members with a single membership would be reimbursed for one new boar in 2016, and members with a farm/family membership would be reimbursed for 2 new boars.**

**Decision:**

*The board unanimously voted to reimburse in entirety, all RWHA members who DNA tested one (1) registered boar from Jan. 01, 2016 thru June 30, 2016.*

- **Make the website a "members only" site by restricting non-members and/or the public at large to viewing the RWHA homepage, by-laws and rules pages, animals and breeders pages, and breed standards only.**

**Decision:**

*The board unanimously voted in favor and will make arrangements with the webmaster to have this in place.*

- Discussion was made to assign the registry office the duty of including the RWHA rules with every registration completed, with a statement that says these rules are in effect as of this date and members should consult the RWHA website for updates or changes.

**Decision:**

*The board voted unanimously to approve and will discuss with the registry office the best or most efficient way to assure all registrations are accompanied with RWHA rules.*

- Appoint all Board of Director members as the RWHA face book moderators.

**Decision:**

*Unanimously approved. All Board of Director members are currently RWHA face book moderators.*

- Refresh, replace or eliminate pictures on the RWHA registration request form application, the official registration, and Red Wattle pictures on the RWHA website, not to include pictures that are attached to official pedigrees.

**Decision:**

*Unanimously approved. Arrangements will be made with the webmaster to have this completed.*

- Renew annual RWHA advertisement with Stockman Grass Farmer.

**Decision:**

*Unanimously approved and completed.*



## **Your DNA Cost Reimbursement**

The RWHA will reimburse every current RWHA member 100% of the cost of one (1) boar DNA submission to UC Davis from Jan. 01 2016 thru June 30, 2016. You must be a member at the time the DNA results are received. The DNA must be from a registered Red Wattle boar. By using the instructions and the affiliation code given, UC Davis will discount all tests by \$10.00. Your up-front cost will be \$30.00 per hog, payable to UC Davis either on line or with attached check or money order with your DNA submission. The time frame once the sample is received and reported by UC Davis is normally less than 2 weeks. Once the RWHA receives confirmation of the results a reimbursement check will be immediately sent to you thru the mail for the entire \$30.00. You and the RWHA are notified via email from UC Davis and your reimbursement check will be forwarded to you when that confirmation is received.



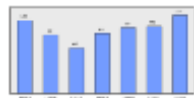
## **Your Pork Website**

Your Board Member at Large Walt Wickham is working toward implementing a RWHA pork program for all RWHA members. Plans are already in the works for a website that will stand alone but be connected to the RWHA website. The site will encompass anything connected to pork and pork production. RWHA members can have their farms listed with links directly to their farm. This can become a great marketing and selling tool for you. Anyone searching for Red Wattle pork can find a producer on this site. Large companies, specialty meat shops, mom and pop groceries and restaurants just to name a few. This is the RWHA working hard to help you. Walt can't do this alone and he needs all our help. Contact him at [wickhamfarm@gmail.com](mailto:wickhamfarm@gmail.com) or call 563-652-9989 to see how you can help. Several ways are to donate a little time, copy down your favorite recipe, take a picture of it and send it in. Take pictures and write descriptions of your hog being processed and packaged. Send in reviews if your hogs have been highlighted in the public in any way, from 4H projects all the way to the table. We all want this to be the go-to place for great Red Wattle pork and suppliers. It can be but it has to be a team effort. Help the RWHA help you.



## Your Red Wattle Tutorial

Our new tutorial on the website is growing. It's meant to be basic helpful information for all levels of experience but never to take the place of professional or veterinary guidance. This tutorial wouldn't be possible without the help of all of you. All pictures are donated anonymously and are actual pictures of RW's. Submit pictures, ask questions or give advice so we know what's needed or what needs improving. Contact any board member. This is your site and you help build it. It can't be done without you. We hope to continue to expand the topics so this chapter on our website will continue to grow and change to be even better over time. To find the tutorial go to the website homepage and click on the tutorial tab at the top.



