

# The Lincoln Letter

Publisher-North American Lincoln Red Association

Spring/Summer 2013

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There have been many inquiries about the Lincoln Red cattle recently, which have resulted in a few more new members excited to have Lincoln Reds part of their beef operation. Many people I have talked to are interested in the easy finishing characteristics of the breed that will fit into their grass finishing management program. Others are looking to increase the genetic diversity in their beef herd and believe the moderate frame Lincoln Red cattle will be an asset to their beef operation. With strong interest in the breed, I would encourage all members to advertise their available stock on the North American Lincoln Red website, through social media (Facebook, Twitter) avenues, or in your local press. Please contact the association if you are interested in having the influence of Lincoln Red in your herd, as there are still young bulls available for purchase.

Have a great summer!

Scott McClinchey



Picture taken May 2, 2013  
in SE Minnesota!

## Highlights from the February 16, 2013 Annual General Meeting

Membership and registered animals have continued to increase! Welcome to our newest members Wallace Milner, Nappan, NS and Brian and Sonja Harper, Brandon, MB. Visitors to our website have increased to over 13000/month. The Association will run a few more print ads encouraging people to go to our website. All members are encouraged to enroll bulls in local test stations. The need for EPD's was discussed along with options. All members agreed demand for Lincoln Reds is exceeding supply. (What a great problem to have!) Scott McClinchey was reelected President, John Ashby was reelected CLRC representative, Sarah Pedelty was reelected Secretary, and Dennis Hoffrogge, Dan Lamarche, and Gordon MacRae complete the board of directors.

Visit our website at [www.lincolnred.org](http://www.lincolnred.org)

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## CIRCLE H FARMS

### BRIAN & SONJA HARPER & FAMILY

#### BRANDON MANITOBA

Hello my name is Brian Harper and together with my wife Sonja and two kids Thomas (21) and Kristelle (19) we operate Circle H Farms here at Brandon, Manitoba. We manage approximately 900 acres of tame hay and pasture with rotational and intensive grazing of our 120 head herd. In recent years with both kids being in university or working away from the farm the duties have been left to Sonja and myself, although they help out as much and whenever they can.

We started into the cattle industry in 1994 and began this endeavor breeding and marketing a composite breed developed in 1960 by D. McQ Shaver Beef Breeding Farms Limited in Ontario. They were 25 years developing the breed with the first cattle being sold to the public around 1984. Many know of Dr. Donald Shaver through his many years in the chicken industry where he selected and bred poultry lines to the point of owning a large portion of the world chicken market.

Dr. Shaver was also a very well known breeder of the Lincoln Red beef cattle, importing some of the first into Canada from England. The Lincoln Reds were a main staple in his development of the Beefblend cattle. When we came upon the Beefblends we liked what we saw and soon realized that there were not many composite breeds of cattle offered and none consisting of a nine way cross that were as stable both in phenotype and genotype as the Shaver Beefblend.

As our herd grew over the years so did the work and we began to look for alternative ways of production to better match the manpower available. Swath grazing was a big improvement, allowing us to put up less feed with the trade off being that the cows do the work instead. We liked this, they did the work and we saved the cost of doing it for them both in putting up feed and taking out manure. Any calving issues also diminished to the point of 1 or 2 assists/year due to the exercise they were getting. We changed our calving to be more in sync with nature = no more late cold nights. Instead of us trying to do all the work for them, we now have 120 employees working for us!

We have moved to more bale grazing over time, when we feed bales, realizing the greater impact we are having on increasing grass production with this practice. By 2005 we committed to a "forage only" development program for all of our young breeding stock. Since then none of our young developing breeding stock see any grain what so ever. Due to the slower more natural growth we now choose to market two year old bulls. Replacement females

are hardy and have been taught by their mothers on how to get the job done! We have seen our genetics change to the point where we will be attempting to grass finish the majority of our calves this year.

The Shaver Beefblend cattle have been with us all the way and have changed and adapted as we have. With the retirement of the Shaver organization in 2007(I believe) we began to look for genetics that were in the initial development of the breed so as to keep the gene pool of our herd broad and open. Now we feel we have come full circle, we searched for hardy, docile, efficient cattle that were included in the Shaver Beefblend makeup. This brought us back to the Lincoln Red breed and the purchase of our first pure bred Lincoln Red cattle in March/ April 2013. They have all the attributes that we feel will compliment our herd and we now truly realize why Dr. Shaver had used them in the inception of the Shaver Beefblend. We are both excited and committed to being Lincoln Red breeders and look forward to working with the Lincoln Red Association.

