

# The Lincoln Letter

Publisher-North American Lincoln Red Association

Spring/Summer 2014

**Secretary's Note:** GREAT NEWS! Lincoln Reds have now been added to the Conservation Priority List by the Livestock Conservancy in the U.S. Reprinted below is their page about Lincoln Reds. To view for yourself please visit <http://www.livestockconservancy.org/index.php/heritage/internal/lincoln-red>



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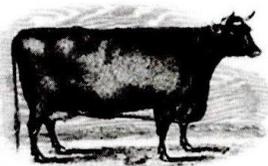
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## **Breed Facts**

**Status:**  
Critical

**Use:**  
Meat

**Adult Weight:**  
1500 - 2400 lbs

**Temperament:**  
Docile

**Experience Level:**  
Novice

**Notes:**  
Excellent temperament, growth rate, and hardiness

## LINCOLN RED

The Lincoln Red was developed in Lincolnshire, Britain in the early 1800s, a time of much breed development and livestock improvement. They are related to Shorthorn cattle and were originally registered in the Coates Herd Book, but in 1896 they began their own herd book.

Lincoln Red cattle began as a dual purpose breed but are now selected for beef production. When continental beef breeds were imported to Britain in the 1970's and 1980's, many beef breeds lost ground through crossbreeding programs that did not plan for replacement of the purebreds. A small number of uncrossed Lincoln Red cattle remain in Great Britain, where they are known as Lincoln Red –Original Population, and these are critically endangered.

Lincoln Reds were imported to the United States and Canada in the 1960's and early 1970's, just prior to the breed improvement program that allowed outcrossing of Lincoln Red cattle in Britain. Although The Livestock Conservancy's criteria for inclusion on the CPL say that breeds must have a long history in the United States, Lincoln Red cattle are a good example of the handful of breeds that are included because they are at risk globally, and the U.S. population contributes in a significant way to global conservation.

Lincoln Red cattle are deep cherry red in color with excellent temperament, growth rate, and hardiness. Most are polled. It is important to keep the horned ones because, just as with Dexter cattle, the polled trait was introduced through a grade-up program and is not original to the breed. Lincoln Reds are well suited to colder climates, and represent a viable option for small scale beef production. There are fewer than 50 registered each year in North America.



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### SCOTT MCCLINCHEY

This time of year is always exciting with the arrival of new calves which allows us to evaluate our previous mating decisions and the condition of our cow herd. Our spring in southern Ontario has been slow coming which has resulted in a late turn out to pasture that is just starting to grow. Cows that are getting older, gradually calving later ever year and any with poor udders and legs are strong candidates to cull after raising their current calves. Past records on calving difficulties, weaning weights can also help identify the poor performing animals in your herd. It will be sad to cull a few of our cows that have been with us many years, yet rewarding to see their daughters with improved characteristics will carry on their legacy and continually improve our Lincoln Red herd.

Have a great summer!

Scott McClinchey

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2014 marks the 10<sup>th</sup> year since the Lincoln Red Association incorporated. Membership, number of animals registered and transfer of animals has continued to increase. The Association will again continue to put forth funds for advertising and applaud individual efforts such as Patrick Milner to promote the Lincolns in the showing and Brian Harper's Beef Improvement program. Cliff Rose and Brian Harper have been elected to the Board of Directors. They join Scott McClinchey, Sarah Pedelty, John Ashby, and Dennis Hoffrogge.

Welcome to our newest Lincoln Red Members: Mead Ferguson, Jim and Doris Kotek, Alan Riley, Brent Reppe, and Monte VanderVorst.

### What a great looking calf!

(Photos provided by Monte VanderVorst)



## SHOWRING REPORT

### PATRICK MILNER

My first show will be on the last Tuesday of August at our local exhibition where I will be showing my heifer and finding out if she can compete in the Nova Scotia Provincial 4-H show. The next show will be the Nova Scotia Provincial 4H show held at the end of September. There I will be showing and selling my steer, and hopefully showing a heifer against the best animals in the province. While at the Nova Scotia Provincial 4-H show, I will also be competing to see if I can attend the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair with my heifer at the end of October.

***(WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE RESULTS AT THE END OF THE SUMMER!)***

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## THE BASICS OF CATTLE JUDGING

### BOB NUSBAUM

I'd wager \$100 that you would not be able to walk through my herd and visually identify my most profitable cow.



