

RWHA Elections

Plus interesting topics every member should know.

Plus some RWHA history and background

The year has gone by quickly and it's time for us to begin working on the election of our Board of Directors. The RWHA board helps to guide the breed and the membership into the future while still maintaining our core principles which are to protect and propagate Red Wattle hogs. If you're dedicated and passionate about our breed and its success we hope you'll consider holding office. Experience is not necessary, but willingness to learn and work well with others is.

We have 3 offices that hold 3 year positions, President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer. These positions are vacant in alternating years so there are always 2 members with experience in office. There are 2 other positions as Board Members at Large that are elected annually. This year the Secretary/Treasurer position is open for election. Communications by members, our board, and the public generally come thru this position via email and phone. The Secretary writes and distributes the RWHA newsletter and sees that it and other information is placed on the RWHA website. The Treasurer position works in conjunction with the secretary and handles the RWHA bank account. All positions must be willing to be present for meetings, willing to research, investigate, and help monitor the RWHA Face Book according to our guidelines. All positions will take office effective November 1, 2017.

If you're interested in holding a position you'll need to give the membership a brief description of yourself and your goals by using these three questions as guides.

- 1.) What is your experience with hogs in general and Red Wattles in particular?
- 2.) How do you feel you can contribute to the breed and the RWHA?
- 3.) What do you see as the future of Red Wattles and the RWHA and why?

You can send your statement by email to: redwattles@hotmail.com or snail mail to: Kathy Bottorff 41 Jones Rd., Horse Cave, KY. 42749. Any person currently holding an office that will be open for election must also resubmit their statement for election. Your statements will be printed in a following newsletter for our membership to review and vote. Statements must be received no later than September 6, 2017 to allow time for printing and mailing. None will be accepted after that date.

The Livestock Conservancy oversees the integrity of the elections by receiving and counting ballots. Each single membership will receive one ballot, family memberships will receive two. Ballots must be received at The Livestock Conservancy no later than Oct. 14. Ballots received after that date will not be counted.

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The population count of our **registered** hogs is important. This is how The Livestock Conservancy determines the breed status. Please review all your records and if you have registered hogs that are no longer in service let a board member know so they can be removed from production. They're never removed from the registry, their pedigrees are never taken away, but it helps us to keep accurate numbers of those producing now. Correct numbers help us to know if we're all going in the right direction which is to preserve and propagate. If hogs remain in the registry that are no longer producing, it gives us a false higher population and the possibility of moving from one level to another or totally off the watched list. Please do your part in helping all of us maintain correct records.

RWHA membership is annual. Our membership runs from April 1 thru March 31. Membership forms and paypal can be found on our website redwattleproject.org. Click on the RWHA tab at the top.

Membership payments are made to RWHA. The address is on the form. **Registration and transfer payments are payable to Mountain Niche Registry, not the RWHA.** That address is on the application. The registry office is unable to deposit payments made to RWHA so they must be mailed to the treasurer for deposit, taking your transaction longer than necessary.

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Our tutorial section of the website has received rave reviews from The Livestock Conservancy and A Greener World. A lot of hard work has gone into bringing this helpful information to you so we hope you use it. Learn and also contribute. It's a project that we hope continues to grow in many areas of Red Wattles in particular and keeping swine in general. We can't do it alone though. We need your help with pictures or questions. Sometimes writing descriptions just doesn't capture what we're looking for and pictures can make the connection that helps all of us. We don't always know what's affecting your herd or hogs in general so your questions may lead to an important topic for everyone. You will always remain anonymous. We all have problems or questions that we may know how to deal with but the information may help someone else. Please consider contributing to our tutorial.

