

# The Lincoln Letter

Publisher-North American Lincoln Red Association

Spring 2011

## A LOOK BACK AT A GREAT ADVOCATE OF LINCOLN REDS: MR. GORDON COOK

(SUBMITTED BY TERESA COOK)

Gordon Cook's life on Claydene Farm in King Township, York Co., Ontario always included cattle. Striving for better breeding line began in 1942 when his father, Earl Cook, registered the Shorthorn herd and continued to 1996 when Gordon had achieved international recognition for his Lincoln Red herd.

Beginning in 1972 Gordon used purebred Lincoln Red bulls. In 1986 the cow herd consisted mainly of 3/4 and 7/8 Lincoln Red females with the bloodlines of two important bulls, Gotho Signal 3rd and Frisby Jones making up the base. By 1993 the large calf crop was entirely 100% Lincoln Red. The Claydene herd was shown at numerous fairs in Ontario, Calgary, Alberta and Regina, Saskatchewan with considerable success. Claydene Ever Reddy was the Supreme Grand Champion of the Canadian Western Agribition in 1977 and Reserve Grand Champion of the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

Gordon was a Canadian Shorthorn Association director, and a director of the Canadian National Livestock Records in Ottawa, and a director of the Lincoln Red Association from 1973. Active in his community Gordon held several public offices. He served as Reeve of King Township from 1965 -1970 and was warden of the County of York in 1970. He was appointed by the Province of Ontario to the York Region Police Board from 1971 to 1981. He served on the York County Hospital Board and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board for a number of years.

Gordon was also active in the Kettleby church and was involved in other local organizations. At the time of this death in 1996 a tribute was made to him in the House of Commons, Government of Canada, Ottawa, acknowledging him as a great Canadian, which he most certainly was.

**From the Secretary:** Years ago, I was first introduced to Lincoln Reds when my father, Ray Walter, visited Gordon and Alma Cook. In 1995, my husband and I purchased our first two cows from Mr. Cook and over the years we have stayed in contact with his daughter Teresa. This past Christmas Teresa wrote that she was going through her father's cattle pictures and I of course asked if we could share them. If anyone knows more information about the animals or people pictured, please contact me so that I might make a few notes for future generations of Lincoln Red breeders.



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## SECRETARY'S NOTES:

If you have not paid your annual membership, please submit it to Canadian Livestock Records Corporation 2417 Holly Lane, Ottawa, Canada K1V 0M7 or go online at [www.clrc.ca](http://www.clrc.ca) and electronically submit it. The cost of membership will remain the same for 2011.

### Annual General Meeting Highlights:

The Annual General Meeting was held November 20, 2010. Mr. Gordon MacRae was unanimously approved to receive Honorary Membership for his contributions to the Lincoln Red breed.

Much discussion occurred around marketing, advertising and general promotion of the Lincoln Reds for 2011. Updates to the website were requested along with a formal thank you to Mr. Chris Carlson for his time designing the website. Usage of the website continues to grow exponentially. The *Lincoln Letter* continues to receive favorable comments and will be printed in the spring and fall of the year. Heather McClinchey has designed a new timeless tri-fold brochure for the Association. (All paid members can expect to shortly receive a packet of these to aid them in promoting Lincoln Reds.) It was unanimously voted to run an ad in *Ontario Beef* for the upcoming year. Heather McClinchey agreed to contact *Ontario Beef* and submit an ad (Thank you Heather!)



Sarah Pedelty and Bill Reid were elected as directors for a three year term. Bill Reid will be the CLRC representative for 2011. Scott McClinchey and Sarah Pedelty will continue to be President and Secretary respectively. The remaining directors consist of Dan Lamarche, Gordon MacRae, and John Ashby.

