

The Lincoln Letter

Publisher-North American Lincoln Red Association

Spring 2018

Presidents Report

President's Report

Days are getting longer and I hope it starts to feel like Spring for you as it does for us in Southern Ontario. What keeps me busy during the day is working with plants with the goal of breeding new canola cultivars with better characteristics than the existing commercial products. With the breeding of Lincoln Red cattle, there are many similarities to the way I work as a plant breeder. One of the first slides in the many presentations I give as a plant breeder is a map of the world showing germplasm accessed globally and the importance of introducing new traits and genetics to improve my breeding pool and ultimately produce new products that are derived from these efforts. Over the last few years, many North American Lincoln Red breeders have brought semen over from the United Kingdom and we are now starting to see offspring from these matings become available. This is a great opportunity for all of us to look critically at the diversity in our own breeding programs and consider utilizing these new bloodlines to increase genetic diversity and other important traits within your herd.

The North American Annual General Meeting will be held at our farm, located at 112025 11th Line, East Garafraxa, Ontario, on Saturday June 30th with a lunch at 1:00 and the business portion of the meeting at 2:30 Eastern Time. A Conference number will be made available for those unable to attend in person. Please contact me by phone (519) 928-3106 or e-mail scott.l.mcclinchey@sympatico.ca if you need assistance in finding accommodations for this meeting.

Best Regards,
Scott



Dennis & Mary Hoffrogge
1st calf of the season

Where is the Sweet Spot?

Bob Nusbaum, Professor Emeritus, Univ of Wisc Platteville nusbaum@uwplatt.edu

Which of the following beef cow goals do you think would be the hardest to accomplish?

- Calve unassisted at 24 months without ever having been fed grain
- Wean a calf at 7 months weighing 40 to 50 per cent of her body weight
- Maintain a 12 month or less calving interval
- Be problem-free and stay in the herd for at least a dozen years
- Be profitable year after year

All are difficult but all are achievable. The best chance to attain all these goals and to maximize net profit is based mostly on one key factor: cow size. In fact, Burke Teichert, a well respected former ranch manager and current strategic planning consultant, places cow size in his top four areas of "immediate attention" when analyzing a ranch. He says "adjust cow size and milk production that fit the environment". (His other three top areas include reducing overheads, not calving in winter and improve grazing management.) Similarly, but nearly 40 years ago, Larry Leonhardt, a visionary Angus breeder from Wyoming found that breeding bigger cows produced less consistency, fertility and environmental adaptability. He embarked on a breeding program that focused on smaller framed, highly fertile, low maintenance cows. He learned that when looking at energy dollars going into his herd, the smaller cows were just as profitable as the bigger cows. The difference was he "spent less, took in less and made the same profit, just with fewer hassles".

So how big is big enough? Let's take a look at today's cows. The output per cow has been steadily improving for 40 years. We now harvest steers at 1400-1700 pounds and have an average carcass weight of 850-950 pounds. Unfortunately, heavier carcasses have come at the expense of larger and larger cows.

First, let's look at the 900 pound carcass. This equates to a 14 square inch rib eye. According to Darrell Peel, a Marketing Specialist at Oklahoma State, a steak this big must be cut thinner to reduce package cost at a grocery store or plate weight at a restaurant. Consumers prefer thicker steaks with less surface area. Thinner steaks are a big negative. He also states "bigger carcasses do increase trim for ground beef, but the industry should pay

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attention to demand limits of carcass size". The packer likes the bigger carcasses. If a plant has the capacity to harvest 1000 head per day, a 900 pound carcass average produces 100,000 more pounds of product in the cooler than an 800 pound average, all with the same amount of labor. Labor cost per carcass is the same but labor cost per pound of carcass is considerably less. Feedlots like the bigger steers, too, because they sell more weight to offset their fixed costs.

