

The Lincoln Letter

Publisher-North American Lincoln Red Association

Winter 2016

**THANK YOU PATRICK MILNER, EMMA SILVERMAN, AVRIL SILVERMAN, AND TIFFANY THROOP
FOR SHOWING AND PROMOTING LINCOLN REDS!**



As the end of 2016 approaches, so does the end of my 4-H years. It has been 7 great years in 4-H with me showing Lincolns for 5 of those years. This was the first year I have shown a purebred registered animal that has been born and raised on the home farm, Renlim's Candy Apple 32C. At my local 4-H show, she received champion all other breeds. From there we went on to the 4-H provincial show where we placed 2nd in the intermediate other purebred's class. We were also invited to the Royal selection class. Unfortunately, she wasn't chosen to represent Nova Scotia at the Royal Winter Fair. However, my heifer was shown at the 251st Hants County Exhibition in Windsor, NS by Rebecca Smith and received a 4th place ribbon in the intermediate commercial heifer class, next to 3 nice Charolais heifers.



Although this is my final year of 4-H, it sure will not be my last year showing Lincoln Reds. I plan on attending more open shows next year to continue to promote the breed. Brian Smith and his brother will be also helping me. I'm excited to see what the 2017 show season brings! Thank you to everyone who has supported me over the years.



Patrick Milner, Nova Scotia



This year each of our showman were gifted from the Association a Smart comb and a breaking halter that will not pinch a calf's nose.

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Presidents Report

On October 1st, our farm was proud to open its doors to our local community to act as a host farm for the 2016 Dufferin Town & Country Farm Tour. Heather and I have been on our farm in East Garafraxa, Ontario since 2005. The following year, after the retirement of Donald McQueen Shaver, we purchased his Lincoln Red beef herd and have continued breeding this wonderful heritage breed under the Shaver prefix. Our farm has expanded since 2005 to include horses, ducks, chickens, a donkey and two future farmers, Davis and Norah.

It was great event for ourselves, family and friends who helped us showcase our Lincoln Red Breeding operation. An overcast day that started with a small amount of rain and mist did not deter visitors from coming out. It is estimated that 500 adults and children came through that day. Many of those people were visiting a farm for the first time in their lives. There was also hay wagon rides, a pumpkin patch for the kids and access to a walking trail through our cedar bush along Butler Creek. It was most rewarding to have people remark how much they have learned about the breed after visiting Davis at Lincoln Red booth.

Have a great winter!

Scott



Photo Courtesy of Lon Latimer

Raise more heifers, grow your breed, by Rob Wilson, New Vision Ag and Specialties, LLC.

Are you looking to grow your herd? Or maybe just have more females to sell? The demand for heritage breeds are on the rise. One very economical product that could become a wonderful tool in expanding any heritage breeds might be HeifersPlus bovine sexing agent.

If you're currently utilizing AI in your herd, you might want to consider HeifersPlus. HeifersPlus has been tested and used Worldwide since 2007. This innovative product from Emlab Genetics has been proven to boost heifer numbers by 20-25%, without the negative fertility numbers of commercially packaged sexed semen. That being said, there is virtually no commercially packaged sexed semen available in the heritage breed market.

How does it work? The sexing process "stimulates" the fertility and motility of the x-chromosome bearing (female) sperm, while slowing the fertility and motility of the y-chromosome bearing (male) sperm. When inseminated, the sperm are "sorted" in the reproductive tract. The result is more ova fertilized by the x-bearing sperm.... resulting in more heifer calves.

HeifersPlus is very economical, and can be used for about \$10/breeding. For more information about HeifersPlus, please visit my website www.newvisionag.net. Here's to the development of great breeds of livestock everywhere!



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Set Your Own Standards

**Bob Nusbaum, Professor Emeritus, Univ of Wisc
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I always look forward to watching the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show each year. It amazes me that there are so many different breeds and that they were all created to perform specific duties. I am partial to the Herding Dog Group but I enjoy watching all of them. I sometimes wonder how the judges actually evaluate the different breeds. From what I understand, the judges compare individual dogs to their respective "breed standards" to determine if they are, initially, acceptable, and then, if they excel as a representative of their breed. Breed standards can include color, coat type, maximum or minimum height, ear set, tail set and gait among others. Take the Borzoi (Russian wolfhound) for instance. How does the judge actually know if it is any good at chasing wolves since we don't hunt many wolves today? Similarly, how about Dachshunds? Not lots of traditional burrow tunneling for them today, either.