Sincerely,

Brian Harper  
Circle H Farms

[www.shaverbeef.com](http://www.shaverbeef.com)



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## Death, Taxes and Hay

### Dr. Bob Nusbaum, Potosi, WI

Benjamin Franklin once said that two certainties in life were “death and taxes”. I think he’d agree that one certainty in the cattle business is that hay is expensive. I mean, really expensive. It is expensive to make, expensive to store and expensive to feed. Machinery, fuel and labor make up a lot of this expense. Work at Iowa State shows a cost of over \$121 to make a ton on established hay fields with average yields. On top of this, just losses during harvest, storage and feeding, by themselves, can contribute to as much as 10% (or more) of total livestock production costs on any given operation.

Most figures show that 60% of the annual cost to keep a cow is due to supplemental feed, which, of course, is mostly hay. At the end of April hay prices were approaching \$400 per ton in my neighborhood. Lack of hay due to drought and increased corn acres coupled with a very cold winter and late spring all contributed to record hay prices. I know lots of producers who were caught short and had to buy hay for the first time. We cattle producers have become very dependent on plentiful hay and, I think, it has made us kind of “lazy” managers. This year should be a “wake-up call” as to how we view feeding hay to our cows.

It has been stated that “you can’t manage what you don’t measure” and I believe it. Most of us detest record keeping, so this is a continual struggle. As a manager, a good place to start is to write on the calendar the day hay feeding begins in the fall and the day in the spring when it is done. This period defines the most expensive period of owning a cow and it should be a constant goal to make it as short as possible. This is where the real battle takes place, the battle to reduce input costs, and as stated, hay is the single biggest culprit.

Our obvious goal then is to reduce “hay” days and increase “grazing” days. Many producers in the Midwest seem to make hay all summer and feed hay all winter. It is not uncommon to graze for 6 months and feed for 6 months. My neighbor has about 200 cows and each of his “hay” days costs him between \$375 and \$750 depending on the current value of hay. That’s a minimum of over \$11,000 a month. Each day he doesn’t have to feed hay is like a payday.

So, increasing the grazing days looks pretty advantageous. Most of us have to begin feeding hay in October (maybe November) because we run out of grass, so we have to look at why we run out. I think there are two main reasons for this. The first is that many producers run too many cows. The second is that we vastly underutilize our pastures.

Let’s look at cow inventory first. If you are an average grazing manager, you will get more grazing days per year by having fewer cows and ultimately reduce costs, but you also will have less gross income. For instance, let’s say my annual cost for a cow is \$400 (just for easy figuring), and I sell her calf for \$600. On 50 cows my net income is \$10,000. Now, let’s say I sell 10 cows and only produce 40 calves, but I also gained 30 more grazing days which reduced my cow cost by about \$50, to \$350 per cow, so my net income is still \$10,000, but I did it with fewer cows and less hay. Even if my inventory drops to 30 cows, I could still net \$10,000 if I drop my cow cost to about \$270. The key is not gross income, but net income.

The above is one option for average grazing managers, which I think most of us are, but we all have the potential to improve. If you do feed too much hay, try inventory reduction and try to stretch your grazing days. As you improve in grass management and grazing skills, grass production will increase allowing you to carry more inventory. I just read an article about a ranch in Idaho that ran 400 cows in 2003 and made 1700 tons of hay. Today they run 600-700 cows and reduced the hay production to 1200 to 1400 tons. They used to feed over 4 ton of hay per cow per year and have now reduced that to about 2 ton. Quite a savings! The ranch manager said, “Improved grazing management is the single biggest thing we’ve done” because his pastures had been tremendously under utilized as a resource.

Nothing is easier than opening a gate and letting cattle graze. Let them do the work. I know a few producers in central Iowa that graze nearly the year around. Analyze some of your hayfields that have lower production and consider putting them back into pasture. Put the baler away earlier and learn about stockpiling grass for late fall or early spring grazing. There is a lot of information out there on how to get more mileage out of your forage program. I attended a Grazing School through the University of Missouri years ago and it was a huge benefit. All areas have Pasture Walk groups where producers share ideas and expertise. If you are not a member of one now, I would strongly urge you to find one and participate. Additionally, two books written by Jim Gerrish “Kick the Hay Habit” and “Management Intensive Grazing” are tremendous resources. Grazing can change our fossil fuel cows to solar cows, and it will be much cheaper, easier, more enjoyable and improve our quality of life. And isn’t that why we are in the beef business?