## Your Breed Population

Male hogs registered in 2013 were 94 and females were 186. Males in 2014 were 92 and females were 205. Our total for both years was 577. We don't have the total for 2015 at this time. The population appears to be growing however in order to keep the number as accurate as possible the RWHA also needs to know about any registered hogs that are out of production. That can't be done without your help. The RWHA doesn't know unless you report it. The status such as endangered or critical is determined by The Livestock Conservancy and is based on the count of registered and producing hogs. This determines how strong our breed is and what we all can or should do to secure their future. This is why it's important to keep the numbers as accurate as possible. Simply let any board member know by email, phone call or snail mail. This never removes the hog from the registry. That information is needed to continue the pedigrees. Please take a few minutes to log on to the website. You can't do this without logging on. Go to the animal tab and put your name in as breeder or owner. Your hogs will appear. To the far left side is a small "i". Click on it and all the hog information will show. If you know that hog is out of production but is not listed that way, please notify any board member so that corrections can be made. Is the hog deceased, processed, retired, or sold without papers? If you don't have access to a computer you can contact any board member and they will look the information up for you to make the corrections.



## Your Membership

Please write or print clearly for your memberships and your registration requests. If your writing can't be read it slows down the process, and mistakes can be made. Fill in all blocks, or give an explanation why the area is left blank. Membership applications go to the address listed on the form and fees are payable to the RWHA. Registration and transfer requests go to Mountain Niche Registry-RWHA at the address listed on that form and payable to Mountain Niche Registry.

Membership runs from March 31 to March 31 each year and there is no grace period. This is an annual membership so you'll need to renew each year. We will begin accepting membership applications for March 2016 thru March 2017 on Jan. 01, 2016 and any time after. Mark your calendars so your membership doesn't lapse. The membership form can be found by clicking on the RWHA tab on the website. The next screen gives you all our forms. You can also use paypal. Scroll down slightly on that screen and you'll see the option. Remember that paypal doesn't have a space for telephone numbers. You'll need to attach a note that's available on paypal or send it to me separately if you want it listed. The address given on the membership form or paypal will be the address listed on your contact information on our website. Please use the address where you receive your mail.



### Your DNA Guide

Step by step instructions for DNA collection and submission to UC Davis are now on our website. The instructions can also be printed for your convenience as you go thru the UC Davis site. Go to the forum and click on **General**. You'll see the topic: UC Davis DNA Collection Procedure. If you do not have access to a computer, instructions and applications can be mailed to you. Contact any board member for assistance.

DNA is becoming more important in the realm of identification for many things. Parentage confirmation is only the beginning. In the future, conformation genes can be identified as well as those that may be problematic. Because of the great strides that can be made using DNA, more and more associations and organizations are requiring DNA on file. DNA is only for registered breeders that will pass their genetics to offspring. Registration is required because of the need to correctly- without a doubt,- identify the hog and assure the DNA report is placed in that hogs file. This protects you and the RWHA from making unnecessary mistakes. Our registry requires the hog history, basic description, and ear notch, tag or tattoo identification, and thru using those identifiers we can correctly place the DNA report to the registered hog. The DNA information will remain in the hog's records permanently. DNA tests can also be a great marketing tool for you. It shows you have pride in your breeding and you can prove what you have.

### Your RWHA Scholarship



It's time to be thinking about the RWHA Scholarship. \$250.00 is offered to RWHA members or their immediate family to further their education in a farming/animal related field. All you need to do is write an essay on what your plans are and submit it to the Board of Directors. The Board will review all essays and choose the winner. Essays will be accepted up to May 30, 2016.

### Your RWHA Website



Be a wise owl. There's lots of good and helpful information in back issues of our newsletters. You can find them by going to the website and clicking on the newsletter tab at the top of the home page. The RWHA website is yours and it's not just there to keep pedigrees. It's there to help. You're encouraged to review and study. If there's anything you feel needs to be added or improved just let us know.



## **Your Herd Records/ Pedigrees and Linebreeding**

From time to time there's interest in blood lines, or even particular names that may show up in our official registry. It's understandable based on some of our history with some names being used frequently, either within our own registry or by word of mouth. It's also misleading. Starting early on and even currently, many breeders named their hogs as a matter of identification when the hogs went off the farm, sold or traded to others. Other breeders as a matter of marketing practices assign and use hog/farm or breeder names for popularity, fame or a sense of security. Giving a hog a particular name does not make a line and does not indicate line breeding. Line breeding or developing a line is a complicated, difficult and expensive venture. Line breeding is also done with a well thought out and documented plan with an end goal in mind and should not be confused with in-breeding which has no goal. Documented and verified information must be provided to the association to prove a successful end result.

The Livestock Conservancy, (TLC), formerly known as ALBC or American Livestock Breed Conservancy, examines our records. They compare breeders with registered hogs to determine line breeding and in-breeding practices among many other things, and will assist us in determining where we could improve. Remember our registry/records/population/pedigrees and breeding histories are based on recorded information of registered hogs and the information provided by the breeder. The honesty and integrity of the breeder is important and all factors are based on what the breeder submits. It's important to remember our records come from the breeder.