My point here is that we have been able to make many different types of dogs through selection of various traits. The same is true of poultry, rabbits, pigs, horses, sheep and cattle. We, the breeders, control the selection process. My question is: "Do breed standards actually predict future performance?" I'd generally say "no" to traits that are not visible. We've owned two wonderful Border Collies that were tremendous herders but I'm not sure they would have ever won a dog show. However, physical traits that can be measured will generally respond to selection pressure and can be successfully increased over generations. Whether that increase is useful or profitable is not always foreseen when making the mating decisions. The following are two examples of selecting for physical features and the corresponding results.

In the beef cattle business, we've actually gone full circle concerning size, a trait that's visible and easy to measure. Larger, later-maturing, grass-finished cattle were the norm a century ago. With mechanization and cheaper grain production, the Prime Quality Grade pushed producers to earlier-maturing, high marbling cattle that topped out at 900-1000 pounds. After poor economics and a brush with dwarfism, the larger, later-maturing cattle again became the favorite. Larger breeds were imported from Europe in the late 60's and bigger was

better. But by the 80's the pendulum again had swung too far and the big cows didn't reach puberty at an acceptable age, or breed back early enough to have calving intervals under 12 months. Large bulls had structural problems and heavyweight carcasses lacked marbling. I've read several articles in the past year that have proclaimed that many of today's cows are too big and too milky. The last 100 years of beef cattle selection has been anything but consistent.

The dairy industry, specifically the Holstein breed, has been selecting for increased milk yield since it's importation in the 1870's. It gives more milk than any other dairy breed in the world. However, while milk production has increased, fertility and longevity have decreased. The average lactations per productive lifetime is now less than 1.5 and calving interval has increased to over 15 months according to research from Cornell University. This has happened despite the fact that the dairy breed associations have been scoring their cows for type for many decades.

Some breed standards have little to do with improving animal function, production or ultimately profitability. A recent column called "The Grazier's Gazette" written by Walt Davis, a semi-retired rancher, pointed out standards from two breed associations that are actually detrimental. "First, the insistence of Hereford breeders that their cattle have no color in their faces...when that can potentially contribute to cancer eye. Second, the Santa Gertrudis breeders throwing out light colored-cattle even though they have superior heat tolerance compared to the deep cherry-red called for in the standards."

So what traits should a purebred seedstock producer emphasize in order to sell bulls to profit-minded commercial operations? Increasing production output like weaning weight (or milk yield in dairy cows) doesn't necessarily translate into more net income because of the added expense of the usual additional inputs. Traits that reduce expenses always have a greater impact on the bottom line. Want to reduce the feed bill, shorten the calving season and have first calf heifers breed back faster? Want to pull fewer calves? Want to have cows that produce well into their teens? Select herd sires and replacement heifers that are early maturing and easy fleshing. Scoring guides for udders and foot structure are available from breed associations or AI companies that will aid in identifying animals that will inject longevity into their progeny. Heifers that calve in the first three weeks

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of the calving season are the best candidates for herd replacements due to their apparent superior fertility. A low maintenance, highly fertile cow, in my opinion, is the profit backbone of the herd. The goal of seedstock producers should be to sell bulls from a herd of these “super moms” and the goal of commercial producers should be to buy bulls raised from those cows.

While many bull buyers have favorite physical features they may look for in a potential herd sire, I’ve found that they appreciate and utilize all of the available data provided. Our annual Red and Black Angus bull sale data sheet includes the normal performance data for calving ease, growth, yearling weight, scrotal circumference and the ultrasound information for rib eye, fat and marbling. Data predicting the longevity of a bull’s daughters (Stayability) and their ability to survive on less feed (ME-Maintenance Energy) is also included. Additionally, we provide scores for the bull’s disposition and dam’s udder score (1-5, with 5 being the best and 3 being average). We also pen our bulls on concrete during our open house sale day so that buyers can evaluate their hoof structure.

Whether you are a buyer or seller, everyone wants problem-free cattle that will adapt and thrive in the environment of their new owner. Problem-free, self-sufficient, fertile, quiet cattle make happy buyers. Happy buyers are repeat customers which improves the bottom line. Profitability makes the work more fun and enhances the quality of our family life. The important traits that are needed to create profitable cows are not usually pretty, flashy or extreme. Sometimes they look just plain average.

Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy 2017!



