

FALL 2021

RED WATTLE HOG ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Image courtesy of Russ Lee

What's in their feed?

Sometimes we encounter problems that have a simple diagnosis and "fix". There are a few times that this isn't the case. Nutritional deficiencies and the problems that they can cause is one of those more difficult to diagnose.

Very often, the clinical signs of a nutritional deficiency can also be the result of mismanagement, infectious disease, parasites or malnutrition. Most of the time the signs of a nutritional deficiency are not very specific to just a deficiency. You can see poor appetite, slow growth rates, general thriftiness and other signs that are hard to pinpoint to a specific cause.

A diagnosis isn't always very clear especially in a long-term deficiency. If the problem has been long term, many animals will experience irreversible damage.

Feed stores generally offer a complete feed that contains pre-mixed vitamin and minerals. These mixes are researched, tested and are verified by the source. Many feed stores also have people that are specifically trained in the formulation of feed but mistakes can be made either in mixing, measuring or elsewhere. Nothing is fool-proof.

Most hogs being raised out doors with free range access will try to vary their diets to their needs naturally but over time, the soil can become unbalanced and the plants that the ground provides will become less varied so it may be necessary to supplement with a balanced feed. It is always best to watch how your animals are performing from birth to freezer to get a full view of their health.

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Introducing the candidates for this years election!

The RWHA board is comprised of 5 members, President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and 2 at large positions. The President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer each serve three-year terms that expire on a rotating basis. The At Large positions each serve one year.

This year the position of President and the 2 At large positions are up for election. You will read a short biography presented by each of the candidates and the positions that they wish to be considered for in this newsletter.

Our election rules state that if Joe McCabe (our current Vice President) is elected as the new president then he will appoint a board member that is willing to finish out his term. In this case, one year. Next year, the Vice President's position and the two At Large positions will be again, up for election.

Please watch the mail for your election post card ballot! The Livestock Conservancy will once again be counting the ballots for us. This is YOUR association and the direction that it takes is up to you! YOUR VOICE COUNTS! PLEASE mark and return your ballots by the date on the ballot.

The new board will be seated on November 1st of this year.



Image courtesy of Peak View Farm

Introducing the candidates for this years election!

There are 2 Board member at Large seats up for election and three candidates: The candidates are listed in this newsletter in the order that they came to me.

Kaylee Lynch - Lynch Family Farms

Greetings fellow Red Wattle Hog Association members. My name is Kaylee Lynch and I am announcing my interest in running for a board member at large seat. A little background about myself, I am happily married to a hard working man, mother of four grown adults, and grandmother to three beautiful granddaughters. We own a growing farm in northwest Oklahoma where we raise Red Wattle hogs and have been RWHA members for several years. I believe in being an active participant in any organization that I am a member of and try to engage to the best of my ability.

Understanding that it has been difficult to fill board seats in the past, have decided to leave my comfort zone and seek office. As a Red Wattle member and owner, I have a deep affection and belief that this breed offers a huge benefit to the hog world.

My animal husbandry experience is hands-on and based on my ability to research, continued desire to learn, and willingness to discuss and listen to increase the effectiveness of my program. My professional training is not in agriculture but business (associates degree from University of Phoenix with a concentration if financial management), education (two bachelor degrees from Northwestern Oklahoma State University and a Masters in Special Education from Concordia University), and behavior science (certification added to masters in Applied Behavior Analysis from Arizona State University).

The skills that I have as an educator drive my passion to learn about Red Wattles and effective practices to ensure I am humane as possible in care and treatment. Knowledge of behavior science is beneficial in managing animals and understanding the behaviors of others. My business background leads me to recognize the potential of success with Red Wattles and see potential in increasing promotion of the RWHA to encourage growth of the association and the herd. I understand the importance of advertising, continued evolution to meet current markets and technology, and the constant need to promote and educate the public of the breed and association.

I wish to help move the association forward, look into the creation of a mentor program to help new members avoid some of the rookie mistakes that I made, and above all else ensure that protection and expansion of the Red Wattle herd. The association should benefit more than just a handful of members but benefit all of the members. To achieve the advancement of the association and increase expansion of the Red Wattle breed, it is necessary for me to seek the auspicious honor of asking to represent you, the members and be elected to the board as a member at large. Thank you!

