

**Red Wattle Hog Association
Election Candidates Issue
Fall 2017**

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Your voting ballot(s) should be in your envelope. If not, please let a board member know and we'll get one to you. There are 2 positions open for Board Member at Large and one for secretary/treasurer. You should have 3 boxes marked to be completed. Our ballots are pre-addressed and stamped to The Livestock Conservancy who oversees our elections. Sometimes signatures are difficult to read so please sign but also print your name.

Although we don't have alternate candidates to choose from it's still very important that you cast your vote. Participation is always encouraged and needed and the RWHA needs an official election to fill the positions. Your Board of Directors needs your support. At various times throughout the year the returned ballots could also be used in drawings to award prizes such as farm related magazine subscriptions or books. Don't miss out on that opportunity.

Thank you to the candidates who have volunteered their time, knowledge and experience to help everyone within the RWHA.

Julie DeMilt of Past Ur Time Farm in Rutherfordton, NC.

Candidate for Board Member at Large

I have a BS in Business Management and I've spent 26 years in corporate positions focused on marketing, sales and sales operations.

In 2013, my husband Stephen and I purchased a working 150 acre farm in western NC. We were new to farming but we learned from the previous owner and we took over his farm with 10 beef cows and 3 Berkshire hogs. We knew we wanted to be in the hog business but we wanted something unique to differentiate ourselves. We researched and decided on the Red Wattle due to its meat and ability to thrive on pasture. We purchased our first 3 hogs and joined the RWHA in 2014. Since then we have been focused on breeding and raising Red Wattles and learning about confirmation, finishing and a marketing strategy.

We currently have 6 registered breeding sows and 1 registered boar. We are focused primarily on wholesale outlets. We have 2 restaurants and a local natural market that we sell finished products to and we are also working with a local charcuterie business interested in whole hogs. We do some local retail sales of whole hogs and finished sausages, pork chops and bacon to friends and neighbors.

In 2016 we received our AWA certificate for our hog business and it was recently renewed for 2017. Our hogs are raised naturally on pasture.

Although we are still new to farming and hogs, what we have learned and experienced in the last 3 ½ years has been amazing. The RWHA provides a great network of breeders and people from all aspects of farming.

I thought having a board member new to the business might offer a balanced perspective and I would be honored to serve on the Board of Directors.

Thank you kindly for your time and consideration!

Julie DeMilt
Past Ur Time Farm
704-453-3471

Karen Doyle of Georgiatown Farm in White Stone, VA

Candidate for Board Member at Large

I got into farming purely by accident. After nearly 35 years in the high end food industry I found food abominable. I started raising chickens for meat and I went to a local farmers market and took orders for chicken and by the end of summer I had sold 400. I got 2 Chester White pigs to raise, one for me and one for someone else. My goal was to eat for free! I was not impressed with that meat. In fact I was disappointed. Researching, I ended up on Greenfire farms page with a description of Red Wattle meat, I had to have some. I found a breeder in Virginia and ordered 2. Well you know it takes 2 years before you actually eat the meat. Raise 2 young, breed, grow out, butcher... That was January 2011. Since then I have raised other breeds and tasted them and compared the cross bred and pure pigs of at least 8 breeds. I invited chefs and other producers to taste test. Hands down producers of other pigs, chefs, and the general public preferred Red Wattle pork to all others. Red Wattle improved every other pig except the Tamworth. Tamworth is a dense not very marbled meat that doesn't come close to being as flavorful as Red Wattle.

My biggest contribution to the breed is the education I provide at farmers markets and by holding tastings and pig roasts. People are so surprised when they compare 3 hog breeds and they can taste the difference. My signs all say 100% Red Wattle pork. It always starts dialogue even if people aren't buying. They've learned about rare and endangered species of livestock and have their curiosity aroused. I think Red Wattle pork needs to be more widely available so people know to ask for it. I probably sell too much registered breeding stock but I do only sell the best. In my opinion you never know if a female is good until she has offspring. Of course you don't want tall, gangly, poor looking pigs being registered, I don't do that. I think registration is a good way to keep track of lineage and to where the lines go.

Sincerely,
Karen Doyle

Kathy Bottorff of Red Dirt Hill Farm in Horse Cave, KY

Candidate for Secretary/Treasurer

Our farm is named for the red clay dirt that coincidentally matches perfectly with the color of Red Wattles. Our RW herd is constantly changing so I can't give you numbers. We have registered and feeder/meat hogs of various ages. We sell hogs, piglets and pork products at different markets and on the farm. Bill and I strive very hard to keep our farm and livestock as natural as possible. Our belief is that nature made is best for them, us, our customers and our environment.

Most of you already know me as your secretary/treasurer for the past few years and you know I have a great passion for Red Wattles and their success, meaning your success as well. With the help of our membership and dedicated board members we've developed the RWHA into an association to be proud of.