To date The Livestock Conservancy has not found evidence of a particular line that can be attributed to any breeder going back to when the RWHA first began keeping records with the assistance of ALBC. The RWHA does not have lines and never has. That can change in the future if a breeder wants to adjust his or her practices and documents and submits the journey.

Line breeding must come from a closed herd with no "outside" breeding at any time. There are no set rules but a minimum of 4 generations is recommended to produce what the breeder wants for an end result. Besides the dedication, this can take a lot of time. Often several years. There's also extra space, fencing and shelters, and feeding expenses. Time must be spent on education and documentation. The breeder must be experienced with a trained eye to look for the traits and characteristics he/she wants to bring out as an end result. That can only be determined by watching them grow to adulthood and then watching those offspring as well. Many times the hog can exhibit good traits or qualities by outward appearance while a genetic problem may not be identified until after maturity or often until a few generations have passed. Vision or hearing problems, hip problems compounded by mature weight, prolapsing during farrowing, infertility, heart problems, digestion problems, personality problems or even a severe swing from breed appearance. These are only a few that can be compounded by line breeding and results may not be known until much later. The breeder must be able to cull or eliminate deeply, choosing only the best of the best according to his or her desired end result. This can often result in eliminating adult hogs and starting the process over again. A breeder must also keep the desirable traits particular to the breed. Line breeding does not produce a breed all its own. If done properly it only brings out the breeders desired goals. If the group is opened at any time to outside breeding, the line bred genetics are bred out again. Line breeding can bring out the desired traits, but it also brings out and often doubles up on undesirable traits and genetics. Naming, registering, or marketing techniques for a hog or a group of hogs does not produce a line.

Educational information on line breeding and particular lines can be found on our website in the forum section under NEWS, and subtitled **The Livestock Conservancy Breeding Recommendations** dated Feb. 10, 2015. There is also an article written by Dr. D.P. Sponenberg on line breeding written specifically for the RWHA at our request in our winter 2013/2014 edition of the RWHA newsletter. This is a great article because it also goes into the merits and usefulness of open herds. There are many. Another educational resource for breeding can be found in a book titled "**A Conservation Breeding Handbook**" written by D.P. Sponenberg and Carolyn Christman and endorsed by The Livestock Conservancy. The entire book is dedicated to successful breeding but Chapter 10 specifically goes into line breeding.

## [Your Official RWHA Face Book](#)



Don't overlook what may be another valuable resource. You're encouraged to use the official **RWHA face book**. Just use your search engine to go to Red Wattle Hog Association Face book. The moderators are your board of directors. There are many members and non-members there that have great hogs and their farms in common. Everyone learns, teaches, shares and even brags. It's a great family friendly place to be and dedicated to our hogs and farming practices. The site is closed to keep spammers off but all you have to do is ask for membership. Then either just read and get familiar or jump right in and make a comment or ask a question, or show off your beautiful Red Wattles. We'd love to see you there.

## [Your Board of Directors reaching out](#)



We're able to provide helpful information or assistance thru email. Would you like to receive your newsletters, updates, changes, or any type of additional assistance thru email? Please let us know and we can get you on our list. Do you have a question or need other assistance? Just send us an email. We're not always sitting at the computer but we'll get back to you as soon as possible.



Winter is here. Please be careful if you choose to use any alternate heat or light sources for your hogs. Make sure all cords and equipment are in good shape and are firmly secured away from flammable materials.

**Your Board of Directors** is dedicated to making Red Wattles and the RWHA the best they can be. Your suggestions, comments, concerns and even your complaints are always welcome and help us to know where improvement is needed. As a member you receive many benefits if you choose to take advantage of them and we hope to continue to grow and assist. We can't do this alone though. We need your help and by helping us, you are also helping Red Wattles and the RWHA. In turn that filters back to you and you reap the benefits. It only takes a few minutes to take a picture and submit, or to copy a recipe. You probably have lots of them in your files already. Are there areas where you can help or areas you think need attention, or areas where you wish you had more knowledge? We urge you to participate in any way you can. Volunteer for a few minutes to send a question or suggestion, or go all out and form a special committee to research a project. Participate. The RWHA is your association. By helping make Red Wattles and the RWHA better and stronger, you are also helping yourself.