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**Lincoln Red Cattle Society  
Spring Show & Sale  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2013 held  
at Newark Livestock Market  
Bulls – Averaged £4680  
(£5880 in 2012)  
Females Averaged – £1122  
(£1352 in 2012)**

## 12 000 Gns paid for Springwood Poacher

The Lincoln Red Cattle Society's Spring Show and Sale at Newark Livestock Market on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2013 saw Julie Evans's Senior Champion and Reserve Supreme Champion Bull, Springwood Poacher, selling for 12 000gns to Ruttle Plant Holdings Killean Herd, Chorley in Lancashire. Sired by Hemingby Dragoon; himself Reserve Supreme Champion in the LRCS 2010 Spring Show & Sale; out of Riseholme Hazel K427; Springwood Poacher was shown successfully in 2012 being Junior and Reserve Supreme Champion Male at Woodhall Spa; Supreme and Interbreed Champion at Deeping Show; Supreme & Junior Native Interbreed Champion at East of England and Junior Champion & Reserve Supreme Champion Male at the Great Yorkshire Show.

On a snow covered day that felt more like mid-winter than the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of Spring, Judge, Mr Pip Stennett, paused a moment in his deliberations in selecting the Reserve & Champion Senior Bulls. R I Clough and Son's Junior Champion and Supreme Champion Bull, Beverley Pioneer, sold for 6 000gns; sired by Beverley Landmark out of Beverley Miss C21 sold to R E Needham and Son's Market Stainton Herd, Louth, Lincolnshire; whilst Auchmacoy Oakley who was first in his class of Senior Bulls, sired by Auchmacoy Lancaster out of Auchmacoy Judith L013 sold for 8 000gns to Michael Read's Hemingby Herd, Horncastle, Lincolnshire. A total of 14 bulls from 16 bulls forward sold to an overall average of 4 457gns (£4 680). Female trade was slightly down on 2012 with an overall average for 1 068 gns (£1 122) for 49 females; 1 cow with calf at foot 1 200gns (£1 260); 3 in calf Heifers 1 333gns (£1 400); 45 Maidens 962gns (£1 010). Overall Sale average being (63 animals) 1 760gns (£1 848). Top priced female and Champion Heifer in the Show, Michael Read's March 2011 born heifer, in calf to Donington Kavannah, Hemingby Mattie P727 sired by Walmer Legend; himself Supreme Champion Bull in the LRCS 2010 Spring Show & Sale; out of Hemingby Mattie L567 sold for 1 700gns. The Reserve Champion Heifer also from Michael

Read's Hemingby Herd; September 2011 born maiden heifer, Hemingby Polly P766 sired by Donington Kavannah out of Hemingby Polly M604 sold for 1 500gns. Both have gone to G L Gent & Son's Stokedoyle Herd, Oundle, Peterborough. The Sale room was packed and Lincoln Red Cattle Society President Geoff Bolton extended thanks on behalf of the Lincoln Red Cattle Society Members to our Judge Mr Pip Stennett, to all those who braved the dire weather conditions and to Paul Gentry our ever-efficient Auctioneer and the Newark Livestock Market Team.

## News from Agr. Jean Pierre Martins Machado, Brazil

From Brazil I can tell you that new Lincolns will arrive soon. Last year, 150 straws of semen from St.Fort Essex were imported from UK. A breeder that I give technical assistance has 26 pregnant cows with him. All cows were registered on upgrade herd book in Brazil with different blood percentages. We expect calves for next month or soon after. Another breeder also inseminated some cows with Essex, but we don't know how many calves are expected.

A new semen order was done in late 2012. More than 600 straws will arrive until late this month. The bull chosen is Harrington Charlie, as he is the only one available for export to Brazil due sanitary protocol qualification. Two new bulls are being contacted for collection soon too. But new lines are always asked and look for on our side of the Ocean.

More good news is that embryos imported from the UK arrived. Six embryos were in ovulated in early March. The matings in ovulated were by St.Fort Northholm D97 and Harrington Charlie, and St.Fort Hetty G384 with Biddelesden Great Expectations. These will to be the first imported Lincoln Red embryos in Brazil and full new genetics introduced in Brazil in the last 45 years.