Even if there are some advantages for big steers and big carcasses to some segments of the industry, are there any for big cows? Research at Iowa State University found that larger framed cows left the herd at an accelerated rate due to being non-pregnant when compared to smaller framed cows. Bigger cows require more nutrients at all stages of their productive lives. A 1,400 pound cow needs about 12% more pounds of Total Digestible Nutrients (TDN) than its 1,200 pound counterpart. This means that 120 smaller cows (1,200#) will eat about the same amount of feed as 100 larger cows (1,400#). This is an important equivalence especially when considering a stocking rate for limited pasture acreage. If they each wean 50% of their body weight, the pounds of calf weight produced would total more for the calves raised by the smaller cows, 72,000 vs. 70,000. Additionally, lighter weight calves generally sell for a higher price per pound, therefore, more total pounds at a higher value per pound gives a definite advantage to the smaller cows. And this is a conservative estimate as the larger cows would generally have a more difficult time to actually wean 50% of their body weight compared to the 1,200 pound cows according to Kris Ringwall at North Dakota State. He compared records on 5 to 9 year old cows in different weight groups. Cows that weighed 1300 pounds or less weaned 50% of their body weight; 13-1400, 45%; 14-1500, 41%; 15-1600, 39% and over 1600, 34%.

Will the smaller cows still produce acceptable carcass weights? Kris Ringwall also compared the steer progeny of small (1,295#) and large (1,522#) cows. Steers from the small cows finished at 1,456 pounds vs. 1,751 for the large cow steers. Carcass weights were 872 and 1,050 pounds respectively. Both groups had 94% grade Choice and both were similar in Yield Grade, 2.9 and 2.8. The interesting point here is that both steer groups had carcass weights that were 67% of their dams' live weight. That is an excellent yield, but Kris also had a group of 1,120 pound cows that weaned 45.6 % of their body weight or 511

pounds of calf. Those steers eventually had carcass weights of 891 pounds which was an amazing 80% of their dams' live weight of 1,120 pounds. As an aside, my neighbor, several years ago got into beef cattle and bought some Jersey-Angus cross heifers and mated them back to an Angus. He weighed all of his cows and calves at weaning time that first year and found that one of his Jersey-cross cows weighed in at 970 pounds but weaned a 710 pound calf. That's 73% of her body weight! She did a super job and also bred back for her second calf. The point here is that the commercial producer can keep a smaller cow, even as low as 1,000 pounds that still has the capability to produce 67% of her body weight as carcass. This equates to a 670 pound carcass and can be increased, if needed, merely by keeping the cow weight the same but mating her to a larger framed bull. There is no discount today for carcasses in the 600-900 pound range, so there is nothing wrong with a goal of producing 600+ pound carcasses.

In summary, let's review the five cow herd goals again from the top of the article. It appears that reducing cow size, perhaps significantly, makes these goals more attainable and with less cost. We have to remember that the cow is a "factory" that requires maintenance and we want to spend as little as possible to keep her running, but have a large output of a quality product. That's called efficiency. If you had a 20 mile commute to a job, would you drive your diesel, ton, dually pickup truck or a small, 4 cylinder car? Which has less overhead, saves more money and accomplishes the same task? We can look at cow size the same way. We know what makes more sense, but may choose to drive the pickup anyway, for any number of "justifiable" reasons.

Analyze your cows and see where you're at. Decide your cow herd goals and see if adjustments are necessary. The bulls you use are the genetic designers of your herd. Choose wisely. Have a great spring!

Help us save money Receive your newsletter electronically!

As an Association, we are always trying to minimize expenses. Printing and mailing the Lincoln Letter is one area we hope to reduce costs. May we send the Lincoln Letter to you electronically? **If you would like to continue receiving the newsletter via email please email your Name, Address, and the Email address(s) that you would like us to send the newsletter to the Association Secretary Sarah Pedelty at sarahpedelty@gmail.com.**

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Circle H Farms Bull Sale List 2017/2018

Email: harper4@goinet.ca, Phone: 204-725-2515 (H) 204-724-0936 (C) Facebook: Circle H Farms

Hello friends and welcome to Circle H Farms bull sale list.