The 2011 AGM will be held at Scott and Heather McClinchey's in the fall possibly at the same time as the Royal Winter Fair which is usually the first or second weekend in November. Please watch for upcoming meeting details.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Winter has finally decided to end for most of us with spring just around the corner. Many breeders will be calving in the spring which is a very exciting time of the year. Although, just as important is the breeding season which is only a few months away. With such a low population number of Lincoln Reds great care must be taken in mating decisions to maintain a wide genetic base. Genetically diverse "Spur" semen from Mr. Mead Ferguson was utilized in the Pedelty herd a few years ago which was a positive step to ensure genetic diversity of the breed for the future. We are looking forward to the first "Spur" calves that will be born on our farm this spring. I would encourage you to develop a long term breeding plan for your herds and utilize the different genetic lines available from fellow breeders.

Wishing everyone has a great calving season,  
Scott McClinchey

**DO YOU KNOW ANYONE THAT SHOULD BE RECEIVING OUR NEWSLETTER?**

or

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE YOUR LINCOLN LETTER ELECTRONICALLY?**

Please send contact info to  
Sarah Pedelty at  
[sarahpedelty@yahoo.com](mailto:sarahpedelty@yahoo.com)  
or call Sarah at 507-867-9041

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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## Cows, Calving and Quality of Life

By Bob Nusbaum

We all look forward to our new baby calves every year. Expectations from new AI sires or a young herd bull are always highest when those calves finally hit the ground. Calving time can also cause stress. Can time of calving affect our joy or profit or quality of life? Hopefully, this article will stimulate your thought process.

First, let's define low stress calving. Better yet, imagine ideal calving. This would include cows in a body condition score of 6 out of 9, which ensures excellent colostrum. Cows and heifers calve unassisted on fresh, green grass, which reduces time necessary to rebreed and eliminates problems with coccidiosis, scours and pneumonia. All a producer needs to do is tag (and possibly weigh) the calf. Can we successfully calve without barns, calving pens and bedding and reduce or eliminate manure, nighttime checks and chilled or sick calves?

Most of us who have calved in the period from January 1 to the end of March have, no doubt, some unique stories about experiences with mud, hair dryers and calves in a bathtub. I certainly have my share. A good annual exercise is to review "why" you calve when you do. Let's compare two calving seasons: January 1 to March 31 (Early Calving, EC) and almost any other time, although I will focus mainly from April 1 to June 30 (Late Calving, LC). These are both 90-day periods. Why do people choose the EC route? Some who show cattle need a variety of ages. Some have more labor at that time. And many seed stock operators want yearling bulls mature enough to sell to clients who want to turn bulls out in June so they have EC.

Let's take a hard look at EC. Over the past 30 years the average calving date in the US has gradually changed from about mid-April to mid-March. The intent of calving 30 days earlier in March was to produce an older calf at weaning that would weigh more, thus producing more profit. However, research at South Dakota State University has shown no difference in net profit between the two calving dates. The value of the increased weaning weight from the older calves was offset by more calf death loss, labor and materials.



One of the main negatives for EC is feed expense. Let's look at January to March. The cow or heifer is in the last trimester of gestation that coincides with the coldest time of the year. Both situations require lots more feed and after freshening it increases even more. On top of that, we are feeding our most expensive feed and grass is still a long ways off. None of these combinations are good and none are cheap.

Another negative is calving indoors. Most cattle like their personal space when calving. Heifers usually like to pace a lot before they finally lie down and calve. Being indoors in a pen usually inhibits or interrupts their natural calving tendencies. It seems that we've had more problems calving them inside than outside. In addition, health problems and labor always increase with calves born inside.

So let's look at the benefits of later calving (LC). I've alluded to several so far. Warmer weather, no barns, bedding or manure and much less, if any, sickness and no need for a scours vaccine. So, then, why don't more people do it? I'm not sure, but let's analyze some scenarios.

We like to wean our calves early in September because the weather is generally nicer than later in the fall. (If you've read my previous articles you know we fence-line wean on pasture.) Our April calves wean easily in September and even if we calved in May and June, we would still wean when our youngest calves reach 120 days of age. This allows us to give the weaned calves our best grass with no competition from the cows. The cows are at their lowest nutritional demand at that time and can go on poorer pasture, follow the calves when rotating or utilize stalks if they are available. Earlier weaning keeps the cows in better shape going into the winter, which ultimately reduces hay feeding.

