The Lincoln Letter

Publisher-North American Lincoln Red Association SUMMER 2019

President's Report

It was another challenging summer to get crops planted and hay off in good condition with untimely wet weather in Southern Ontario. With perseverance, we were able to get enough good quality feed into the barn for the next winter season. We typically vaccinate and deworm our cow herd prior to calving in the Spring. I always enjoy working with the cows and this year Norah and Davis who are 10 and 11 assisted. Everything from moving the cows into the chute, administering the vaccines, and the detailed recording kept by Davis went smoothly. I believe the calmness of the day was due largely in part to the herd being comfortable among all family members and it was surprising how the kids would rhyme off the cows' names, mothers and daughters still in the herd, as they came through one by one. Whether they use this attention to detail in future career choices is yet to be seen, but it sure did bring back memories of my childhood working with my Grandfather's cattle! We discussed and recorded the body condition scores of the cows and identified a couple of the older cows that may have had their last calf in 2019 and agreed that the herd is still very strong with the younger females retained in the herd.

Hope you all have a successful calving and breeding season and register your calves to have select animals available to interested new and existing Lincoln Red breeders.

Have a great summer,
Scott

By-Law Change Approved July 18, 2019 by the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

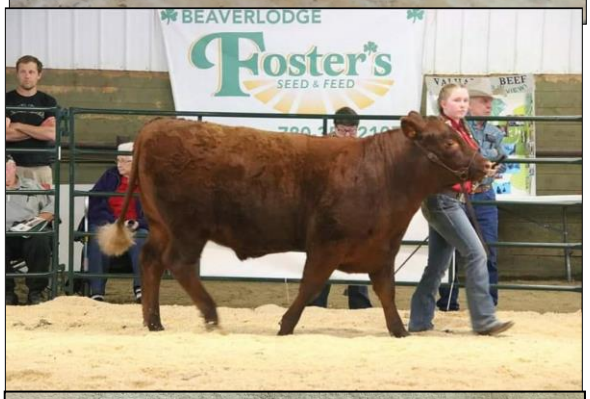
Be it resolved that Section XXII Rules of Eligibility, Subsection E, (5), subline (iii) which reads: Cattle that attain Purebred Status through the Appendix Registry Program are not eligible for transfer into the Purebred Herd Book.

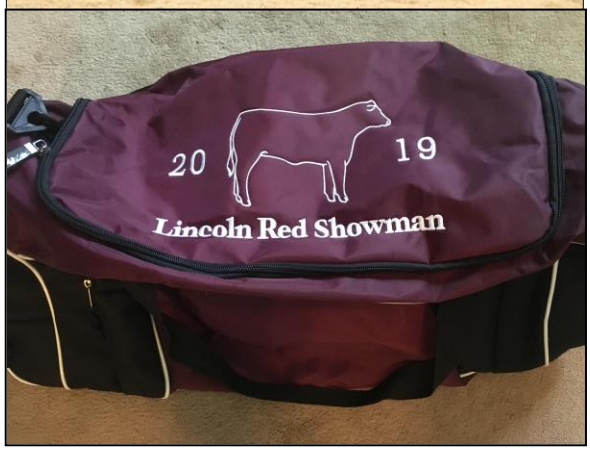
Be amended to read: Cattle that attain Purebred Status through the appendix registry program are eligible for transfer into the Purebred herd book if red in color (allowing for spots of white in the tail switch and in the underline but not forward of the navel).

Reasoning: The Breed Development External Program expires in 2019. We could change the by-laws to extend that program, but some breeders want to use other breeds than the 4 approved. It seemed simplest to change the way the appendix registry is implemented and add a color restriction.

4-H Youth Exhibiting Lincoln Red's

Congratulations to Toni Hanger,
Beavorlodge 4-H, Alberta, Canada
for doing a great job exhibiting her Lincoln Red heifer





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Breed Purity: Why It Matters

D. P. Sponenberg

"Breed purity" can be a tricky concept. Breeds have value for a variety of reasons, and one of the main ones is that they are reasonably predictable for looks and performance. This is the underlying reason for folks to choose one breed over another: they have a specific goal in mind, and select the breed most likely to satisfy that goal. The predictability of breeds comes about from the relative genetic uniformity that is shared across members of the breed. The uniformity is a consequence of the foundation, isolation, and selection experienced by the breed over the generations.