Here's a little background information on our management program and philosophies.

Since 2005 we have not fed any grain or grain by products of any kind, at any time, to our animals. We are a low or zero input operation. Livestock programs with impressive numbers, flashy pictures and pages of data to show are generally high input operations creating an "expensive environment to fit the cow"! Using high input genetics creates a high cost reliance for the bull customer to deal with for the generations of calves that follow!

This is where and why we are different:

We feel/know we put more pressure on our cows than most commercial operations do on theirs. This ensures customers the kind of bulls that will go to their new environment and provide productive, efficient service coupled with longevity, something we feel the status quo bull developing programs are lacking!

Our forage developed bulls will breed more cows for more years than a conventionally developed high input bull! They will sire calves that are feed efficient and durable!

Our cattle are developed on forage only and are grazing year round! Of course bale grazing is used in the severe winter months, but none the less they stay on pasture year round with exception of developing bulls that will be fed in the yard for convenience of customer viewing.

Our mother cows will receive minimum supplement, if needed by way of lick tubs, otherwise stockpiled grass and hay is all they get. Be assured any bulls offered are from genetics that know how to get the job done! Mother Nature makes a lot of the selection choices for us! We manage those selections as they are obvious to us what works best in a natural, low or zero input environment!

We prefer to sell only forage developed 18 month - 2yr old bulls. Although viewing the young bulls is encouraged none will be for sale.

After weaning in March, yes in March! Our cows nurse their calves for 10 months. At weaning there will be a second cull of the bull group, with some being culled right at birth. The second cull includes docility, performance on grass only and structure. At this time 30-50% will get pulled from the group and will not be developed for breeding stock.

Weaned bulls will continue on bale grazing until summer grass when they are managed under high stock density grazing (HSDG). We have found that the HSDG "people trains" the bulls and they become very comfortable being close to people. All of our cattle are handled using low stress handling techniques creating a comfortable bond between them and us.

You will not find any over fat bulls at our place that will melt away after getting them home. We have been told and personally experienced that our bulls will continue to grow right through the breeding season and won't require additional inputs to recondition them for the next season.

Please feel free to contact us anytime if you are interested in any of the bulls here today or have further questions! Pictures really don't do them justice. Seeing them is believing!

All weights are performance/ growth on grass only! Many of these bulls would be satisfactory for use on heifers.

NOTE: Sales are first come – first serve, a \$1000 deposit will hold bull of your choice until April 1st 2018. After which there will be a \$2.50/day charge. All prices are F.O.B. our yard.

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Circle H 1550D \$3000 E.T.
Lincoln Red (fullblood)(polled)

Dam: Twin Oaks Annie
Sire: Abney Sam (UK)

Born: April 29/2016
BW: 83lbs
200 day adj wt: 494lbs
Oct 12/2017 wt: 970lbs
WPDA: 1.65 lbs



Circle H 1551D \$3000 E.T.
Lincoln Red (fullblood)(scurred)

Dam: Cedar Ridge Lottie
Sire: Abney Sam (UK)

Born: April 30/2016
BW: 84lbs
200 day adj wt: 549lbs
Oct 12/2017 wt: 1050lbs
WPDA: 1.8 lbs



Circle H 1554D \$3500
E.T.

Lincoln Red (purebred)(polled)

Dam: Cedar Ridge Lottie
Sire: Pedelty Argo
Born: May 5/2016
BW: 86 lbs

200 day adj wt: 557
Oct 12/2017 wt: 990
WPDA: 1.7 lbs



Circle H 1610D \$3000
Lincoln Red (purebred)(polled)

Dam: Circle H 1421A
Sire: Pedelty Uno

Born: June 24/2017
BW: 77 lbs
200 day adj wt: 473 lbs
Oct 12/2017 wt: 738 lbs
WPDA: 1.4 lbs



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SEEING IS BELIEVING!