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Of course, younger, lighter calves bring less money if you sell calves in the fall, so the other option is to feed them through the winter. There are two good reasons to consider this. First, calves selling in April or May always bring more per pound than similar weight calves selling in October or November. The decision here is how hard to feed them through the winter. If they are fed to weigh 700 pounds, they can go directly into a feedlot. If they are closer to 500 pounds, they can be backgrounded on grass for the summer. Both weights are popular in the spring and buyers are hungry for these calves. Secondly, two 300 pound calves eat the same amount of feed that one 600 pounder eats, so more light weight calves can be kept through the winter on a fixed amount of stored feed.

Most of our bull buyers turn out about July 1, so we calve in early April so our yearling bulls are about 14 months old when they go to work. We calve our herd in a “sacrifice” pasture near the buildings and unroll their feed (round bales) each afternoon about 5:00. Feeding at this time every day results in 85% or more of the calves born between 6am and 6 pm. It really works. However, we would prefer calving in mid-May, which would coincide with the beginning of our rotational grazing season. All of the grazing research says to keep the cows off the pastures until the grass is about 4 inches tall. Grazing it before that height severely retards its growth and yield for the rest of the summer. I think the best system would be to feed the cows in a winter paddock until the grass has a good start, then move them to a paddock that is ready for grazing and let them begin calving. (In our area this is traditionally about May 15<sup>th</sup>.) Rotate them to a new paddock according to your particular grazing system, whether it’s just a few days or longer. Paddock rotation is usually faster in the spring with the flush of grass growth, so there should be plenty of feed to allow cows with newer calves to stay in the same paddock a bit longer while moving cows with older calves and the remaining pregnant cows. The advantage with this later calving date is that all of the calves are born on fresh, clean pasture, not in the barn or in a winter feed yard.

Mid-May calving would require that the breeding season start about August 1. This is OK in the Upper Midwest, but may be too hot for our southern neighbors. This date might also be less of a conflict with summer family activities, so this might be a consideration if you



contemplate changing your calving time. Later born calves also tend to have lighter birth weights. This is especially true with fall born calves.

One final thought. One of the most important aspects of calving is “calving ease”. Many producers expect to assist 20-25% of their first calf heifers. A belief in, and dedicated use of, Expected Progeny Differences (EPD’s) for birth weight, Calving Ease Direct (CED) and Maternal Calving Ease (MCE) can reduce assists to almost zero. Analyze the time, materials and energy you invest in your present calving season. Are you continually butting heads with Mother Nature? Easy calving is enjoyable calving. Is yours as enjoyable as it can be? If you are interested in wanting any more information about it, feel free to call or email us. (608) 348-3284 or [nusbaum@uwplatt.edu](mailto:nusbaum@uwplatt.edu).

***Secretary’s Note: Over the years, I have stayed in contact with one of my professors who also raises cattle. Dr. Nusbaum has always made comments that are thought provoking and I asked him to share them with us. Sarah Pedelty***

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## LINCOLN RED CATTLE SOCIETY

Lincolnshire Showground' Grange de Lings, Lincoln LN2 2NA

Tel: 01522 511395 Email: [secretary@lincolnredcattlesociety.co.uk](mailto:secretary@lincolnredcattlesociety.co.uk)



### 5,100gn for Lincoln Red Bull at Newark

Lincoln Red Cattle Society Spring Show & Sale

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2011 held at Newark Livestock Market

**12 Bulls-Averaged £3483 (£3339 in 2010) & 93 Females Averaged-£908 (£1517 in 2010)**

The Lincoln Red Cattle Society's Spring Show and Sale at Newark Livestock Market on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2011 saw Michael Read's Hemingby Elliot take top price of 5,100gn; by Market Stainton Goodman out of Hemingby Bridget C46 and bought by F & E J Hullah & Son's Tancred Herd in North Yorkshire.