As a former bookkeeper and sometimes filling in as secretary, I've fine-tuned our official procedures to be more efficient and easier to manage. I also write our newsletters and try to keep our members up to date on helpful information.

Because of seeing a need, I recently stepped out of those positions to develop our tutorial and I truly enjoy the research and knowing that this area may help someone in need. As with most anything, the Red Wattle history is confusing and sometimes filled with misinformation and tall tales that can be interesting. I enjoy researching and interviewing to help put the history in a more correct perspective.

I see the RWHA as coming a long way from its beginnings and fulfilling those early peoples hopes and dreams of being an association to be proud of while protecting the hog that we all love. The RWHA will always have more work to do but we're on firm ground and moving into the future as bigger and better.

Sincerely,
Kathy Bottorff

Pneumonia

Pneumonia can be caused by one or a combination of several things. It can be bacterial or viral. It appears most times in cold conditions but can be any time of the year. Other contributing factors can be stress, over-crowded conditions especially with poor ventilation, high levels of excrement gases, and even parasites.

Symptoms can be: Loss of Appetite, Coughing, Lethargic, (laying down or slow movement when other hogs are active), Shallow Breathing, and Temperature.

Treatment is with antibiotics based on age, size and weight. Mortality rate can be high if not treated.

Pneumonia is highly contagious and should be caught and treated early. Most hogs huddle together when resting or sleeping making infection transfer easy and likely.

Normal temperature of hogs is 101 degrees. Temperature is taken rectally with a regular thermometer dedicated to hogs and sterilized after each use. If a thermometer is not available, feel the ears and nose for abnormal warmth.

Pneumonia progresses quickly in particular in young pigs but all hogs can be infected. If pneumonia is diagnosed it's probably best to treat the herd. It can cause permanent lung damage in young pigs meaning recurrent health problems in the future and not being as thrifty.

Know your hogs. Watch individual behaviors so you know when something is different. Keep your hogs as stress free as possible by handling illnesses or injuries swiftly. Control predator issues to the best of your abilities. Provide enough space for exercise. Provide shade, mud holes, proper diet, and shelter. Keep living and sleeping areas clean and freshened.

An overload of parasites, (worms in particular) can also cause coughing and lethargic behavior. Monitor your hogs for parasites and treat accordingly to more easily identify other problems if or when they appear. Parasites can also carry disease.

Consider isolation if you have a hog that appears out of sorts until you can identify the problem and treat if necessary.

Swine Flu

Swine Flu usually appears in colder temperatures but can be anytime of the year. Symptoms and spread of illness are similar to pneumonia but you may also see discharge from the nose and eyes. Transmission to humans is rare but does happen. Hogs are also susceptible to Avian Flu and Human Flu viruses. It's spread by close contact with infected pigs or hogs. There are specific vaccines for swine flu however it's much like the human flu which frequently changes. In most cases it's recommended to treat the symptoms for example the temperature, and provide an easily digestible diet with access to plenty of fluids. Death can and does happen however mortality rate is low with swine flu. You should also consider isolation of infected pigs and hogs. Isolation helps by decreasing rate of spread and it also allows you to better monitor and treat those that are infected.



Disease control is one reason confinement facilities operate the way they do. Because of close confinement diseases can progress and spread quickly. At the same time, eyes can be on larger groups of hogs to notice anything out of the ordinary. Confinement facilities are also built with materials that are easy to clean and disinfect to help control body wastes which can harbor disease.

Hogs are herding animals. They live and travel in groups even on your farm. This makes it easier for problems such as diseases to spread. It's important that you provide enough space for your hogs to live stress free. Provide fresh water and nutritious food. Keep bedding or sleeping areas as clean and fresh as possible. Good biosecurity is important for the health and safety of your hogs at all times. Monitor your hogs for changes, especially when their normal routine changes. Watch and get to know the personalities of your hogs. They all are different. If you discover a hog that's presenting different than usual it can be important to know why as soon as possible. As with any illness or injury, isolation may be necessary to avoid spreading or further injury.

Tutorial help needed

The RWHA tutorial on our website is a good go-to place to learn about Red Wattles in particular and swine in general. It can briefly help answer some of your questions. It's not ever meant to replace professionals but to be a starting point. It probably won't ever be complete. Our hope is that it continues to grow and sometimes even change as the swine world changes around us in the future.

We can't do it alone though. We need everyone's help with their questions, comments, knowledge, experience and pictures. Pictures can help by visualizing where a written description just can't capture. All submissions are always kept confidential. We know we all have problems, injuries, illnesses, and even birth defects. Sometimes we don't want others to know but remember if it happened to you, it's happened to many others and somebody out there might learn from it.

Help us help you and others. We'd love to hear from you.

RWHA membership is annual and goes from April 1 thru March 31 every year. Membership dues are payable to RWHA and mailed to the address shown on the application.