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We have questions often about the types of feed we should be using. It's a question that's difficult to answer. Weather conditions, soil types, and even individual abilities all have to factor in and they're different all over the country. Some people don't have available pastures so they must use smaller areas more wisely or rely on additional feed sources and types. Some people may have the pasture but have predator problems. Climate and soil condition must always be considered. Always get a soil test to see what grows best in your type, or how you need to amend your soil for the best quality growth. Many soil tests are free and can be done at farm supply stores and county extension offices. Study what grasses are best for swine and what grows well where you live. Soil types and condition can vary greatly even from farm to farm, not just state to state. If you have room you may want to consider a rotation practice that allows an area to lay fallow and recoup from grazing. This can also help break the parasite cycles. Types of supplemental feeds and availability also vary from area to area. Work with your county extension office or state agricultural department to help determine the best mix for you. It should also be based on what grasses your able to grow. Most state colleges are very willing to help and a quick phone call or message can set you on the road to success. No matter what your personal situation is, your goal should always be to have healthy hogs. That's for breeding, selling, and for pork products. Healthy equals quality and with that you'll be successful.

Red Wattles Red Wattle Red Wattle Red Wattle Red Wattle Red Wattle Red Wattle Red Red Wattle **Red Wattle** Red Wattle Red Wattle

A lot of work goes into your RWHA newsletters. We try to bring RWHA updates as well as helpful information to make all our breeders as successful as possible. We hope you read and save them for future reference. All our newsletters are on our website in case you're a new member or have missed a few. They're full of good information so we hope you review them. If you have a topic you want discussed, a question, a problem, a rant, or even a compliment we'd like to hear from you. Whatever concerns you have probably concerns others as well.

How the RED WATTLE HOG ASSOCIATION began (in a nutshell)

On Nov. 3, 2001 The Red Wattle Hog Breeders held its first meeting to discuss creating an association and registered breeding stock. Those in attendance from the American Livestock Conservancy, (ALBC, now known as The Livestock Conservancy) were Marjorie Bender, Dr. Phil Sponenburg, and Dr. Don Bixby. Red Wattle breeders were Billy and Donna Watkins, Matt Proesel, Jerry Russell, Liz Gordan, Tim Rowe, Mark Celesky, Clyde Grover, Jesse Adams, and Pam and Edmund Brown. Several founding guidelines were established at this meeting.

- 1.) Individual hogs would be registered rather than by entire litter.
- 2.) Some type of identification would be necessary, notch, tattoo, or tag.
- 3.) The association would be named: The Red Wattle Hog Association, being spelled with T's rather than with D's.
- 4.) Clyde Grover was elected President and Mr. Brown as Vice President. No other officers named.
- 5.) Concern was expressed about allowing undocumented hogs in the registry. A committee will be formed to develop breed standards. Only new hogs added to the registry would be subject to breed standards, once developed.
- 6.) Fees and dues were established.
- 7.) The Cecil Edgar herd, predominantly "Timberline", was a historically known and documented closed herd for several years. Wengler hogs appear to have shorter noses or snouts, and a shorter, more compact body shape. It's well known that H C Wenglar bought, sold and traded extensively therefore it was agreed the Cecil Edgar herd be used to model breed standards.
- 8.) Research indicates there were 13 RW breeders known to exist. Eight attended the meeting. No other names were given.
- 9.) With assistance from Dr. Sponenburg, known cross bred hogs could be admitted however they must be very close to pure Red Wattle genetics. Purity numbers given were 15/16th for female and 31/32 for males. This decision was made due to the low known population at the time, but also knowing that allowing known cross bred hogs would be detrimental.

The next meeting minutes we have are from Nov. 8, 2003.

5 RED WADDLE HOGS

- 1.) By-Laws were established.
- 2.) Josh Wendland, master breeder with The Livestock Conservancy, was in attendance and suggested that slight imperfections such as swirls and/or black spots be accepted until the breed population increases.
- 3.) The American Livestock Breed Conservancy (ALBC) would maintain the registrations, transfers, and pedigrees.
- 4.) Breed Standards were established and are as follows.