It was the "gentlemen's" day as R I Clough & Son's Beverley Mandate; sired by Market Stainton Governor out of Beverley Ella G34 and R E Needham & Son's Market Stainton Merrymaker; sired by Hemingby Bevan out of Market Stainton Eva 4<sup>th</sup> G10 were knocked down at 5,000gn each. Beverley Mandate sold to Sir Richard Sutton's Settled Estates' Sutton Herd in Lincolnshire whilst Market Stainton Merrymaker was bought by Mr P E A Wood's Whitesmeadow Herd in Hampshire.

The Show Junior and Supreme Champion Bull, R E Needham & Son's Market Stainton Matador sired by Hemingby Bevan out of Market Stainton Dot 7<sup>th</sup> sold to Nottingham Consultant's Ltd's Brackenhurst Herd at 4,200gn. The Senior Champion and Reserve Supreme Champion Bull, H M & J M Needler's Walmer Magee sired by Beverley Henchman out of Walmer Bianca D58 sold to H W Martin Farms in Nottinghamshire.

12 bulls sold on the day, with an overall average of 3,317gn.

A record number of female entries into the Sale did see the average drop compared to previous years. However, the Champion Heifer in the Show, Michael Read's October 2009 born; Hemingby Bridget M637 sired by St Fort Essex out of Hemingby Bridget F227, took top price for the females at 2,100gn, sold to Mr & Mrs R W Mee's Oakley Herd in Leicestershire. Reserve Champion Heifer in the Show, Geoff Bolton's Wragby Gift M6 sired by Anwick Fortune out of Wragby Gift F11 sold to Mr R M Shaw & Miss R M Miller's Padworth Park Herd in Berkshire for 1,750gn. Two in calf heifers bred by Michael Read: Hemingby Mattie M587 sired by Market Stainton Goodman out of Hemingby Mattie M587 and Hemingby Polly M612 sired by St Fort Essex out of Hemingby Polly F257 sold for 2,100gn and 2,000gn respectively. Both were in calf to Walmer Legend; 2010 Spring Show & Sale Champion and record priced Bull. Both went to Mr & Mrs R W Mee's Oakley Herd in Leicestershire.

The top priced cow with calves at foot went to Mr P Allen's Crystal Herd for Holirow Gloria H30 sired by Hemingby Valentine out of Hammeringham Zoe 1<sup>st</sup> with twin bull calves at foot sired by Rumford Robert. They sold for 1,300gn to Mr & Mrs M J Arnold in Nottinghamshire.

The average for 9 in calf cows/cows with calves at foot, was £1,079; 15 in-calf heifers made an average of £994 and 69 maiden heifers sold to an average of £867. Overall average for 93 females was £908. The overall sale average was £1,202.

Lincoln Red Cattle Society President Robin Dennett extended thanks on behalf of the Lincoln Red Cattle Society Members to Mr James Milligan-Manby for being our Judge for the day.

The Lincoln Red Cattle Society Autumn Show and Sale is on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2011 at the Newark Livestock Market. Thank you to all who supported the 2011 Spring Show and Sale and to our Auctioneers at Newark.

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## NEWS FROM AGR. JEAN PIERRE MARTINS MACHADO, BRAZIL

We are finishing one more summer and La Nina phenomenon wasn't good to us. A long dry season started on mid October and has continued until now. Very low rain this summer, missing water for cattle to drink and grass is also missing. Some rain last 2 weeks ago but not yet enough to grow grass for winter.

Lincoln Red cattle are starting to reappear. We have on order 24 embryos from St.Fort stud on Fife, Scotland. These embryos were ordered by three breeders, including me. I order only 100% blood embryos, the donor is a very good medium framed horned cow by Whitehouse Donald and the sire is a big polled Bull by Anwick Yield out of a Walmer Prince cow. The other embryos will be flushed from three cows, 2 being 100%. Bulls used are Biddlesden Great Expectations (100%) and St.Fort Essex. Also we have ordered 250 straws of semen. We are waiting to select the bulls as we need know the ones that qualify for export to Brazil.

