

# The Lincoln Letter

Publisher-North American Lincoln Red Association

Fall/Winter 2012

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are coming into the winter season with some moisture after extreme heat and drought conditions across many areas of North America resulting in poor crop yields. Unfortunately, this resulted in lower hay and grain yields which continue to push the price of feed for cattle higher. In response we have chosen to take this opportunity to cull a little heavier this fall. We are grateful that the efficient feed conversion of Lincoln Reds cattle has been a valuable trait to allow cows to keep good body condition while raising rapidly growing calves. Weaning weights were average on our farm this year but the calves have noticeably filled out within one month of weaning on a largely hay ration supplemented with grain. Wishing everyone a safe and prosperous New Year!

## ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULED

The Annual General Meeting for the North America Lincoln Red Association has been delayed until February 9, 2013. A number of individuals had a conflict with the original date and so it was postponed. All members will be receiving meeting packets in January. If there is an item you would like added to the agenda, please contact Sarah Pedelty at [sarahpedelty@yahoo.com](mailto:sarahpedelty@yahoo.com) or (507) 867-9041.

## WELCOME

We would like to welcome new members

- Kevin Rivers, Ingersol, OH
  - Richard and Valia Harness, Stover, MO
  - David and Barbara Wetzel, O'Neil, NE
- New members bring fresh ideas and we look forward to seeing your Lincoln Reds!



## NEWS FROM CANADIAN LIVESTOCK RECORDS CORPORATION:

### ON-LINE EXTENDED PEDIGREES NOW SHOW REPEATING ANCESTRY

As step 1 in our efforts to supply our members with more information on repeating or common ancestry, we are now providing additional information with the extended pedigree for each animal in our on-line Members and Pedigrees database. When displaying an animal's record, there is a link to the extended pedigree near the bottom of the page. This will display a 5 generation pedigree.

What is new is a list of repeating ancestors which is sorted by the percentage of the pedigree that each animal represents. In addition, there is an alphabetic list of ancestors. This latter list will allow you to more easily compare pedigrees of animals that you are considering to mate to identify common ancestry.

Furthermore, we also offer a 12 generation analysis of the pedigree for repeating ancestors. A link appears below the 5 generation tree. You will experience a short delay while the database is doing the analysis.

To clearly show repeating ancestry, the five generation pedigree tree is also color coded. The key repeating males are displayed in bright red and the females in magenta. Their ancestors are displayed in dark red and purple respectively. When an animal does not repeat in the pedigree, it appears in black. Please go to [www.clrc.ca](http://www.clrc.ca) for more information.

***Feed costs are one of the hottest topics today. Dr Heather Swan, DVM, MPH from Chatfield, MN recommends maximizing optimal nutrition by evaluating available feed for nutrient content besides assessing your cows' body scores (BCS). The U of MN Beef Cow Ration Balancer was produced by the University of Minnesota extension and can be found at [www.extension.umn.edu/beef/](http://www.extension.umn.edu/beef/) to aid you in your decision making. Please take a look at their website and signup for their electronic updates.***

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## THE PEDELTY'S FIND VALUE IN THE CHAPS PROGRAM

For almost 20 years, Larry and Sarah Pedelty have been raising Lincoln Reds near Chatfield, MN. Sarah was introduced to Lincoln Reds many years earlier when her father, Ray Walter, purchased some bulls for his cow/calf operation from Mr. Gordon Cook. Showing these 50% Lincoln Reds at her 4-H fair and winning the carcass test a number of times truly cemented the benefits of the breed for Sarah.

Larry, the son of an order buyer, appreciates the Lincolns but holds them to a higher standard. Aggressive culling in addition to management tools such as the CHAPS program has produced a profitable herd. Larry and Sarah have submitted data to the CHAPS program for eight years and have found it extremely informative. For instance, the cows that top the profitability index are often the average cows in the herd. In general, the Lincolns do exceptionally well when compared to the other 250-300 herds that submit data. One key area that Lincolns excel is WDA (weight per day of age). With no creep feed, Lincolns on grass may gain over 3 pounds from birth to weaning.

Pedelty's have also sent bulls to the MN bull test where they performed well despite being some of the youngest bulls on test. Average daily gains ranged from 3.72 to 4.10. Scrotal circumference ranged from 32 in. at 10 months to 37 in. at 11 months. Ultrasounded ribeyes ranged from 14.17 to 15.70.