These hogs should be of red coloring, ranging from almost yellow to almost black, preferably medium red. White tips will be allowed for registration. A few black markings along the back will be allowed but it would be preferred not to have any such markings. Each hog presented for registration should have good feet and sturdy, straight legs set well apart by a broad chest and well-muscled: free moving active body. The back should be firm, not soft and pliable. The nose should be of medium length and straight or slightly concave. At present time any sort of ears are acceptable. When we enlarge the genetic base, then perhaps ears could be upright with only tips of ears tipped forward. These hogs should be of good, quiet disposition. Wattles on each breeding hog are preferred but individual hogs can be registered without wattles.

Nov. 6, 2004 RWHA meeting

Red Wattle

- 1.) Breed standards and By-Laws were discussed with minor revisions recommended by ALBC. *(those revisions are not listed)*
- 2.) Motion seconded and passed to include pictures of all hogs submitted for registration.
- 3.) White tips (socks), and swirls were removed from breed standards. *No longer allowed.*
- 4.) The breed-up program was implemented using the Dutch Belted cattle program as guide.
- 5.) The recovery program was implemented.

The recovery program ended Jan. 01, 2013. Because the breed-up program is so difficult, timely and expensive, it never caught hold. Neither program is now considered necessary.

The initial board of directors and members worked closely with The Livestock Conservancy, utilizing their knowledge and experience to help form and guide the RWHA into the successful organization it's become. We do the same today. With encouragement from the Livestock Conservancy, on Sept. 2012 the RWHA began managing our own registry however we still maintain a close relationship with them.

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According to our own records, hogs were initially allowed registration if they were one step away from being classified as 100% pure RW, meaning the next generation would be considered pure. This follows the principles of the Dutch Belted cattle Breed-Up program. The initial members knew population needed to be increased, however they chose a method the least harmful to the bred. There may not be history on some initial hogs in our pedigrees, but they were admitted with the belief they were true Red Wattle. There are a few exceptions but thru time there should not be concern over purity of current hogs. Those exceptions appear to come from an early breed-up program that never fully materialized. We can't be sure though.

Many of the people we know as "oldtimers" and experts never attended a meeting and never took part in any decisions made. They raised their hogs and wanted to be left alone. Some were not even RWHA members at any time.

At the time, Cecil Edgar was considered to have the type hog that the RWHA wanted to use as a model for breed standards. There are no known pictures of his hogs but a few descriptions are: medium length nose being straight to slight curve, no dish face nose, medium to longer length ears over the eyes, medium to dark red color, long straight thick legs making a taller hog, broad, wide and long body. Cecil went for tall, wide and long. At 6 months old Cecil would put a large dinner plate on the hogs back. If the plate stayed put, the body was wide enough for its age. If not, the hog became dinner.

We know it was difficult to describe ears at the time and it still is. Descriptions went from upright to erect as it is now, which is still misleading. Ears should be firm and come out over the eyes, much like a ball cap visor. The tips of the ears can be tipped or bent downward and often are. Once mature, RW ears do not stand up from the head like Tamworth hogs or German Shepherd dogs.

It's not known if requiring pictures to accompany registrations was ever implemented. There are no records and no known pictures. Red Wattle 37

Through time, increasing hog population and more interest and breeders, the RWHA has evolved into a successful association. The breed standards were adjusted and expanded to better capture the true Red Wattle characteristics, but they're also loose enough to allow the breeder to develop the type Red Wattle they want to see. Descriptions were added to better understand their meanings. The By-Laws and rules have been adjusted and improved to better suit our growing population. Through it all we have maintained our original purpose. **To protect and propagate our breed.** Breed Standards, membership rules, and by-laws are all necessary. They not only protect the breed and its integrity, but they protect our members and breeders.

Reports from a SSARE study conducted at Berea College in 2015, using DNA and other information gathered from heritage breeds. **Red Wattle**, Large Black, AGH, Tamworth, Herford, Choctaw, Gloucestershire Old Spots, Mule Foot, Ossabaw Island, and Meishan.