Take a look at Lincoln Reds at one of these farms:

- **Scott & Heather McClinchey - President**

East Garafraxa, ON

(519) 928-3106

scott.l.mcclinchey@sympatico.ca

- **Roger Angowski**

Pugwash, NS

- **John & Lorraine Ashby**

Stonehedge Farms

Prescott, ON

(613)925-5778

- **Sarah Band**

Mohil Farms

Puslinch, ON

(519) 824-5619

- **Elsie Beddoes**

Duchess AB

- **Sarah Bowley**

SVF Foundation

Newport, RI

(401) 846-8670

sarah@svffoundation.org

www.svffoundation.org

- **Andrew Ditmans**

Washington, KS

- **Lee Deutsche**

Crete, IL

farmspecialist@wildblue.net

- **Tom Fillmore**

Oxford, NS

- **Brian & Sonja Harper**

Brandon, Manitoba

(204) 725-2515

harper4@goinet.ca

www.shaverbeef.com

- **Dennis & Mary Hoffrogge**

Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

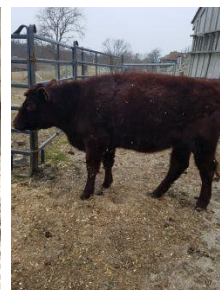
(507) 227-5745

dhoffrogge@gmail.com

Shaver Eugene Yearling Bull for Sale
Pedigree information for all cattle can be found at

www.clrc.ca Contact Scott McClinchey

(519) 928-3106



SVF Cattle for Sale
Contact Sarah Bowley
(401) 846-8670



DMH Victor for Sale
Contact Dennis Hoffrogge
(507) 227-5745

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Take a look at Lincoln Reds at one of these farms:

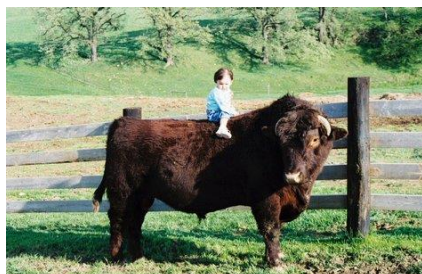
- **Greg & Lisa Klages**
Williamsford, ON
(519) 794-0842
lisafenton@hotmail.com
- **Robert Latimer**
Milton, TN
mccllc98@cs.com
(615) 337-6307
- **Sandy MacDougald**
Milrae Farms
Montague, PE
(902) 838-4395
- **George McQueen**
Nottawa, ON
- **Wallace & Patrick Milner**
Nappan, NS
patrickmilnercattle@hotmail.ca
(902) 667-8815
- **Dr Lincoln Montgomery**
Buckingham, VA
- **Larry and Sarah Pedelty -Secretary**
(507) 421-7112
sarahpedelty@gmail.com
- **Kevin Rivers**
Ingersoll, ON
stonecroftfolk@xplornet.com
www.stonecroftfarms.ca
- **Rose's Lincoln Reds**
Amherst, NS B4H 3Y1
(902) 667-9834



For Sale
Contact Robert Latimer
for more information
(615) 337-6307



Semen Available-Straws for U.S. Breeders
(Collected and Shipped from Hawkeye Breeders)
Contact Sarah Pedelty at (507) 421-7112



The Pines Caesar



Pedelty Xing



Pedelty Baron



The Pines Dauntless

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- **Alycia & Ryan Salvas**
Canterbury, CT
- **Sheldon & Wendy Schmaltz**
Worsley, AB
schmaltz_farms@outlook.com
(780) 685-3336
- **Colby & Ellen Suttentfield**
Davenport, WA
suttentfeld10@att.net
- **William Vancise**
Styner, ON
williamvancise@msn.com
- **Monte VanderVorst**
Pollock, SD
mjvv@bektel.com
(701) 336-2621
- **Ernest Weissing**
Utica, MN
norseman870@gmail.com
- **Rob Wilson**
Wilton, WI
robwilson1109@yahoo.com
(608) 387-1777

F1 crosses Lincoln Red x Red or Black Angus

Contact Monte VanderVorst

for more information

(701) 336-2621



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