

The Lincoln Letter

Publisher-North American Lincoln Red Association



Winter 2008

From the President:

The fall is always an enjoyable time at the farm – calves that were born in the spring so small and awkward get weaned off their dams looking like their parents in miniature. At herd check, the excitement starts to brew about the next calf crop as cows are confirmed safe in calf.

Winter has arrived with conviction for us here in Southern Ontario. We have enjoyed speaking with several other breeders recently from across Canada and the United States and have heard the same from them too. While Heather and I are looking forward to a snowy holiday season, we get very tired of the snow in the dark and cold months that follow. Most of our cows and calves have already grown their long thick Lincoln hair coat in preparation for the winter ahead. It never ceases to amaze us to go out in the middle of a snowstorm to find many of our cows choosing to lie outside, covered in inches of snow.

We would like wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Holiday Season

Scott McClinchey



SHAVER UMPIRE JUST PRIOR TO WEANING



NORTH AMERICAN LINCOLN RED ASSOCIATION

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On October 3rd, 2008, we were visited by fellow Lincoln Red breeders from Northumberland, England. Mr. Peter Clark has spent his life managing a large farm in the Northwestern part of England, has travelled extensively and is an accomplished and published author of three books. His latest project and now passion is the breeding of Lincoln Red cattle. Peter and his partner Debbie, along with their friends Jim and Shirley Beasom, from British Columbia, arrived late in the afternoon, driving from Trenton, Ontario after having attended a Canadian Air Force function at the base there.

After introductions and chit chat, it was very clear that they could not wait to get to the field to see and talk cattle. After a walk through, and some talking, we were called for supper just before it was too dark to see any longer.

Lorraine's supper of roast beef, Yorkshire pudding and all the trimmings was well received by all of us. After supper, we sat and talked well into the evening. Much of our conversation revolved around our two Lincoln Red Associations. Peter was here partly to gain an understanding of our North American organization, how it was set up and also our definitions of purity levels of the cattle. He also brought greetings from the executive of the British Lincoln Red breeders. With that wish came the hope that our two organizations could work closer together to maintain and protect this breed of cattle that all of us care for so much. He mentioned to us that in his travels to other parts of Europe, the common theme seems to be that these gentle and quiet cattle often belong to gentle, caring and quiet people. If we think about our own group, this appears to be quite true.

After breakfast and more looking at and discussion about the cattle, our visitors prepared to leave for Toronto and the airport for the train ride to Vancouver. They left with us a book, a gift, about the 100 year history of the Lincoln Red breed. It was interesting that Dr. Shaver is mentioned in later years of the history, outlining some of the work done by him here in Canada. Peter also gave us another gift, a copy of his latest book, an interesting history about the many plane crashes in the Northumberland hills during the Second World War, which brought him to eventually meet his friend that came with him, Jim Beasom, a plane crash survivor in the war.

The visit was a wonderful experience and opportunity to learn more about where these cattle originated from, the struggle that breeders in England have gone through to preserve and protect these gentle beasts. We extended our wishes for continued success on behalf of our group and the welcome opportunity to work together to strive to assure the future of this wonderful breed of cattle.

John and Lorraine Ashby

Highlights from the AGM held August 23, 2008

We officially have a website! The domain name is www.lincolnred.org. Now, we are in the process of collecting pictures and information to go on the website. All current members, past members and breeders are invited to contribute. **Please send your information about Lincoln Reds to Sarah Pedelty.** All members will have the option to put forth a description of their operation with links if viable. We would like to have the website operational by the end of January.

Tied into the website is a photo contest open to all. The best Lincoln Red photo will be displayed on the front of our new brochures and used in our new advertising campaign. **We would appreciate all photos being submitted by the end of January either by mail or email to Sarah Pedelty.** Members will vote on the winning photo.

Lincoln Red eartags will be available to all members in January 2009. The tag is pink in color and if you use a black marker they are very easy to read. The tag is large in size and classified as a management tag. Any questions, please contact John Ashby.

For the next AGM, Mr. Scott McClinchey and Mr. Dennis Hoffrogge will present their suggestions on embryo transfer and transplant regulations. Scott and Dennis are taking a current look at other cattle breed regulations.

Mr. Gordon MacRae and Mr. Dan Lamarche have been elected to the Board of Directors. They join Scott McClinchey, John Ashby, Dr. Donald McQ Shaver, and Sarah Pedelty.

In an effort to control costs, we are including a postcard to be returned from each individual receiving the Lincoln Letter. On the postcard, would you be kind enough to mark whether you want to remain on the mailing list for the Lincoln Letter and whether we can send the Lincoln Letter to you electronically? Thank you.

Next year the AGM will be held in October at John and Lorraine Ashby's beautiful farm. Please watch for further details.

**Congratulations
to Scott and Heather McClinchey
on the birth of their daughter Norah
on December 30th, 2008.**

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(Secretary's Note: Mr. Dennis Hoffrogge was contacted and asked to contribute an article to the Lincoln Letter regarding his involvement with the Lincoln Red Breed. Mr. Hoffrogge referred the Secretary to his partner Mr. Roy Lovaas to explain their history and what they are working to accomplish.)