The Pedelty Lincoln Red herd is genetically unique due to influence from the late Mr. Gordon Cook, Dr. Donald McQ. Shaver, and Mr. Mead Ferguson. With over 12 different sires in the tank, Pedeltys are excited to continue creating new lines for this breed. All of their sires are collected at Hawkeye Breeders, a state of the art facility, located in Adel, Iowa. Pedelty Xing is scheduled to be collected Dec. 3rd and will be available to US breeders.

If you are raising cattle, you might as well raise the best and that starts with great genetics. Please call to schedule a visit with Larry and Sarah to view their Lincoln Reds.



PEDELTY XING



GOT MILK?



SUMMER SPLENDOR

*Merry*   
*Christmas* 

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# A beef producers measurement tool

The CHAPS program is a computer program with a full electronic interface from conception to consumption. CHAPS2000 (an acronym for Cow Herd Appraisal Performance Software) is internationally used and recognized for its assistance as a beef cattle management tool.

CHAPS is Windows compatible and integrates whole herd data collection, beginning with sire selection and bull turnout dates. The program allows producers the ability to collect performance data, beginning with individual birth weights and is interfaced to enter and analyze data through harvest.

As an inventory based program, animals are accounted for and tracked throughout their life. In addition, CHAPS users receive reports on cows and sires and their progeny, grouping them according to sex, contemporary groups and sire groups. This data is especially helpful when evaluating individual and contemporary group performance.

CHAPS was created in 1985 by Dr. Kris Ringwall, current director of the NDSU Dickinson Research Extension Center and executive director of the North Dakota Beef Cattle Improvement Association. He has worked closely with individual beef producers, back-grounding lots and finish lots to integrate the power of the CHAPS program.

Because knowledge is power in the beef business, CHAPS brings that power to the producer. CHAPS gives producers a full line of data from conception to carcass and a snapshot anytime along that trail. CHAPS brings the beef cattle industry up to speed with the computer industry.

CHAPS records are processed at the office in Dickinson, ND. Over 250 producers provide between 25,000 to 35,000 records annually. CHAPS users also receive annual updates regarding the CHAPS Benchmarks, rolling five-year averages of reproductive and performance measurements.

CHAPS is supported through the North Dakota State University Extension Service. Individuals needing more information can go to the [www.CHAPS2000.com](http://www.CHAPS2000.com) website or call 701-483-2348 extension 105.



**Knowledge is power. Data from the CHAPS program gives producers the knowledge to power changes in the beef business.**

## How Do Your Calves Measure Up?

### CHAPS Calving Distribution Matrix

Time Frame	CHAPS Benchmark	Your Herd
1st 21 days	60.4%	<input type="text"/>
1st 63 days	96.1%	<input type="text"/>
1st 42 days	86.2%	<input type="text"/>
After 63 days	100.00%	<input type="text"/>

### CHAPS Reproduction Performance

Cow Reproduction	CHAPS Benchmark	Your Herd
Pregnancy %	93.3	<input type="text"/>
Pregnancy Loss %	0.8	<input type="text"/>
Calving %	92.6	<input type="text"/>
Calf Death Loss %	3.3	<input type="text"/>
Weaning %	90.1	<input type="text"/>
Replacement Rate %	16.3	<input type="text"/>
Culling %	13.7	<input type="text"/>

### CHAPS Production Performance

Calf Production (WW in pounds)	CHAPS Benchmark	Your Herd
Age at Weaning (days)	191	<input type="text"/>
Actual WW Steers	574	<input type="text"/>
Actual WW Heifers	545	<input type="text"/>
Actual WW Bulls	609	<input type="text"/>
Average WW	564	<input type="text"/>
WW/female exposed	502	<input type="text"/>
Weight per day of age	3.0	<input type="text"/>
Frame Score (BIF scale)	5.8	<input type="text"/>

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## The Beef Cow of the Future

By Bob Nusbaum

The beef industry looks pretty healthy right now. Feeder calves, finished cattle, cull cows and bulls are all bringing good money. Much of the world



desires our beef. This year we exported 14% of all the beef produced in the US. Since the beef cow inventory is the lowest it's been for decades, the outlook appears promising for years to come.

We have made tremendous progress in beef production in the last 40 years. According to data from the Angus Association the average weaning weight of an Angus bull calf in 1972 was 477 pounds. Today, the average is 611. Yearling weight also increased by 240 pounds in that same time span. The average US steer carcass today weighs 1311 pounds compared to 1173 pounds in 1972. We now produce more pounds of beef than ever before with fewer cows. This is a testimony to our research in genetics, management, nutrition and animal health

Our cows have changed, too. They have gotten bigger. Yearling height of the average Angus heifer in 1972 was 42.5 inches and today she is 48.2, an increase of nearly 6 inches. Simultaneously, average birth weight has increased from 69 to 80 pounds.