- 1.) *It appears that Red Wattle has a better genetic diversity than other breeds in the study. (This means they are not quite as inbred as other breeds in the study)*
- 2.) *Red Wattles appear related to Tamworth in one study but completely unrelated in another study. Breed history would not suggest a relationship.*
- 3.) *Registration validates purebred status.*

Of particular interest: No relationship found with Red Wattle and Duroc. This may change in the future as more DNA code is discovered. Those geneticists can tell relationships between breeds but they can't yet determine breeds. It's sort of like which came first, the chicken or the egg. Which breed hundreds of years ago begat which breed, that begat which breed.

The Livestock Conservancy Pedigree Analysis and Breeding Recommendations.

Compiled from early data from 1984 thru 1998 collection of records from the Wenglar, Prentice, and Animal Research Foundation registries, and combining later records from 1999 thru 2013. The purpose of the study is to monitor the health of the breed by investigating trends in registration and inbreeding.

- 1.) *It was determined the breed would benefit from less inbreeding, or the mating of closely related hogs.*

It appears that the reports may contradict each other however that's not entirely correct. Red Wattles, like all breeds, do have inbreeding and goal oriented line breeding in their history, but not to the extent of the other breeds mentioned. This is due to distance to obtain unrelated genetics, and the time and finances needed. As a result pockets of "like" genetics develop, resulting in higher COI's. This is also due to our small number of foundation hogs used to begin the registry. The genetic "bottleneck" is improving with varied genetics being gathered and moved across the country. It will take time but it's happening. ***Higher COI's or genetic closeness is not always a bad thing. Please review our Spring 2017 newsletter that discusses this topic in more detail. ***

Also in the study is this report.

- 1.) *Original Wenglar line was bred with the Prentice line in about 1984, before the founding of the RWHA registry. Among the animals first registered, crossing between the two lines was clearly being done on most farms so it seems unlikely that any pure Prentice or pure Wenglar lines are still in existence. ***One reason why Wenglar hogs were not used for breed standards.****

Older breeder names may be on the pedigrees of those old foundation hogs and also on more current ones, but it never means they are particular blood lines. The RWHA records which have been examined by The Livestock Conservancy, indicates there never were any blood lines and there are none currently. By reviewing pedigrees yourself you'll see this. It takes a minimum of 3 to 4 generations of studied and documented breeding in an entirely closed herd to develop a line.

The best tool to develop the type of Red Wattle hog you want is to educate yourself and use your knowledge and experience. If your goal is improvement or even to remain status quo, you must wisely select breeding stock. Educational tools are provided on the RWHA website. Study them. Learn from other RW breeders. Genetics are cut and dry. They are what they are. You have control over how you make them behave in your own herd though.

There's much more to this endeavor than wanting to help save a breed. To be responsible, you must help by doing it wisely.

All official quotes listed and its sources can be found on our website.

Most of us call the early RW breeders “Oldtimers”. Here’s a little background.

Clyde Grover. One of the original members and founders of the RWHA. Clyde is still with us and is a virtual historical encyclopedia on our hogs and history. For his dedication, Clyde has been awarded free life-time membership.

Jesse Adams. He was also one of the original members and founders of the RWHA. He still breeds and raises his Red Wattles. Jesse has also been awarded free life-time membership for his dedication.

Bud Nichol. First appears in our records in Oct. 2004, but has 2 boars listed that are interesting. One with an Aug. 4, 1991 birth date, and the other with no additional information however decedents are listed going back to 1985. These records do provide a good history and also lets us know at least in 1985 Red Wattles were breeding in Missouri. Bud is listed as the breeder of 94 hogs, and the owner of 21. Our last official records of Bud are in Feb. 2009, however a few members have been in contact with him, myself included. His health is poor due to a stroke several years ago and he had to give up his hogs. A former RWHA board member purchased the hogs and then sold them at a sales barn. This broke his heart and he’s not very welcoming to any Red Wattle contact.

Cecil Edgar, one of the most outstanding breeders of Red Wattles and whose hogs were used initially to help develop our breed standards. Cecil kept a closed herd for many years of his “Timberline” hogs and they consistently displayed the true RW breed standards as we see today. Cecil passed away on Oct. 29, 2005 in Prairie City, SD. Cecil is listed as breeder of 50 hogs, and the owner of 44. This helps to justify that he kept his herd closed, and sold very little for breeding stock.

