## RED WATTLE HOG ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Summer 2011

# SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- > The breed up program closes Jan. 1, 2013
- > RWHA annual meeting at the Small Farm Show and Conference in Columbia, Mo.
- Recovery registration closes January 1, 2012

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## SELECTION GUIDE: HELP!!

Ok I guess I'm going to have to beg.

We are desperate. We have all the text ready for the new Red Wattle Selection Guide. It's been reviewed by the board and several of our long time breeders. Words are great, but they can't do what pictures can. We just don't have enough pictures to make a really useful publication.

Please, Please, Please send in any and all pics you have of your Red Wattles- the animals you've kept for breeding and the ones you have culled for meat. We need examples of the good, the bad and the ugly. Rest assured no identifying information will be used in

## <u>REMEMBER:</u>

The recovery program closes
January one 2012. If you have or
know of any purebred RW's that
have not been registered PLEASE
contact Dot Parker Jordan. She
will be happy to help you apply for
recovery registration for your
animals.

Don't let these valuable animals be lost from the RW record. We need to preserve all of our genetic diversity.

the guide so that there is no implied judgment of the hogs from any particular breeder.

The Guide is intended as a teaching tool to help all Red Wattle owners make better decisions when selecting stock to use for their breeding programs.

So send those pig pics in right away so we can meet

our goal of rolling out the new guide at the annual meeting in November.

Pics can be emailed to: redwattles@hotmail.com or sent snail mail to: RWHA 308 Knoll Ct Apt E Crawfordsville IN 47933 or upload them to Picassa or Photobucket and send me the link to find them.

Thank you,

Dot



## RED WATTLE HOG ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

# Red Wattles The ultimate bacon makin' machine!

#### 2011 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

It's time once again to start the process of selecting officers and RWHA Board of Directors positions.

The following offices will be up for election this year:

President: Brian has made the difficult decision to step down before the end of his term in order to better concentrate on his studies and undergraduate research

The president presides over all meetings both the annual meeting and teleconference meetings of the Board of Directors. This will be a one year position to finish out the current term.

Secretary/Treasurer: My term is up. I will not be running for another term as I am having health issues at this time.

Duties include, but are not limited to: maintenance of the redwattleproject.com site including the Forum, coordination with the ALBC in maintaining the accuracy of the registry, all banking and book keeping, maintenance of the member database, editing/writing the RWHA newsletter 4 times a year.

RWHA Board of Directors members at large: two positions. Board members must be available for a minimum of 4 teleconference meetings. These meetings usually last about one hour. These are on year terms.

If you have questions about these positions or want to nominate yourself for a position please contact me at: red-wattles@hotmail.com or 812-360-7765



### LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Last chance to nominate an individual for their contributions to the stewardship and preservation of the Red Wattle Hog.

Email nomination to:

redwattles@hotmail.com

Or send snail mail to:

308 knoll Ct Apt E

Crawfordsville In 47933

Watch the forum on redwattleproject.com for Josh Wendland, ALBC Master Breeder's article *The Importance of Culling* 

# THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING GOOD RECORDS

Careful record keeping is very important in any breeding program.
Whether you have one sow and one boar or 20 sows and 3 boars.
Keeping records allows you to see where you've been and make better decisions about where you are heading with your breeding program.

Records that should be kept include: matings, litter size, defects, which animals were culled for market hogs, which animals were retained as breeding stock, sales records, registry numbers and notes on your observations.

Keeping records up to date is much easier than playing catch up later on. It also gives potential buyers a very good impression of you as a breeder and allows them to see that you are conscientious about your stewardship and

conservation of the Red Wattle breed.

A simple pocket notebook or a laptop with a spread sheet set up will work. It just depends on your operation. The important thing is that you keep your records up to date and make notes of things that you observe while working with your hogs. For example: if you have a sow that is "grouchy" "irritable" and "snappy". Does she have some physical problem that needs to be treated? or is her temperament just not in line with the RW breed. RW's should be calm. easy going and gentle. If there is a physical problem it should be addressed, if there is no physical problem this sow should be culled to improve the breed.

Litter records let you know when a sow's or a boar's fertility has dropped too low to be

Sire	Date Bred	Due Date	Farrowed	#M	#F	#Weaned
					-	
/ /						
			-	-	-	-
					+	
			-	-	-	
					1,	
			-		-	
					1	

economical. When this happens it is time to choose new breeders and send the older animals for processing. Litter records also let you know farrowing number vs. weaning numbers. After all a sow that farrows large litters but consistently weans small numbers of piglets is not a good prospect for long term breeding. Theresa Scheffelbein, RWHA member came up

with these simple record keeping charts for her farm. You can request electronic copies by emailing:

redwattles@hotmail.com

If you have suggestions for other forms that would be helpful, please, contact me at redwattles@hotmail.com or give me a call at 812-360-7765

Name/#	DOB	R Ear	L Ear	Sex	Litter Size	Sold to/Butchered	Date
				-			
•							-
							-
	-						

# Change in membership/registration:

The RWHA Board of Directors has voted to make membership in the RWHA in requirement for registering RW hogs.

Anyone wishing to register Red Wattle Hogs will be required to become a member of the Red Wattle Hog Association before submitting registration applications or transfers.

Membership applications can be downloaded from redwattleproject.com (click on the RWHA tab at the top of the page.) or by request from redwattles@hotmail.com or RWHA 308 Knoll Ct Apt E, Crawfordsville IN 47933.

## Don't let them be lost

All too frequently I get a phone call from someone who has purchased a RW and now wants to register the animal. Unfortunately, they have lost or misplaced the paperwork given to them by the breeder. When this happens I have to tell them to go back to the breeder and request new registration application forms with the proper signatures.

Animals can be "lost" from the system for years when they change hands without being either registered by the breeder of never transferred to in the registry to new owners.

The RWHA recommends that all breeders send in the registration application at time of sale as a courtesy to the new owner and to keep from "losing" these animals from the registry and documentation of the breed.

If you have questions or need any assistance with the process, please, do not hesitate to contact our secretary:

Dot Parker Jordan, RWHA, 308 Knoll Ct Apt E, Crawfordsville IN 47933

Or

redwattles@hotmail.com

812-360-7765