What was the need for bigger cows? Research assumed bigger cows had bigger, faster growing calves that were wanted by the feedlot segment. Cheap grain allowed us to develop a beef carcass grading system based on marbling. Most steers reach the Choice grade when they have about .5 inches of external fat, which is the equivalent of a carcass with 33% fat. So excess fat became a common and expendable by-product of a beef industry in search of eating quality attributes. We still seek the Choice Quality Grade today, but are trying to achieve it with less external fat, although the average steer carcass today still has nearly one half inch of fat.

As we have selected for increased mature cow size, milk production and muscling (as measured by rib eye area), profitability has decreased. The big culprit in this is precisely that cows are just too big. According to numerous university studies, each 100 pounds of additional body weight of a cow adds, at most, 6 pounds of weaning weight to her calf. This increases calf value by

\$7 to \$9 per head but the cost per cow for putting it on is \$42, which is a net loss of at least \$33 per cow unit.

Selection for more size, milk and muscle in the cow has reached a level of diminishing returns. It's just like putting fertilizer on corn or on a pasture. It shows improvement to a certain point and then, adding more shows little or no benefit and, actually, becomes too costly. A recent article in The Stockman Grass Farmer concluded, "smaller cows are more profitable than larger ones in all environments". The vast majority of cows are culled because they are open, and lots of research has documented that bigger cows leave the herd earlier.

Fertility is the most important trait, and it has been greatly affected by increased selection for more size, milk and muscle. Larger calves cause more calving problems and calving problems delay return to estrus and increase the calving interval. Excess milk production reduces body condition scores, especially in first time calvers, and also delays return to estrus. Larger, later maturing heifers have delayed puberty and when they do calve (if they get bred), generally have trouble getting bred back without supplemental feed.

Adaptability to any given environment is measured by the ability to reproduce. Cows have not adapted if they need costly supplemental feed for our heifers to reach puberty, conceive, calve and rebreed. When corn was \$2 a bushel, it was relatively easy to justify big cows because we had an inexpensive energy source to develop larger framed replacement heifers.

Not everyone may have cows that are too big. Let's check on what an "optimum" cow is supposed to do. Her obligation is to calve at 24 months without assistance, raise a calf that weighs 40% of her body weight and breed back in 90 days or less. Lots of producers may be able to say their cows already do this, but I would add one more stipulation: that they have to perform all this with no grain or corn silage, only grass, cornstalks and hay.

Our beef industry has been based on cheap fossil fuels and it is due for a drastic change. Who knows what the price of oil or corn will be in 10 or 20 years? Will we still have grain feedlots in 20 years? I think our cows will have to earn their way as real ruminants. They have the fantastic ability to eat most anything edible and convert it to pounds of calf gain. They must learn to adapt and survive without a dependency on grain. I see them becoming "garbage collectors". As producers we have to select for tougher cows and use herd sires that have been similarly raised.

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This will not be easy. The majority of bulls in the current AI studs are way beyond optimum because they have too much mature frame size, too much milk and will not produce the calves that will thrive in an environment without supplemental feed. Develop your replacement heifers through the winter only on hay. You will have some that won't reach puberty, but the ones that do will be the right kind of cows that will have greater longevity, and these are the cows that produce a profit. If you raise and sell breeding bulls, try to wean yourself off developing them on grain. Reduce your dependency on it. It will be less expensive and the bulls will be healthier, tougher and have higher semen quality. If you buy bulls or use AI, find the sires that are optimum that have been raised to be tougher. It will not happen overnight, but I am convinced that we can't continue on the path we are on that "more is better". Form follows function, and eventually cows that adapt to your environment will settle at a particular size and weight. Size will vary with each environment, but I expect the optimum range will be somewhere from 1000 to 1200 pounds in working condition, according to research and producer documentation. There is opposition to smaller cows, but I think it stems more from personal preference than actual economics.

We are sharing this planet with billions of other people and the competition for resources will become much more of an issue. Grain will become an expensive luxury. Our beef industry will change and the cow will change, too. Regardless of the fate of the feedlot industry, we will always have the cow. Because she can be so self sufficient, it will be easy to justify her existence in a hungry world seeking alternative food sources from non-tillable land. The cow of the future may look a bit different than she does today and we will be the ones to design her.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

## BRISK TRADE FOR LINCOLN REDS

### Lincoln Red Cattle Society Autumn Show & Sale

**2 Bulls – Averaged £3255 (£2856 in 2011)**

**60 Females Averaged – £1355 (£1327 in 2011)**

At the Lincoln Red Cattle Society's Autumn Show and Sale at Newark Livestock Market on Saturday 20th October 2012 R E Needham and Son's Senior Champion and overall Champion Bull, Market Stainton Peter; sired by Donington Lancer and out of Market Stainton Eva 4th G10; sold for 4 200gns to Mr A J King's King Herd, Holbeach, Lincolnshire.