We are sure that these calves from AI and ET will bring new blood to breed here, and a new breath for the breed. We, from Brazilian Lincoln Red Breed Association, are looking for a new aim on breed selection and some very interested gentlemen are working together for breed expansion.

Unhappily, breeding cattle takes a long time until conception and calving and more time until weaning. We are very excited to look at the new ones on ground and see how they will grow, collecting data along the way.

Regards.

Jean Pierre Machado

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# Lincoln Red (original population)



RBST recognises the original or non-imported bloodlines of Lincoln Reds. The Lincoln Red was originally known as the Lincolnshire Red Shorthorn and in the 1940s was known as a dual purpose breed. In time the “Shorthorn” was dropped from the name and it became a specialist beef breed. There has been some crossing with continental breeds to improve conformation and beef production and the native Lincoln Red has become endangered.

## Key Characteristics:

**Size-** Large- Cows- 700-750kg, Bulls 1000-1100kg

**Looks-** A full bodied animal. Deep cherry red in colour and naturally polled. Unlike the Angus or the Hereford animals of the original bloodlines are no smaller than the rest of the breed.

**Use-** suckler beef

**Long-lived, fertile and maternal-** Good suckler cows- can produce calves at up to 14

years old.

**Docile,** polled- easily managed.

**Dual purpose-** The breed was originally classified as dual purpose and milk yields of 3600 litres per lactation have been recorded - this makes the breed a very milky suckler cow.

**Hardy-** Suited to out wintering.

**Beef-** A range of marketing schemes organized by Lincoln Red Society centred around Lincolnshire. Can be finished off forage in 24-30 months but also can be finished intensively within 12-14 months.

### Performance Recording

- 200 Day Growth Rate EBV (kg)- 2010- 7(50%)
- 400 Day Growth Rate EBV (kg)-2010- 17 (50%)
- Muscle Depth EBV (mm) - 2010- 0.1 (50%)

The Rare Breeds Survival Trust is the leading national charity working to conserve and protect the United Kingdom’s rare native breeds of farm animals from extinction. We rely on the support of our members, grants and donations from the public to raise the £700,000 a year needed to maintain our conservation work with rare UK native breeds of farm animals. Visit [www.rbst.org.uk](http://www.rbst.org.uk) to see how you can help.

More information available from the  
Lincoln Red Cattle Society -  
[www.lincolnredcattlesociety.co.uk](http://www.lincolnredcattlesociety.co.uk) or 01522 511395

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RBST is a registered charity no. 269442.

**\*\*Footnote from NALRA: North American Lincoln Reds have never used any continental bloodlines to their stock. The DNA testing at the Univ of MO verifies this fact.\*\***

# The Lincoln Letter

## **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
- **Jean Babineau**  
Meadow Brook, NB
- **Sarah Band**  
Mohil Farms  
Puslinch, ON  
(519) 824-5619
- **Tom Fillmore**  
Oxford, NS
- **Valentina and Richard Harness**  
Stover, MO
- **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
- **Dan and Lily Lamarche**  
St Charles, ON POM 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)  
For Sale: 2 yr old bulls
- **Gordon MacRae**  
Montague, PE
- **Wallace Milner**  
Nappan, NS
- **Larry and Sarah Pedelty**  
[sarahpedelty@yahoo.com](mailto:sarahpedelty@yahoo.com)  
Straws for US Breeders  
(Collected and Shipped  
from Hawkeye Breeders)
- **Cedar Ridge Lincoln Reds**  
Bill Reid  
Oxford Station, ON  
(613) 926-2456  
[bill@lincolnred.ca](mailto:bill@lincolnred.ca)
- **Kevin Rivers**  
Ingersoll, ON
- **Rose's Lincoln Reds**  
Amherst, NS B4H 3Y1  
(902) 667-9834
- **David and Barbara Wetzel**  
O'Neill, NE

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

### **BUY LINCOLN RED-RECEIVE A FREE MEMBERSHIP!**

The North American Lincoln Red Association is happy to announce a complimentary membership will be given to all first time Lincoln Red buyers. The membership will be included with the registration papers to be transferred to the new owner. This will give new Lincoln Red breeders an opportunity to register calves and learn about the value of tracing bloodlines. Members also have the opportunity to list cattle for sale on our website. Membership is another way to help promote and preserve this great breed.

Visit our website at [www.lincolnred.org](http://www.lincolnred.org)