I'm inspector of Lincoln Red herd book in Brazil and last month was required to inspect and select some cows to establish the first purebred herd in Brazil (our herd book only keeps fullblood animals now). This breeder keeps around 120 Lincoln Red cows and has intention to found a purebred herd. These cattle were kept pure by upgrade for many years, always using pure semen and home raised LR bulls. But in the last 6 years, no more LR bulls were available and the breeder needed to use Red Angus bulls on the Lincoln Red cows.

I will donate some semen straws to this breeder and select the better cows to be herd founders. This breeder is also ordering semen and embryos from UK.

Lincoln Reds are looking attractive to some breeders that show real interest in keeping it and maintaining pure breeding. We are looking for breeders that will work for the breed and help show the great benefits.

### Why are Lincoln Reds Gaining in Popularity?

1. Lincoln Red breeders have not followed any fads.
2. High grain prices make easy finishing Lincoln Reds very attractive!
3. Solid color feeder calves bring more \$\$\$ at the sale barn because they are uniform.
4. Lincoln Reds are genetically pure which means that when used in a crossbreeding program they bring exceptional hybrid vigor and you will wean more pounds!

*For More info about Lincoln Reds  
please visit [www.lincolnred.org](http://www.lincolnred.org)*



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## LOOKING FOR LINCOLN REDS?

The following breeders have animals for sale:

● **Sarah Band**

Mohil Farms  
Puslinch, ON  
519-824-5619

Yearling Bull for Sale

● **Cedar Ridge Lincoln Reds**

Oxford Station, ON  
5 Females available; call for details  
Contact Bill Reid at 613-926-2456  
or e-mail at [bill@lincolnred.ca](mailto:bill@lincolnred.ca)

● **Scott & Heather McClinchey**

Southcreek Acres  
Orton, ON  
519-928-3106  
Bulls for sale including...



**Pedelty Watson**

Sire: Spur Christopher  
Picture Taken (Sept 2009)



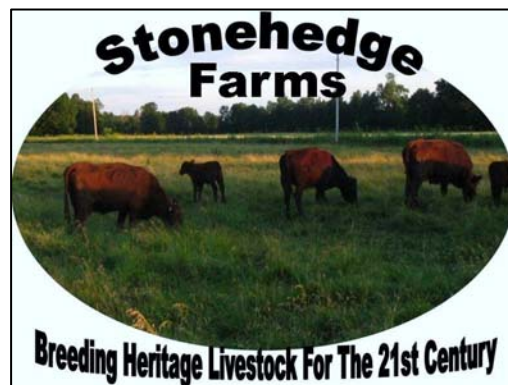
**SOUTHCREEK ACRES**  
~Shaver Lincoln Reds~

Scott & Heather McClinchey  
112025 11<sup>th</sup> Line, R.R. #2  
Orton, Ontario L0N 1N0  
519.928.3106 (h) 519.570.7020 (c)  
[hlm.dvm@sympatico.ca](mailto:hlm.dvm@sympatico.ca)

A lovely selection of two year-old and yearling bulls are available for sale (Cockerington Lord, Abner & Guardian bloodlines). Also offered is a small selection of proven cows and heifers. Visitors welcome.

● **John and Lorraine Ashby**

Stonehedge Farms  
Prescott, ON  
613-925-5778



● **Larry & Sarah Pedelty**

Chatfield, MN 55923  
507-867-9041  
[sarahpedelty@yahoo.com](mailto:sarahpedelty@yahoo.com)

Bulls for sale

Straws for US Breeders

(Collected and Shipped  
from Hawkeye Breeders)

**Get back to the basics  
with Lincoln Reds**



**Larry & Sarah Pedelty**  
Chatfield, MN  
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