Bull's Average of 3 100gns (£3255), up by 400gns on 2011's averages.

Interest from Commercial Breeders meant a brisk trade in the females with prices holding firm against 2011 Autumn Show & Sale figures; an overall average for 60 females of 1 290gns (£1355) being: 2 in calf Cows with calves at foot 1900gns (£1995); 20 in calf Heifers 1408gns (£1478); 30 Maidens 1128gns (£1185). Overall Sale average being (62 animals) 1348gns (£1416).

The Champion Heifer in the Show, HM & JM Needler's January 2011 born maiden heifer; Walmer Rose P4 sired by Beverley Jaunty out of Walmer Rose C13 sold for 1 600gns to Mr & Mrs A W J Bambridge's Hobart Herd, Blickling, Norfolk. Reserve Champion Heifer, Mr T H Charlton's January 2011 born maiden heifer; Vickers Field Lisa P9 sired by Beverley Logan out of Vickers Field Lisa Loo L1 sold for 1 500gns to Iken Hall Farm's Yarn Hill Herd, Woodbridge, Suffolk.

Top priced heifer was Michael Read's May 2010 born heifer, in calf to Tapus Nova Scotia; Hemingby Treasure N684 sired by Donington Kavannah out of Hemingby Treasure H349 sold for 2 400gns to Mr & Mrs A W J Bambridge's Hobart Herd, Norfolk.

Mr & Mrs S Keen's in calf cow Beverley Gift K4 (bred by R I Clough & Son) and with Simmental cross calf at foot; sired by Beverley Adventurer out of Beverley Gift V15, sold for 2 000gns to E O Wood, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire. The Keen's second cow; Walmer Heroine L35 (bred by HM & JM Needler) also in calf to a Simmental bull and with a Simmental cross calf at foot; sired by Walmer Falcon out of Walmer Heroine G60 sold for 1 800gns to Mr A J King's King Herd, Holbeach, Lincolnshire.

Lincoln Red Cattle Society President Geoff Bolton extended his sincere thanks on behalf of the Lincoln Red Cattle Society Members to Mr Robert Phillip for being our Judge for the day; to Paul Gentry our ever-efficient Auctioneer and the Newark Livestock Market Team, to Lincoln Red Cattle Society Members and to all those who supported our Sale.

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## **SEEING IS BELIEVING!**

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



FALL IS A GREAT TIME TO PURCHASE  
SOME LINCOLN RED CALVES!

- **John and Lorraine Ashby**  
Stonehedge Farms  
Prescott, ON  
(613)925-5778
- **Jean Babineau**  
Meadow Brook, NB
- **Sarah Band**  
Mohil Farms  
Puslinch, ON  
(519) 824-5619
- **Tom Fillmore**  
Oxford, NS
- **Richard and Valia Harness**  
Stover, MO
- **Dennis and Mary Hoffrogge**  
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085  
(507) 227-5745  
50% bulls & heifers available
- **Dan and Lily Lamarche**  
St Charles, ON P0M 2W0  
(705) 867-2683
- **Scott & Heather McClinchey**  
Orton, ON LON 1N0  
(519) 928-3106 (h)  
(519) 570-7020 (c)  
[hlm.dvm@sympatico.ca](mailto:hlm.dvm@sympatico.ca)  
Females for Sale
- **Gordon MacRae**  
Montague, PE
- **Larry and Sarah Pedelty**  
Chatfield, MN 55976  
(507) 867-9041  
[sarahpedelty@yahoo.com](mailto:sarahpedelty@yahoo.com)  
Straws for US Breeders
- **Cedar Ridge Lincoln Reds**  
Bill Reid  
Oxford Station, ON  
(613) 926-2456  
[bill@lincolnred.ca](mailto:bill@lincolnred.ca)
- **Rose's Lincoln Reds**  
Amherst, NS B4H 3Y1  
(902) 667-9834
- **Kevin Rivers**  
Ingersol, ON

**Happy Holidays**  
*From the*  
**North American**  
*Lincoln Red Association*

A decorative border at the bottom of the page featuring a series of red flowers with green leaves and stems, interspersed with red ribbons and small white dots, creating a festive holiday theme.

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