Elvis Kirsch. an official RWHA member from 2006, thru 2008. Elvis is listed as the breeder of 29 hogs and the owner of 3. It appears he began his herd with recovery hogs however there are no records to confirm. A bit of interest is that he has 2 sows with birthdates listed as Aug, 1, 1991 and June, 10, 1992. He also has 4 other hogs listed prior to these early sows but there are no dates given. One in particular is #1335-U, Little Joe Line Boar, with 7,206 registered descendants. Many RW breeders have this name in our own pedigrees so the descendants continue to grow. Of course all 6 hogs have dates prior to the establishment of the RWHA. Unfortunately there are no records other than the pedigrees. At the time of recording, the initial U was used for unknown. It was eventually replaced with the initial R for recovery hogs. Elvis recently passed away but I don’t have that information at this time.

Robert Prentice. Not a lot is known at this time with the exception of him having hogs listed in our registry. He partnered with Henry Wenglar for a while to sell hogs from the southern U.S. to butchering facilities in Detroit, Michigan and Regina, Canada. Former board member Theresa Scheiffelbein spent a day with his widow and his partner Wayne Freewicks, learning a great deal about Roberts life. Robert passed away about 8 years ago. He never shows as being a RWHA member at any time. He was more interested in providing to the pork industry. Robert has 4 hogs listed in our registry all listed as deceased and there are no histories. However those hogs produced descendants that still we still see in our pedigrees.

RED Wattle red wattle eighty four red wattles red wattle red wattle red waddle red wattle don't mess up red wattle red wattle RED WATTLE red wattle red wattle **red wattle We're glad you're here. red wattle**

Henry Wenglar- There have been many stories and fables about Henry. If you review some of our history and the old newspaper articles we've found you'll see that **Red Waddles** were in this country at least back to the mid 1800's. There were many more scattered across the country and not just 2 found in E. Texas. Red Wattles were farm animals providing pork the table, therefore there are not a lot of records. They were here, across the country on farms, in woods, and hanging in smoke sheds and root cellars. Henry was a master marketer. A Ripley's Believe it or not. P.T Barnham. What most people don't know is that Henry had a silent partner (not Robert Prentice although they partnered together) who raised most of the hogs so that Henry could sell and transport them to Detroit and Regina to become pork products. Henry and Robert Prentice worked together for a while, often trading breeding stock which negates any belief that either had particular blood lines. A feud developed and they parted ways. This was also about the time that the bottom fell out of the pork market. Profits dried up. Both breeders downsized greatly and eventually left the hog business. Henry never was a RWHA member. There are no hogs listed in our registry with Henry as breeder or owner. It is not known at this time when Henry Wenglar passed away.

Josh Wendland is a designated Master Breeder with The Livestock Conservancy and was highly instrumental in guiding the breed and the RWHA to the success we have today. Very few people ever achieve the Master Breeder status. Josh served as consultant and as a board member for the RWHA. He helped develop our breed standards, by-laws, rules, and many of the guidelines we use. He has an amazing curiosity and aptitude with animals and the patience to watch and learn from them and then teach others. Josh shows on our records as being a RWHA member from 2011 to 2012 however we know by our records he was a great influence years before that and continues to be. He's always open to sharing his knowledge and experiences.

Larry Sorell was a RWHA member from 2011 thru 2015 and also served as a board member. He shows as breeder of 12 Red Wattles and owner of 19. However we know there were and are many more. Larry's expertise lies in their pork and he's top notch in judging quality. Thanks to his dedication and knowledge there are Red Wattle burgers being sold in New York for \$20.00. He works with other Red Wattle breeders to help develop and provide outstanding quality pork to many vendors and restaurants. He knows how important it is to keep the breed integrity and to care for them properly because that's what makes the great pork. His original herd stock comes mainly from Josh Wendland and Clyde Grover, two of our "Oldtimers". While not quite an Oldtimer himself he deserves the recognition with the others for his contributions. Larry was on the board of directors when I came on board. He taught and encouraged me a lot as a newbie in our transition from The Livestock Conservancy registry.