You know, the one that actually makes me the most money. I don't even think it would make much difference if they were evaluated while nursing calves or when dry after weaning. I feel pretty confident making this statement because most of the profitable traits that make a cow financially successful are not readily visible. For instance, fertility traits which are the most economically important according to most relevant research are basically invisible. Aside from seeing a live calf at side, other less visible fertility related traits include age at puberty, conception rate, gestation length, calving ease, maternal instinct, calf vigor and calving interval. These are hugely important but difficult to determine merely by visually evaluating a heifer or cow.

Now consider the more visible traits when you are searching for my best cow. Is she the tallest one; the shortest, the thinnest, the fattest, most muscular or least muscular? Was she the heaviest at weaning or just average? Did she have the most post-weaning gain? At yearling time did she have the largest rib eye area or maybe the most intramuscular fat? These traits are relatively easy to distinguish when visually comparing animals or can generally be measured with accuracy. So then, will the most profitable cow generally (or necessarily) have the most visually appealing physical traits?

The answer, in my opinion, is pretty much "no". Most attempts to predict production success from perceived "desirable" physical attributes have not been proven. Looks are "subjective" (incorporating more personal preference). Other measurements are more "objective" (based on fact). For instance, which horse wins the Kentucky Derby? It's not the prettiest one, it's the fastest one. The race has to be run to find the winner. It is the same in a cow herd. Which cow will win the profitability race?

What do we want a cow to do for us? She has to calve unassisted at 24 months of age or less and then maintain a 12 month calving interval until she is at least a

teenager. She should wean 50% of her body weight in a calf every year. This all needs to be done on grass with minimal hay, never need her feet trimmed and have a docile disposition and a great udder. If she does all of this, what will she look like? In the words of my favorite politician, "What difference does it make?"

We get hung up on looks. Judging teams and show rings have taught us to look for characteristics that aren't necessarily essential or important. "Style and balance, femininity, broodiness, depth of rib, capacity, thickness" and other terms usually associated with class winners rarely describe the cows that excel and pay the bills in the real world. According to research, the major reason cows leave the herd prematurely is because they do not become pregnant. Not because of a lack of appealing physical attributes. The Red Angus Association has a trait called Stayability which indicates what percentage of a bull's daughters is still in the herd at 6 years of age. It is very objective and very useful. As a side note, in my experience according to clients, most bulls leave the herd prematurely because either their feet or their disposition go bad.

Profitable cows are the ones that reduce expenses. They just keep doing the same thing year after year. No extra labor, feed or attention. Early departure from the herd at cull cow price is a big expense. Bringing in replacement heifers is a more costly trade off than keeping a productive cow another year.

So what criteria do we use to choose replacement heifers? In our herd our first test is for disposition. We score every animal each time they go through the chute. A "1" is quiet, a "2" restless and a "3" (jumping, noisy, very nervous) is unacceptable. We prefer 1's. Some 2's do become 1's and sometimes 3's improve with more handling, but generally, if they are a 3 at weaning, they tend not to change.

A second consideration is basic structure. We carefully analyze hoof structure. We like a nice, even-toed hoof where the toes are not pointed and claw shaped. We also discriminate against legs and feet that toe-out. Accurate information about the foot structure of an AI sire is sometimes difficult to obtain. Disposition and udder quality factors can also be hard to find. We have been surprised a few times at some unwanted traits that AI sires have added to our herd.

Our third hurdle for them is if they get pregnant, especially early in the breeding season. We like to keep all of our heifers because we don't really know which heifers

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will turn out to be excellent cows. We prefer to sell top notch middle aged cows (5-8 years) for a premium. Some go to other purebred breeders, some to commercial herds. Open cows or heifers or bad udders and dispositions are culled. Over the years we have greatly reduced this latter group. Within this remaining group of pregnant heifers we give preference to the ones that were out of exceptional dams with good mothering ability.

Our goal in selection is to find an optimum. We don't get too excited about physical traits other than the few I mentioned that we use in our selection process. Yes, we enjoy looking at attractive cattle just as much as anyone in the business, but we have become firm believers that form follows function. Set your goals and the cows will sort themselves out, if we let them.

Have a great summer!