History of the Native Shorthorn Project

In 1998, at the urging of a handful of breeders who recognized that Shorthorn genetics, which originated in the Tees river valley of Northeastern England, were fast becoming diluted by the infusion of other bovine genetics, the board of directors of the American Milking Shorthorn Society established a "Native Shorthorn" program, for the separate designation of animals, whose entire ancestry traces back to the 1822 Coates Herd Book or the 1830 Clay importation, excluding even the Irish Shorthorn, the Lincoln Red, and the Illawarra genetic strains. In 2008, the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy listed "Native Shorthorns" in the "Critical" category, which means, that fewer than 200 animals are registered annually and the global population is estimated at fewer than 2000 animals. It is understood that inquiries are being made to have the Lincoln Red breed included in the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy as well.

With selection criteria being complete and entire traceability regardless of type and function, "Native Shorthorns" come in all three of the types of Shorthorns of the past, Dairy, Beef, and Dual Purpose, which were intentionally developed to provide the average farmer with Milk, Meat, and Power for the farm. The largest source of "native" milking Shorthorns, is under the stewardship of Cantagree Milking Shorthorns in Utah and the two largest sources of "native" beef/dual shorthorns, are under the stewardship of Albaugh Ranch in Nevada, and Haumont Shorthorns in Nebraska.

In August of 2007, two men from Minnesota, Dennis Hoffrogge and Roy Lovaas, both new to the "Native Shorthorn" concept, made a marathon trip to visit Mary Bell Cooksley, proprietress of Haumont Shorthorns, with the intention of acquiring some "Native Shorthorn" females. This goal was accomplished with the purchase by Hoffrogge of 4 heifers; 2 Rosabells, a Lilac Lady, and a Cherry Blossom along with the bull, Clara's Chief '07, and the purchase by Lovaas of a Cherry heifer and a Maid of Promise cow. About 3 months later, Hoffrogge would add 4 more Haumont cows to his inventory; 2 Cherry Blossoms, an Helianthus, and a Secret Beauty, as well as a Maid of Promise jointly owned with Lovaas. This was the beginning nucleus of a "Native Shorthorn" preservation and propagation project embarkation by Hoffrogge and Lovaas.

Having bred and raised non-"Native Shorthorns" with an emphasis on functionality for 20+ years, and under a low-input, environmentally sorted system for the last 8 years, Lovaas viewed the "Native Shorthorns" as being able to produce the right kind for a low-input, grass based system. Having acquired "Native Shorthorn" females of the present, the

imminent task and challenge before Lovaas and Hoffrogge was, now, to locate and acquire semen on bulls from the past that would nick with them. Through numerous contacts, not only was a significant variety of old semen located and acquired, but other breeders became intrigued by the preservation project as well.

The end of 2007 saw the launch of Lovaas's website, www.rlshorthorns.com, which was designed by fellow "Native Shorthorn" enthusiast Chris Carlson of Kentucky. Early summer of 2008 saw the addition to the website of a Hoffrogge section. While Lovaas concentrates solely on "Native Shorthorns" as well as his well proven performance Shorthorns, Hoffrogge added Lincoln Reds to his repertoire by the purchase of two heifers, Pedelty Tortilla and Pedelty Tao, from the inventory of Larry and Sarah Pedelty in Minnesota, as well as older Lincoln Red semen.

Rarity of most of the "Native Shorthorn" semen, and much of the older Lincoln Red semen available, presented the need to maximize its utilization. With Lovaas's daughter, Dr. Bethany Funnell, DVM, as chief embryologist and cow/calf management veterinarian of the beef research herd at the University of Minnesota North Central Research Station located at Grand Rapids, Minnesota, the research station was contracted to work with the project. In December 2007, the entire "Native Shorthorn" compliment of females, as well as the 2 Lincoln Red heifers, had completed transition to Grand Rapids, Minnesota, where the Shorthorns are flushed to the rare "Native Shorthorn" bulls, and the Lincoln Reds to the Lincoln Red bulls available. Contracted recipients from the University herd are used for direct transfer of fresh embryos, and those which are frozen are cryogenically stored for future use. It is hoped to have a number of "Native Shorthorn" and Lincoln Red calves on the ground in spring of 2009.

With the need for the preservation and propagation of "Native Shorthorn" stock imminent, and having already done extensive DNA testing on his performance Shorthorns, Lovaas recognized how critical "Native Shorthorn" genetics would be in the establishment of an accurate data base against which to measure future progeny. Working with a distinguished Doctor at one of the top universities, Lovaas arranged to provide Shorthorn DNA with which to establish a "Native Shorthorn" DNA base which has not been infused with outside genetics. Lincoln Red, Irish Shorthorn, and modern day Shorthorn genetics were provided to establish differentiations and exclusions in what may be the most thorough bovine DNA mapping done to date.

Secretary's Note: Hopefully in the next Lincoln Letter we will be able to print the results from the DNA testing. It has been proven that Lincoln Reds and Shorthorns are two distinct breeds and it will be fascinating to see the results from this extensive DNA study.