Without some level of genetic purity, animal populations lack predictability, and then have only a fairly minimal role in any sort of production system. Owners and producers need some level of predictability in their animals. It is this end that breed purity serves, but even this concept can fall to pieces at either extreme.

At the "no purity, no uniformity" end of the spectrum, animal performance becomes so unpredictable as to be nearly meaningless in most production systems. Importantly, at the other extreme of "absolute genetic purity" the animals lose vitality from inbreeding depression. The ideal point of balance is usually somewhere more toward the "purity" end of the scale, especially for livestock breeds.

Most breeds achieve an appropriate level of genetic uniformity by mating strategies that are only between members of the breed. This is the usual strategy for purebred livestock. For some breeds that have become increasingly oriented towards production goals, some associations have short-circuited this strategy by allowing outcrosses to other breeds (usually only specific other breeds, but other breeds nonetheless). This can boost production in the short-term but also undermines uniformity so that future predictability plummets.

The inclusion of outcross animals into purebred breed populations raises a host of legitimate and important questions for conservation- or tradition-minded breeders. The Livestock Conservancy has long advocated for purebred breeding and tracking of livestock and poultry. To do this is relies on annual registrations to assess breed status in USA populations. To that are added international census figures for those breeds with international populations.

Annoyingly, in a few breeds the census can be quite high, but older traditional and purebred lines can be seriously endangered due to overt or fraudulent crossbreeding with other breeds. LC is aware of this situation in several breeds, but how to effectively handle this situation has no easy solution. Some breed associations have wisely decided to validate and identify animals of these old, pure, traditional lines. A few breeds, such as Shorthorns, Texas Longhorns, Morgans, have breed associations or other organized groups that accomplish the function of identifying these important pure foundation animals. That allows TLC to rely on their work and then to list those populations on the CPL. Examples include Heritage (Native) Shorthorns, Traditional Morgans, and Cattlemen's Texas Longhorn Registry for Texas Longhorns.

Several other breeds that face this issue have yet to come up with a mechanism to validate purebred original-stock animals. That lack of independent validation and identification limits the LC's ability to list these pure strains separately from the larger breed, because then the LC becomes the sole arbiter of what is in, what is out. In that situation, the only practical solution is to rely on overall registration figures, flawed though they may be because they include so many animals with introgression from other breeds.

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Building a Cowherd One Bull at a Time

Bob Nusbaum, Professor Emeritus, Univ of Wisc Platteville

Selecting a herd bull is a major decision. It's kind of like contemplating a potential spouse. There are lots of traits to consider. Some are absolutely necessary, some must be at least adequate, some are assumed to be there, some are resigned to be lived with, and some don't rear their ugly heads until later. So, doing your homework for either decision is critical.

For bull selection, I like to start with my cowherd. What is my ideal cow and what kind of bull do I need to design her? Here is my "ideal "cow" list:

- Reach puberty at 12 months without supplemental grain
- Be structurally sound
- Conceive on initial service
- Calve at 24 months without difficulty
- Be an attentive mother with an excellent udder
- Rebreed within 90 days without extra feed
- Wean 50% of her body weight while maintaining good body condition (BCS 5) on grass
- Produce a calf that reaches a USDA Choice, Yield Grade 2 @ 14 months
- Stay sound for at least 10 years
- Have an enjoyable disposition

I would want to select a bull that had a dam that was successful in each of the benchmarks listed above. If she achieves that, she has the fertility, calving ease, maternal ability, fleshing ability, longevity, adequate growth, docility and built in carcass quality. I call these bulls "maternal" bulls because they build great cowherds. Great cows make great bulls and vice versa. The greatest obstacle, however, for a cow to achieve these "ideal" objectives is her mature size.

An increase in mature size has a negative impact on nearly every bullet point listed. How big should cows be? My neighbor once had a Jersey/Angus crossbred, first-calf heifer that weighed 970 lbs when she weaned her 710 lb Angus-sired steer calf at 7 months. That's 72% of her body weight as calf, and she bred back! So, even cows as small as 1000 lbs can still satisfy the "ideal" list.

Kris Ringwall, while at the Dickinson Research Station in North Dakota did years of cow efficiency research and found that ultimately, a beef carcass represents about 2/3 of the cow's mature weight. Therefore, a 1000 lb cow can produce a 670 lb carcass. Right now the average carcass weight in the US is hovering around 900 lbs, so the average commercial cow producing that carcass weighs at least 1350 lbs. We are producing more total pounds of beef than ever before with fewer cows, but are beef producers actually making more profit with this increase in production?