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## NEWS FROM BRAZIL

### JEAN PIERRE MARTINS MACHADO

Dear fellows, last year was very positive for us in Brazil. As official technical inspector for Brazilian Lincoln Red Herd Book, I had the honor to inspect and approve the first two calves born by imported embryos in our country. Also, on the same farm, were the first "Puro de Origem BR" (Brazilian Fullblood) animals.

In 2011, we organized an import of embryos and semen from the UK. Embryos from St Fort stud, in Scotland, were imported by three breeders. The first set of six embryos were implanted as soon as possible and these implants produced three pregnancies. Unfortunately, one pregnancy was lost and the two remaining produced two male calves. Fortunately, each bull calf is the result of a different mating that will help to open bloodlines for our increasing herds. Both calves will to be prepared for show, to promote the breed at primary cattle shows, and they will have semen extracted for future use for upgrading programs.

The same farm is selecting, under my inspection, an upgrading herd. As described before in this newsletter, some years ago we started to select a nucleus herd of Purebred Lincoln Red females. The Brazilian Herd Book has two different register status options; Fullblood or Purebred By Upgrading, new herds are liable to be included.

Recently we requested to Brazilian Agriculture Ministry Officers, who govern and inspect the registration

rules on all herd books in Brazilian territory; to open the Fullblood book to Upgrading animals. Our goal is to bring new herds and open bloodlines to the register. The MAPA (Agr. Ministry Depart.) accepted this suggestion. Since all animals originated by Purebred status admitted at a Fullblood level will receive the "BR" designation on their name, making well clear to all breeders and interested people on Lincoln Red genetics that these animals are from an upgrading program. All remaining animals, domestic or imported closed Fullblood, are "BR" designation name free. The "BR" Fullblood are animals with a minimum of 93.75% Lincoln Red blood.

So, at this herd we inspected and accepted on "PO BR" the first three animals, two heifers and one bull calf. All were sired by St Fort Essex, which semen was bought to Brazil two years ago. Four more females also sired by Essex were inspected and accepted for the Purebred register book as they showed lower blood percentage.

Other good news is that last year we got import permission for 600 more straws of other Lincoln Red bulls from the UK, Harrington Charlie. Charlie already had semen in Brazil by a particular import around five years ago, and now the last qualified straws were brought to Brazil. Now, a second herd has implanted another set of embryos from the UK, expecting calves for late this year. The first Purebred animals will be inspected soon on the same new herd. Best wishes to all.

Jean Pierre Martins Machado  
Technical inspector for Lincoln Red Herd Book  
Cabanha Santa Isabel

[www.vetorial.net/~shorthorn](http://www.vetorial.net/~shorthorn)

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## ROSES LINCOLN REDS

### CLIFF ROSE, AMHERST, NOVA SCOTIA

The Rose family farm is situated on a farm that has been in existence since 1850. It was purchased by the Roses in 1919. It was originally a mixed farm. After 1919 it sold milk and cream. A shift was made to beef production in the 1960's as the farm was split into two pieces with the building of the Trans-Canada Highway. Pasture on the other side of the highway made daily trips to the barn impossible. The dairy cattle used were Ayrshires and the shift to beef started with cross breeding with beef bulls. The first bulls used were locally obtained Herefords with a probably unknown pedigree. An interest in Shorthorns was cultivated and a roan bull was bought at the test station auction sale. This happened in the early 1970s. We used different Shorthorn bulls and were a subscriber to Shorthorn News magazine. Lincoln Reds were a division of Shorthorns at that time and an interest was developed for them. The first Lincoln Red bull was purchased as a calf in 1979. We traveled to Thetford Mines, Quebec in late October to pick up the calf. This calf was a decedent of Brolor Beacon. The calf was placed on home test (which used to be available in Nova Scotia through a Department of Agriculture outreach program). They would be weighed in late November and again in April at the farm. The results would be extrapolated to reflect pounds of gain per day and an adjusted yearling weight. Today's tests have a more detailed result of statistics. Over the years we used the home test method a few more times and we also entered bulls in the test station for results. It was a little more of an ordeal as you had to provide transportation to and from the test but over time it evolved into a test with a better selection of forages for the feed. In the "old" days the ration was a grain mix with some dry hay available. Because we never entered any bulls in the test station sale the results were not as important to us as long as they were competitive. I believe we home tested some heifers as well at approximately the same time. Although we do



not participate in testing now, I think the home test is the most practical if you have the right equipment and feed supply. An accurate set of



scales and a supply of good quality feed (probably silage or a derivative). If set up properly you could test all your calves if you desired.