I came on the Red Wattle scene in late 2011, before I even knew there was a RWHA. I heard and read many of the old timer stories and fables. It seemed they grew each time they were told. I was not around to meet some of these people, but I've interviewed the others and sometimes their family members. It helps to put our history into perspective and it's an ongoing project. Much of this information can be verified on our website thru pedigrees, membership records, official documents from the RWHA, The Livestock Conservancy, other associations and older newspaper articles.

What's a registry and why do I care ?

Many people get confused about the purpose of an association and a registry. There's all kinds of hogs. Some are crossed or mixed like you'd think of as a mutt dog. No particular breed but it still serves a purpose to the breeder and public. Some are specifically bred for shows, trophies and blue ribbons. Some hogs thru the experimental breeders don't look or act anything like their original ancestors. Sadly some hogs and their entire breed have been severely damaged due to careless and uncontrolled breeding. Some people want to create their own "Designer" hogs and have their special breed. Some have become extinct. Totally gone.

Every hog owner has their reasons for keeping them. Some have lofty goals and some just want pork for the table. It takes all kinds.

A registry is formed for specific breeds to assure the breed stays true to its self. Registries have a purpose and goals otherwise they aren't necessary. In order to accomplish the goals of any registry breed standards and guidelines for the breed must be established and they must be adhered to. Registries should be thought of as exclusive. Top Dog. Registrations- those pieces of paper you can't eat- should stand for something. That's where the integrity of the breed, the association and the members come in. The registry assures to the best of its ability that any animal listed with a piece of paper showing a pedigree is what the breeder says it is. Those pieces of paper applaud the hard work of the breeders and they purposefully single out exceptional breeding.

The purpose of the RWHA is to protect and grow our breed as the great heritage hog it is. Nature- thru hundreds of years worked its magic and produced it. It's not a man-made genetic tampering and experimented on hog. It's a nature made breed all to itself. Special and unique. The goal is to keep our hog as it is and we do that thru the registry and pedigrees. By using guidelines and breed standards that have taken years to develop and fine tune we know how our hog should conform in appearance, traits and characteristics.

Why not register all the litter? They're from registered sires and dams so what's the problem? Why can't I or why shouldn't I?

Think on this to put it in perspective. Humans on average have one child at a time. Hogs have 7-10 or 12 on average. In a human family somewhere a red head blue eyed daughter with big ears will be born. She'll be pretty with a sweet personality. Her legs are short and kind of bowed at the knees and she's petite all over. Everyone can see the family resemblance. She's got her mothers' eyes and smile but they also see her unique differences. Where on earth did a tiny red head come from when her parents are tall and dark? Hmm..... Could it be genetics back a few generations ago that are now showing up rather than some hanky panky? DNA shows they are the parents. But hey, she doesn't "FIT" into the family as we know it. This same thing happens to hogs but its 7-10 to 12 times more likely.

A lot of the offspring doesn't "Fit" into the family meaning they don't match up to the required breed standards that says this hog should look and perform a particular way - but it never means they're a bad hog. Thankfully humans don't have registries or pedigrees or we'd all be in trouble. Now that those genes have made their appearance they will continue to show up in the children of that little girl- or that hog. They're always there, hiding in the background. This is why we should never register hogs that don't match the breed standards. Red color with wattles is never enough to judge.

Watch your hogs grow. Develop a keen eye for what you need to see for those papers that can't be eaten because those papers are important verification of your breeding program, hard work and dedication.

But I can't afford to wait and feed them and they all look nice.

If you're in it for the long haul, you can't afford the damage to your reputation and you could cause damage to the smaller genetic pool of Red Wattles. Ever done the calculations on registering a hog versus growing and selling the pork or a butcher hog? Average price for a weaned registered piglet is around \$250.00 to \$300.00. Average money recouped from selling pork is around \$1000.00 to \$1200.00. True it's more work but remember it'll help your bank account to cull wisely, and it'll help keep only the best RW genetics in the breeding pool. Those culled hogs are necessary for pork supply. This breed will not survive unless the pork is eaten and thru your wise breeding and selection you can help provide it while also keeping our registered breeding genetic pool the best it can be.