Profit still is "Revenue-Expenses" and bigger cows are always more expensive. Let's consider one hundred 1350 lb cows. For the same amount of feed, 117 cows weighing 1150 lbs (200 lbs less) can be maintained for a year. They will wean more calves but at a lighter weight. Since they wean a higher percentage of their body weight than the larger cows, they will consistently wean more total pounds of calf. Furthermore, lighter weight calves generally sell for more per pound than heavier calves, so the smaller cows will ultimately also produce more total revenue than the larger cows.

On the "expense" side of the profit equation, bigger cows cost considerably more to feed. That is readily apparent after the particularly brutal winter we've had this year in the Midwest. With prolonged cold weather, cows consumed much more hay and the

cost of hay skyrocketed. During the last trimester of pregnancy and early lactation, the cow is at her highest nutritional demand and is consuming the most expensive feed she'll eat all year. Big cows need more of everything and if hay is lacking in quality or quantity, it is difficult to maintain adequate body condition. For this reason, big framed cows leave the herd at an accelerated rate when compared to smaller framed cows due to being open at pregnancy check time. There are no advantages to big cows other than her salvage value when she is sold at the end of her career.

A good beef cow needs to thrive within her environment to be profitable year after year. According to well known ranch consultant, Burke Teichert, pregnancy rates below 92%, thin body condition scores and extended calving seasons are evidence that cows may too big and producing too much milk. Collecting three data points on first calf heifers is important in analyzing a herd's fertility. (1) Did they conceive in the first heat cycle? (2) Did they experience any calving difficulty? (3)Did they calve in the first heat cycle as a 3-year old? These are the superior females that should be retained as replacements to build a maternal herd and bulls to be used, or purchased, should be born to these types of cows. Heavily cull the non-performers, try and reduce supplemental feeding and shorten the breeding season a bit each year. This will help separate the real workers from the loafers and build a self-sufficient cow herd.

We seedstock producers own the genetic store where the commercial beef industry shops. Whether we are using AI or buying bulls to improve our own herd, or selling bulls to other purebred breeders or commercial herds, the bulls we ultimately produce must supply traits that will increase fertility and longevity and reduce expenses and labor for commercial producers. If they see success and profitability from the bulls they purchase, they will be happy customers and repeat buyers.

Help us save money by receiving your newsletter electronically!

Please send an email to sarahpedelty@gmail.com or call Sarah at 507-867-9041.

Name_____

Address_____

Email_____

FOR SALE:

XING

Born: 4-27-2010

BW: 86 lbs

WW: 650 lbs

2019 Semen Test Rating of Excellent!

Contact Larry or Sarah Pedelty

sarahpedelty@gmail.com

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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
- **John & Lorraine Ashby**
  Stonehedge Farms
  Prescott, ON
  (613)925-5778
- **Sarah Band**
  Mohill Farms
  Puslinch, ON
  (519) 824-5619
- **Edward Barrett**
  Randolph, MN
  bsf_shorthorms@hotmail.com
  (507)302-9422
- **Elsie Beddoes**
  Duchess AB
  dmrranching@gmail.com
- **Sarah Bowley**
  SVF Foundation
  Newport, RI
  (401) 846-8670
  sarah@svffoundation.org
  www.svffoundation.org
- **Tessa Desmond**
  Hopewell, NJ
  fireflyhomesteadfarm@gmail.com
- **Andrew Ditmans**
  Washington, KS
- **Lee Deutsche**
  Crete, IL
  farmspecialist@wildblue.net
- **Tom Fillmore**
  Oxford, NS
- **Ryan Galbreath**
  Enderlin, ND
  showpigs@mlgc.com
  (701) 799-4568
- **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
  www.dmhoffroggecattle.com
- **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**
  McQueen-Vue Farms
  Nottawa, ON
  info@mcqueenpaving.com
  (705) 445-7065
- **Martindell Farms LLC**
  Hardyville, KY
  (270) 774-2283
- **Wallace & Patrick Milner**
  Nappan, NS
  patrickmilnercattle@hotmail.ca
  (902) 667-8815
- **Eric Pierson**
  Courtland, MN