Over the years my father developed friendships and working relationships with some of the early Lincoln Red breeders in Canada. These would include Gordon MacCrae, Donald Shaver, Mona Campbell, etc. We have also used artificial insemination to introduce new blood to the herd.

In recent times we usually rear between fifteen and twenty calves per year. We also winter about seven or eight heifers as potential replacements and one or two bulls. The earliest calvers and their offspring are trucked to the farthest pasture in mid-May (most years) with a bull in tow. They return in mid-November. The cows that have not calved by early May are turned out to pasture and calve outside. They are in close proximity to the barn should problems arise and are less likely to have interaction with wild animals during the birthing stage.

Our calving starts in late March or early April and the calves are weaned at about the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> month. We have had weaning weights as high as 700 lb for bull calves in this time period and in past years when earlier births happened weights of 800 lb have happened. Some of the youngest calves are allowed to stay with their mothers for a period after returning to the barn in the fall. Most sales of breeding stock and culling takes place in the fall in time to reduce the barn capacity.

Most of our feeding regimen is based on small square baled hay, which we grow and produce ourselves. Because our barn was built in the 1850s it is not conducive to round baled hay or haylage although some is fed in the pasture in the late fall. We do feed some smashed mixed grain to the cows for a short period before birth.

We also use one animal a year as freezer meat. We consider Lincoln Red beef to be very tasty and can notice the difference from others.

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## **SEEING IS BELIEVING!**

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

- **John and Lorraine Ashby**  
Stonehedge Farms  
Prescott, ON  
(613)925-5778
- **Sarah Band**  
Mohil Farms  
Puslinch, ON  
(519) 824-5619
- **Mead Ferguson**  
Woodward, OK
- **Tom Fillmore**  
Oxford, NS
- **Brian & Sonja Harper**  
Brandon, Manitoba R7A 5Y3  
204-725-2515  
[harper4@goinet.ca](mailto:harper4@goinet.ca)  
<http://www.shaverbeef.com>
- **Dennis and Mary Hoffrogge**  
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085  
(507) 227-5745  
50% bulls & heifers available
- **Jim & Doris Kotek**  
West Salem, WI
- **Scott & Heather McClinchey**  
Orton, ON LON 1N0  
(519) 928-3106 (h)  
[hlm.dvm@sympatico.ca](mailto:hlm.dvm@sympatico.ca)  
For Sale: 2 yr old bulls
- **Sandy MacDougald**  
Milrae Farms  
Montague, PE  
(902) 838-4783
- **Wallace & Patrick Milner**  
Nappan, NS
- **Larry and Sarah Pedelty**  
[sarahpedelty@yahoo.com](mailto:sarahpedelty@yahoo.com)  
Straws for US Breeders  
(Collected and Shipped  
from Hawkeye Breeders)
- **Alan Riley**  
Strathclair, MB
- **Brent Reppe**  
Duluth, MN
- **Kevin Rivers**  
Ingersoll, ON
- **Rose's Lincoln Reds**  
Amherst, NS B4H 3Y1  
(902) 667-9834
- **Monte VanderVorst**  
Pollock, SD

## **SPRING NOTES AND SUMMER TOUR**

### **BRIAN HARPER**

Nice and sunny now, must carry on with setting up my high stock density pasture project. Our Manitoba Government and Ducks Unlimited (Ducks funds a lot of grazing projects, the land cover is attractive to them) approached me to do a high stock density project with them. I couldn't turn them down when they are funding it all, soil tests, a mentor, temporary fencing, special posts and a neat little deal called a batt latch (3 actually) that automatically open the gate for the next day's move. So I can have a week's worth of moves set up and don't even need to go open the gates when it is time, kind of cool!! Our goal to start is to have 30-32 pairs on 2 acres/day; the mentor working with me says this could double in a few years. Conservation and Carbon Sequestration are among the hot topics of the project. They are planning a tour for some time on August 12<sup>th</sup>. Contact me for more details. Have a great summer!



**Zita and her 70# Calf Spring 2014**

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