Lincoln Red Travels: Hello Fellow Breeders

I have been fortunate this year to travel and visit with several Lincoln Red breeders across Canada and the USA. I want to thank all the breeders for their hospitality and opening their herds for viewing. I have made new friends and saw some great cattle. I hope to visit with other breeders in the future.

Even though the number of Lincoln Red cattle is small, I did see a variety of type in the Lincoln Red, with each breeder selecting for cattle that will work in their environment.

I have imported some of the Canadian Lincoln Red cattle here to Tennessee and plan to select for heat tolerance among other traits. The cattle that shed their winter hair have an easier time with the heat as they adjust to this new environment. I am excited to see how the Lincoln Red cattle adapt to the southern climate and hope to develop a strain of southern adapted Lincoln Reds.

I always enjoy discussing cattle, so contact me anytime. Wishing all good weather with plenty of forage.

Happy travels, Robert Latimer
Milton, Tennessee
615-337-6307 mccllc98@cs.com



Sandy McDougald at Milrae Farms with Robert Latimer and his son Lon along with the Minister of Agriculture of Prince Edward Island

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Help us save money by receiving your newsletter electronically!

As an Association, we are always trying to minimize expenses. Printing and mailing the Lincoln Letter is one area we hope to reduce costs. May we send the Lincoln Letter to you electronically?

If you would like to continue receiving the newsletter via email please email your Name, Address, and the Email address(s) that you would like us to send the newsletter to the Association Secretary Sarah Pedelty at sarahpedelty@gmail.com.

Thank you!



Bull for Sale:

Name: Renlim's 66Z Chopper 34

Sire: RLR Copper

Dam: Stonehedge Tink Zoe 66Z

DOB: July 10 2015

Also for any questions on the bull they can call

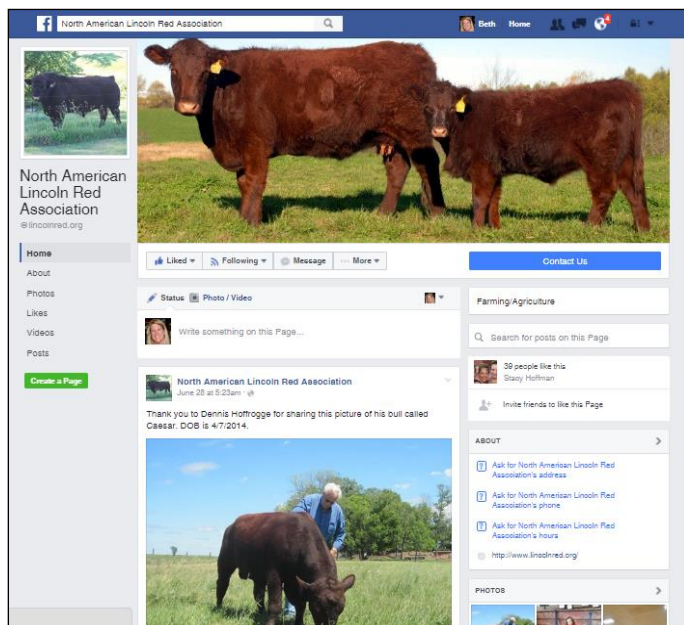
Patrick Milner at 902-694-3121 or email at

patrickmilnercattle@hotmail.ca



**FIND US ON
FACEBOOK!**

Check out our new Facebook page. The latest news and animals for sale will be posted first on the North American Lincoln Red Association Facebook page. Also, if you have pictures to share of your Lincoln Reds or crossbred Lincolns please feel free to post them.



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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
scott.l.mcclinchey@sympatico.ca
(519) 928-3106
- **Roger Angowski**
Pugwash, NS
- **John & Lorraine Ashby**
Stonehedge Farms
Prescott, ON
(613)925-5778
- **Sarah Band**
Mohil Farms
Puslinch, ON
(519) 824-5619
- **Sarah Bowley**
SVF Foundation
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sarah@svffoundation.org www.svffoundation.org
- **Andrew Ditmans**
Washington, KS
- **Lee Deutsche**
Crete, IL
farmspecialist@wildblue.net
- **Tom Fillmore**
Oxford, NS
- **Valentina & Richard Harness**
Stover, MO
- **Brian & Sonja Harper**
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www.shaverbeef.com
- **Dennis and Mary Hoffrogge**
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Straws for US Breeders
(Collected and Shipped from Hawkeye Breeders)
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- **Sandy MacDougald**
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