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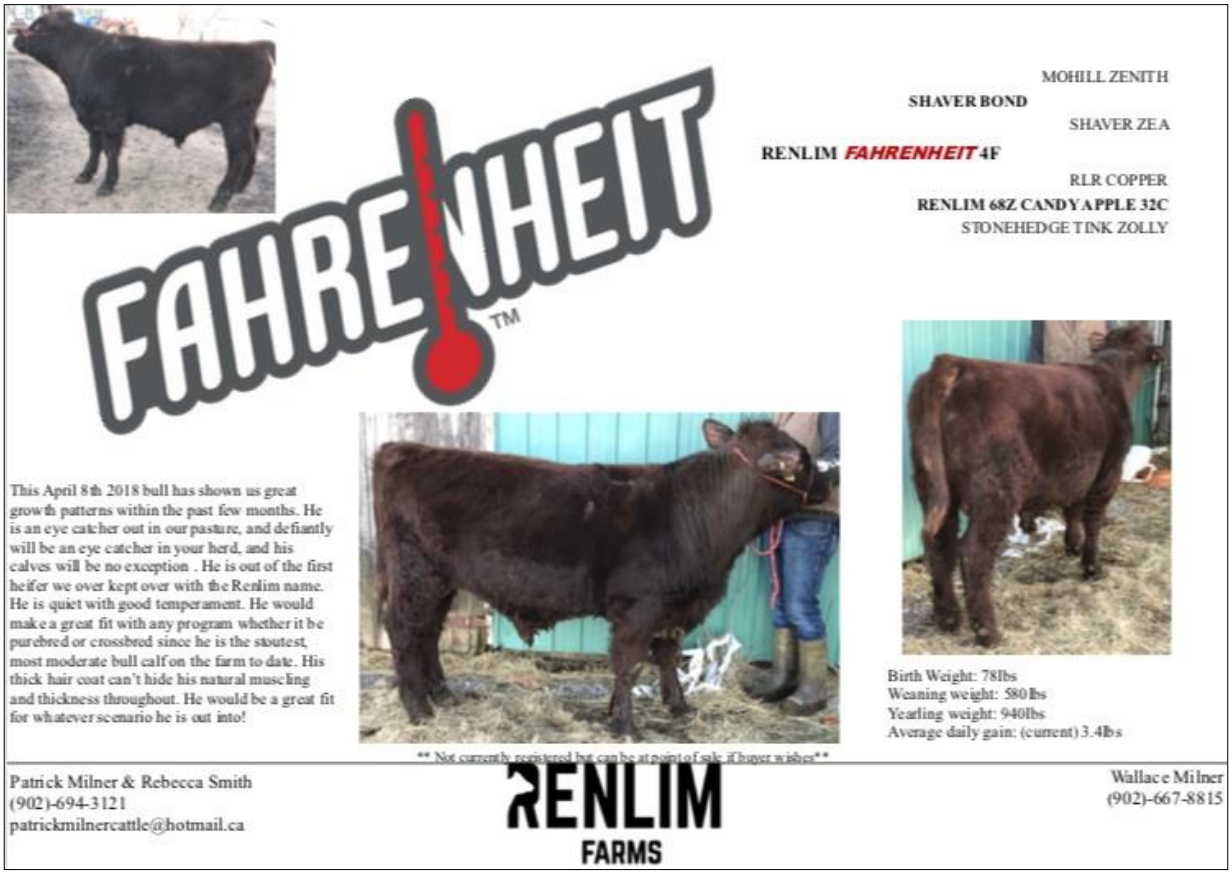
SEEING IS BELIEVING!

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

- **Larry and Sarah Pedelty –Secretary**
  (507) 421-7112
  sarahpedelty@gmail.com
- **Rose's Lincoln Reds**
  Amherst, NS B4H 3Y1
  (902) 667-9834
- **Alycia & Ryan Salvas**
  Canterbury, CT
  radicalroots.llc@gmail.com
- **Sheldon & Wendy Schmaltz**
  Worsley, AB
  schmaltz_farms@outlook.com
  (780) 685-3336
- **Colby & Ellen Suttenfield**
  Davenport, WA
  suttenfield70@att.net
  (509) 723-6152
- **William Vancise**
  Walnut Drive Farms
  Stayner, ON
  williamvancise@msn.com
  (705) 445-2627
- **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



Visit our website at www.lincolnred.org