

A considerable amount of time has been devoted to the investigation into the hog known as PJ #1959-R1. As a result of the research, the board members of the Red Wattle Hog Association have reached a decision. Although PJ will remain in the registry, future offspring registration applications will not be accepted. The currently registered offspring of PJ will not be affected and will remain in the registry retaining their current registration status. Melissa Parker is aware of this decision. Everyone that has seen PJ's picture feels that PJ is a good looking boar, has good confirmation and has produced nice looking offspring. He is just not a boar that fits into the Red Wattle breed standard.

While no animal is a perfect animal, it is imperative to the breed that all animals approved for the registry meet the most basic of breed standards.

We recognize that this discussion has been hard on everyone. This explanation has been long in coming but we felt that we would rather take more time in double checking our sources of information in order to do the best job that we could.

Could we have handled things differently? Of course and we've learned. We sincerely apologize for our part in adding to any of the confusion.

This boar came to our attention when checking the background of a recovery hog application. In reaching a decision, this is what we found out after 6 plus weeks of investigation...

- While Nathan Melson is listed as PJ's breeder on the registration application, our research has found that Nathan Melson was the breeder of PJ's Grand-dam, Mary Lou. Nathan Melson then sold Mary Lou as a gilt to Mr. and Mrs. Falster. Dolly (PJ's dam) was a product of a breeding to the Kirsch herd boar brought to the farm by Elvis Kirsch. Dolly was farrowed at the home of the Falsters. Nathan Melson said that he never owned Dolly, PJ's Dam, nor did he own the boar that is PJ's sire. This is verified by both Mr. and Mrs. Falster and Nathan Melson.
- The Falster's state that they only used one boar the entire time that they owned Dolly's dam, Mary Lou. This boar was a Kirsch herd boar that Mr Elvis Kirsch brought to the Falster farm and picked up after the breeding period was over. There were no other boars on that farm during this period.
- The Falster's cannot remember if they sold Dolly as bred or as an open gilt to the Stecks. It was not their usual practice for them to breed a daughter to a father (as this breeding would have been) and they have no recollection of doing so but they cannot discount it either.
- We know that the Stecks, the probably breeders of PJ, had problems with feral hogs breeding their stock and continued to have this problem at the time that they owned Dolly. This information came to the Falsters through the Stecks at the time of the sale. There is a question that PJ may have been a product of a feral breeding. This opinion was seconded by Nathan Melson as a distinct possibility.

Officially, this is all that the board has to say about this matter although we are always here to answer any questions privately.