Terms you want to know but were afraid to ask...

COI- Inbreeding Coefficient

The inbreeding coefficient is a measure of the probability that the pair of genes will be identical, having originated with a common ancestor. The coefficient of inbreeding, or COI as it's known, is a number between 0% and 100%. If the COI of an animal is 0%, then there is no probability that the animals share a common ancestor that contributed a common gene to their offspring. If the probability is 100% (a condition that almost never occurs), then it is a highly inbred animal and there is an absolute certainty that the same genes from a common ancestor will be paired in the offspring.

So, why should you care about the COI? **Because as a general rule, the greater the inbreeding in an animal, the more likely it is that harmful genes will be expressed.** When genes form pairs in the offspring, when each gene in the pair is at least slightly different, it tends to dampen the expression of negative genetic characteristics. But when the paired genes are identical, it is more probable that negative genetic characteristics will be expressed. This is what scientists called *inbreeding depression*, a condition that reduces the general fitness of an animal population. The COI is, however, only a tool to use in your breeding program. Your final determination in breeding should not rest on the use of only the COI. Use your education and your eyes.

Linebreeding is also an educated program that's often confused with in-breeding. All breeders will have higher COI numbers with linebreeding. It's a deliberate and goal oriented program to combine and keep like genetics that are desired. Linebreeding brings out those desired genetics but it can also bring our undesired ones. Goals must be established and strict culling must be practiced to be successful. Linebreeding can create genetic depression however most breeders will outcross by bringing in totally different genetics from time to time to combat this and to help with genetic vigor.

For additional information on breeding programs and the reasons why COI's are important but not everything, please review the Spring 2017 newsletter.

To figure the COI of your animals, go to the Red Wattle Hog Association website and use the COI Calculator. You must sign in to use this function. Go to the hog in question on the animal list and click on the small "I" to the left. The next screen shows information and a box to the upper right that says COI Information. Click there and it will calculate the COI for you. You will notice that many hogs already have their COI's posted.

Flagged - registrations that have flagged animals

A flag in the pedigree of a registered animal indicates that one of the animals in the pedigree was found to be outside of compliance of breeding standards. This doesn't mean that the animal is in any way inferior, simply that extra care needs to be allowed for breeding and registration of replacement animals. Breeding with the flagged genetics in mind is not hard if you follow the recommendations. Use a non-flagged boar on any sows or gilts and make sure that you do not breed a flagged animal to a flagged animal thereby concentrating the non-standard genetics. There are quite a few very nice Red Wattles in production that happen to have flagged genetics. This shouldn't deter you from purchasing them. It is designed to make you aware that breeding them requires awareness of the non-standard genetics.

Facebook, Website and Forum....oh my!

The RWHA has a Facebook page, Facebook Classifieds page, a website and a members forum. You do not need to be a member of the association to use the Facebook discussion page, the Classifieds page or the website. You need to sign up to view the forum and several other very helpful pages of the website are for members of our exclusive club only!.

We ask for membership on these sites to avoid spammers who could destroy our sites.

RWHA website membership entitles you to post in the forum section and to view other information on the site that isn't available to non-members. Website membership is not RWHA membership and RWHA membership does not make you a website member. For website membership, just click on the button. "Not a member yet?" You'll be sent a password that you need to keep safe for future use. For RWHA membership go to the RWHA tab and the next screen has our forms and you can even use pay pal.

These are great places to learn about every aspect of the breed, breeding and raising both breeding stock and meat hogs!