Registration and transfer fees are payable to Mountain Niche Registry and mailed to the address shown on the form. Due to the work load our registry office average turn-around time is around 6 weeks. Please let your customers know this as a courtesy to help avoid anxiety about their purchase.

Our last winner of 2 free DNA testings is Theresa Schieffelbein. Theresa is sharing her winning with the person who came in second quickly behind her in time, Jennifer Howard. They each have until March 31, 2018 to submit their hair samples and claim their winnings. Congratulations to you both.

The RWHA is offering 2 free DNA tests to all our members until March 31, 2018. You get one registered boar and one registered sow or gilt. This is a \$60.00 value, FREE. If you're a lucky winner of our trivia contest that could mean 4 free DNA testings for you. If you need help getting through it just ask any board member. Instructions have been in several newsletters and the procedure is easy to do.

Joe & Janet Streit
Hamilton, OH.
Owner/operator Double J Farm
www.doublejfarmohio.com



Joe and Janet live in a log house built by Mennonites around 1798 but he's been able to successfully blend the old and the new with his farming enterprise.

Joe's been a RWHA member since 2010. That's dedication to his product-which is Red Wattles and more specifically their pork. With more competition and more small farmers breaking into the heritage breeds Joe thinks outside the box to market his products. Recently he began marketing his 100% Red Wattle pork in cans. Shelf ready and fully cooked. No long list of ingredients or preservatives. Just Red Wattle pork and sea salt. No need for freezers or refrigerators. This is a great product for people in a hurry but looking for healthy food and those cooks with imagination who can use it in soups, casseroles sandwiches, or the sky's the limit.

He's fortunate to have a cannery near his processor so any excess hogs or pork not already spoken for can go to the cannery.

Look for his label on the reverse side of our election ballot. Sometime in the near future we may see that label on our own local grocery shelves.

Interesting swine facts

Half of the worlds hogs live in China. U.S.A. is third.

Iowa leads the nation in hog population with more than 20,100,000.

Swine are among the first animals to be domesticated.

Bacon is one of the oldest processed meats in history beginning with the Chinese as early as 1500 B. C.

Spanish explorer Hernando DeSoto brought the first swine to the New World in 1539.

The word "hogwash" comes from feeding hogs garbage and slop, making them fat and worthless.

Pork provides 3 times more thiamin as any other food. Thiamin turns carbohydrates into energy.

Wall Street New York is named from the walls built for herding hogs to market, keeping them off private property.

Harry Truman said, "No man should be allowed to be president who does not understand hogs".

A hog can run a 7 minute mile.

Hogs have an average of 34 to 44 teeth.

About 40 medications are made from hogs.

Hogs have served as mine sniffers in battlefields.

During the War of 1812, Uncle Sam Wilson shipped boatloads of hundreds of barrels of pork to U.S. troops. Each barrel was labeled U.S. for Uncle Sam and is how Uncle Sam now represents the U.S. Government.

A pigs squeal can range from 110-115 decibels. A Concorde jet is under 112 decibels.

How much do you know?

About Red Wattles, RWHA or Swine

Here's a reward for making it thru the newsletter and possibly learning something new. The first person to contact me with the correct answers to these questions will win 2 free DNA tests worth \$60.00. All correct answers come from information on the RWHA website or in recent newsletters. There can be more than one correct answer to multiple choice questions or all may be correct pertaining to hogs. Contact me at: redwattles@hotmail.com or call 270-565-3815. Good Luck.

- 1.) Who was the first RWHA elected president?
- 2.) Is AI, artificial insemination an accepted practice in the RWHA?
- 3.) What are the 3 accepted means of hog identification in the RWHA?
- 4.) COI is:
 - Coefficient of inbreeding
 - Conflict of Interest
 - A number determining the familial genetic breeding
 - Cost of Insurance
- 5.) Swine DNA:
 - Can currently determine familial links but not breed type
 - Can currently determine breed type
 - Is currently offered for 2 free tests with the RWHA
 - Can determine the sex of an expectant litter
- 6.) How much did it cost to raise a hog to market weight in 1891?
- 7.) Coccidiosis is a:
 - Disease
 - Parasite
 - Virus
 - New red hybrid breed of chicken
- 8.) Testing and investigations done by The Livestock Conservancy, The University of Kentucky and Berea University have determined there is no relationship between Red Wattle hogs and Duroc hogs. T__ F__
- 9.) Sows can be impregnated by more than one boar during their cycle. T__ F__
- 10.) Until the year 1539 there were no swine in America. T__ F__
- 11.) Red Wattles hair coat is:
 - Light strawberry blond
 - Medium red
 - Dark red to almost black
 - All consistent with one color throughout
 - Short and coarse or long and wavy or thick or thin in growth.
- 12.) The placement of the tail set indicates the location of the reproductive organs and also has a bearing on the muscular and bone structure for soundness of the hog. T__ F__