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Bevann Joker's 2,800gns Red Ace in Newark Pack (*Livestock Sales, 31 October, 2008*)

A top price of 2,800gns was realized at the Lincoln Red Cattle Society show and sale at Newark. Topping the trade was a two-year-old bull, Bevann Joker, from Bev Wright, Hatfield, Doncaster.



Credit: © FARMERS GUARDIAN
please contact 01772 799445.

This bull, sired by St Fort Dickens, sold to E. and H. Chapman, Llanidloes, Powys, for use on commercial suckler herd. Reserve champion bull,

Hemingby Brigadier, consigned by Michael Read,

Horncastle, Lincolnshire realized 2,500gns. This St Fort Essex son sold to Tom Dobell, Essex.

The champion bull, Beverley Kudos, from R.I. Clough and Son, Spilsby, Lincolnshire – son of Market Stainton Governor – went to Dick Read, Horncastle for 1,900gns.



Credit: © FARMERS GUARDIAN
please contact 01772 799445.

Donington Jessie, a two-year-old in-calf heifer from R.G. Parkinson and Sons, Louth, Lincolnshire, took the female championship, selling at 1,800gns and was bought by Frank Thompson, Stonesby, Melton Mowbray.

He also bought five more heifers for his La Fontaine herd including the reserve

female champion, a maiden heifer – Hemingby Mattie – from Michael Read for 1,350gns.

Averages : 4 bulls, £2,258; 96 females overall, £1,143; 14 cows with calves at foot, £1,160; 18 in-calf cows, £1,137; 34 in-calf heifers, £1,276; 30 maiden heifers, £990. (Auctioneers: Newark Livestock Market)

Averages : 4 bulls, £2,258; 96 females overall, £1,143; 14 cows with calves at foot, £1,160; 18 in-calf cows, £1,137; 34 in-calf heifers, £1,276; 30 maiden heifers, £990. (Auctioneers: Newark Livestock Market)

Lincoln Reds top at 2800gns at Newark

Interest in traditional breeds continues to grow apace, so it was no surprise that the biggest catalogued sale of Lincoln Red cattle held in the UK for 50 years pulled in a big crowd at Newark Livestock Market last weekend where bull bidding reached 2800gns and the 96 females on offer averaged £1143.

Pedigree and commercial buyers competed for stock throughout the day as breeders relished positive comments about what they described as the "modern" Lincoln Red.

Top call was 2800gns for Doncaster breeder Bev Wright's two-year-old bull Bevann Joker. By St Fort Dickens and with Colony breeding behind him, he heads for mid-Wales with Powys buyers E and H Chapman,

Llanidloes for use on commercial sucklers.

Judge Lynda Haddon-Burditt found he champion in Beverley Kudos from R I Clough and Son, Spilsby, Lincolnshire. By Market Stainton



Governor, he had been successfully shown this summer and made 1900gns to Dick Read, Horncastle.

Meanwhile Michael Read collected the reserve championship with Hemingby Brigadier - a show winner this season by St Fort Essex. He realized 2500gns to Essex buyer Tom Dobell who will use him as the new stock bull in his Garnons herd.

Taking the female championship and the earning the highest bid was the in-calf heifer Donnington Jessie from R G Parkinson and Sons, Louth. By Donnington Email and in-calf to Limestone Dunstan, she was bought at 1800gns by Frank Thompson, Stonesby, Melton Mowbray.

Mr. Thompson bought five other females to add to his newly formed La Fontaine herd which included Michael Read's reserve female champion Hemingby Mattie. This maiden heifer realized 1350gns.

Averages: Four bulls £2258; 96 females £1143. (Newark Livestock Market).

These articles reprinted with permission from Carole Martin, Secretary of the Lincoln Red Cattle Society, UK

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Seeing is Believing... Come see Lincoln Reds at one of these farms!

● President:

Scott McClinchey
112028 11th Line RR2
Orton, ON LON 1N0
519-928-3106
scott.l.mcclinchey@monsanto.com

● John and Lorraine Ashby

Prescott, ON
613-925-5778

● Dan and Lily Lamarche

St. Charles, ON
705-867-2683

● Sarah Band

Puslinch, ON
519-824-5619

● Burton Rose

Amherst, NS
902-667-9834

● Secretary:

Sarah Pedelty
9724 Co Rd 138 SE
Chatfield, MN 55923
507-867-9041
spines@aol.com

● Dennis Hoffrogge

Sleepy Eye, MN
507-227-5745

● Albert & John Ready

York, PEI
902-672-1668

● Gordon MacRae

Montague, PEI
902-838-4783

Cedar Ridge Cattle Company

William & Brigitte Reid and Family
Oxford Station, Ontario, Canada
Phone (613) 926-2456

Website: www.lincolnred.ca

Email: bill@lincolnred.ca

A select number of Heifers and Cows for Sale

We would like to thank Mr. Rose of Nova Scotia for the
chance to purchase RLR Sir John A.

Our future Herdsire