Recovery - animals that came to the registry through a special program

If you go through the animals list on the website, you will find some animals that have an "R" and a number one or two, after their registration number. These animals have come to the herd book through the recovery program. The idea behind this concept is building the herd book numbers through entry of a select group of animals that were not registered as such but were thought to be purebred through verification of breeder records by the RWHA board that was sitting at the time of entry. The recovery program was adopted by the RWHA in Nov. 2004 and modeled after the recovery program put forth by the Belted Galloway cattle program of the same name. Over time, the program morphed into a more lax program and animals that appeared to be purebred but had no history were allowed into the herd book through this program to be watched for breed standard compliant offspring. This goes against the reasons the program was implemented and there was little to no control over breed genetics. There was no way to know if these animals were purebred or not and this program was ended for the further protection of the registered animals that were already in the herd book. The program ended as of Jan. 01, 2013. R2's may still be registered however R1's are not accepted.

Red Wattle

Red Wattles red wattles red wattle **Red Wattle** Red Wattle Wattles red wattles red red red red wattle red wattle red wattles red wattles **red wattle** Red Wattle red wattle Red Wattle red wattle **RED**

WATTLE

Mary had a little red wattle, it hair was red and short. Everywhere that Mary went the red wattle was sure to snort.

What's in the future.

Soon we hope to bring on-line registrations to our website. It will need to be combined with pay pal to cover registration fees. Our goal is to have this completed and working by the end of the year. Our webmaster is extremely busy with other commitments but at least we know it's in the works. Printed and snail mailed registration applications will always be accepted. This may ease the anxiety of some people who worry their applications and payments have been lost.

Transfers will still need to be mailed in. Original registrations are required to transfer ownership. None of us want original registrations floating around for misuse. This is added protection for all of us.

We also plan to put indicators on individual hogs on the animal list to confirm if DNA is on file. Currently DNA only shows in the hogs information if you are signed in but a more visible spot will be beneficial to all breeders. This will also be a good marketing tool for you. It will confirm your hogs *and your pork* are what you say it is.

Our registry office, Mountain Niche Registry in Chehalis, WA also handles our website. It's a busy place that manages several associations. This is why it takes a few weeks for your official registrations. We must wait our turn, but this office is one of the best and we're fortunate it's part of our team. The registrar verifies all applications and requests that come in, transfers the information to our website and issues registrations and transfers of ownership. Any updates that need to be done (on-line registrations for example) are also done there. If you have any questions or concerns about your registrations or transfers please contact a board member who will relay your request if needed. Please do not contact the registrar directly.

As a bit of history, up until Sept. 1, 2012 The Livestock Conservancy (ALBC) handled our registrations and transfers. It was done quarterly making it so that official papers were not received for about 4 months. That created anxiety bigly. It may still be a pain but it's better. As a matter of courtesy to your buyers you should tell them it takes approximately 6 weeks for official documents to be delivered.

Currently there is no formal process for registrations if a seller/breeder sells a bred sow or gilt and the new owner wants to register from the litter. The suggested way to handle this is for the new owner to contact the breeder with the farrowing date and names of the offspring he or she wants to register. The breeder should contact a board member with that information and it will be relayed on to the registrar office. This is confirmation and permission of the breeder to allow registration. Otherwise the breeder/seller must sign the registration request and that may be difficult if it's a long distance away. Both the breeder/seller must be involved. If a registration request is received for a hog and the sire, time frame, or location don't match, the registry office will decline unless he knows the gilt or sow was bred on one farm and sold to another as bred. There have been a few instances where a breeder has a litter but no registered boar so they use our animal list and choose one. Your boar and you could unwittingly become breeders of a sow you don't know about so this is another avenue of protection for you.

We hope you've read, enjoyed and learned something. Now that you're at the end we have a reward. Throughout this newsletter are the words-red wattle. Not red wattles, not red and not wattle. They are in black or different colors, in caps or lower case and some are artistic. Look for red wattle of any shape or color. Both words together. The first person to correctly count how many times red wattle is used will receive 2 free DNA tests. That's \$60 bucks worth! This could be a total of 4 if you already use our

free offer. You can contact me at redwattles@hotmail.com or 270-565-3815. Be careful of the tricks.
Good luck to you.