I would rather be on my farm, then be the emperor of the world"
GEORGE WASHINGTON



Image courtesy of Tim Bailey

Jim Myers - Countryside Heritage Farm LLC

RWHA members,

I am submitting my name as a candidate for one of the at large seats that is open on the RWHA Board. For the RWHA my desire is help shape a more professional board, promote membership and education. I could go on with things that could be addressed, but I would rather hear from you, the members. I've been raising pigs, farrow to finish, since 2000. I started with Hampshire show pigs then switched to Red Wattles at the end of 2010. That said I know the difference between a show pig and heritage breed. Since 2011 I have been a member of the RWHA. I have extensive experience in AI for swine. I was buying and using semen for the show pigs. Not until I changed to Red Wattles did I begin collecting and distributing RW semen.

To say a little about my past leadership experience I was president and vice president, at different times, for the Troy City Education Assoc. I directed several negotiation teams, filed grievances, and helped remove an incompetent Superintendent and Treasurer. I taught high school Industrial Arts, "shop", for 30 years and was the school's IT person as well. I've been a church board and trustee president. Currently, I am a member, vice president and past president of the Gideon local camp.

My wife, Angie, and have been married for 34 years and have three grown kids. We moved to our farm in Mercer County, Ohio In 2000. It consists of 3 acres, 11 sows, 2 boars, 3 dogs, 25 cats and 40 chickens (meat and layers). We are vendors at a farmers market every Saturday morning. Please vote for me for an at large seat.



Image courtesy of Matt & Hope Bender

Suggestions?

If you have any comments or suggestions for the board, we are happy to hear from you and put your suggestions up for board consideration. You will find our contact information on the Red Wattle Hog Association website (RedWattle.com) under the "Contact Us" tab!



Image courtesy of Dixie Norwood

Walt Wickham - Wickham Farms

My name is Walt Wickham and I would like to be considered for the position of At Large Board Member with the Red Wattle Hog Association. My wife, two daughters and I live on a small farm in Eastern Iowa near the town of Maquoketa. I have worked most of my life off the farm in the field of natural resource and parks management. Last March I retired after more than 35 years in conservation and now devote all of my time to my family and my farm.

In 2009 I read an article about Red Wattle hogs and decided to give them a try. I had raised garden variety farm hogs in the past but became intrigued with the idea of raising a great tasting, easy handling heritage breed hog on pasture. After some searching, I was able to find 2 gilts in Wisconsin and an unrelated boar in Michigan. Things took off from there! We now mostly sell pasture raised pork at local farmers markets as well as whole hogs, feeder pigs and an occasional breeder. One of the first things I did after purchasing my hogs was to join the RWHA. Over the years I have seen a lot of good things out of the RWHA. But recently, I have



Image courtesy of Jaelyn Luchtd

become concerned about the lack of leadership from the board. It is my understanding that the board hasn't even met since early spring. Board agendas and meeting minutes should be posted for the membership. They are not. There needs to be regular, open, transparent meetings so that everyone who wants to can sit in on board meetings. The association needs to take advantage of recent technology such as zoom meetings for the sake of participation and involvement of its membership. If the Covid-19 pandemic has taught us anything it is that there is no reason that board meetings as well as educational/training sessions and an annual membership meeting couldn't be held online. Let's make it possible for us share our experiences and all learn from each other! After all, isn't that what being in an association is all about? Thank you for your consideration.



Image courtesy of Robert Tool Hubbard

Joe McCabe - McCabe Family Farms

Hi, my name is Joe McCabe. You might know me as the current Vice President of the RWHA. My wife Amanda and I have 4 kids, Trayton, Addison, Jaxon, and Hazel. We all work together to run our small family farm, McCabe Family Farms. In the last few years we have started a successful farm to table business, getting our homegrown meat on the plates of many family's just like us. We raise Red Wattle hogs, pasture raised chickens, all natural beef, run a cow/calf operation, and crop farm. I'm a 3rd generation farmer and have been farming my whole life, but started working full time alongside my dad over 16 years ago.

I first started raising pigs 6 years ago in hopes to feed my own family quality homegrown pastured pork. That led into selling pastured pork, poultry, and beef to surrounding areas at farmer's markets and wholesale. We started with Berkshires, but I wasn't happy with their personalities and mothering abilities. After doing intense research and being interested in heritage breeds, I came across the Red Wattle breed. I was attracted to their docile personalities, mothering

instincts, their adaptability to pasture, and the superior quality of the meat. I enjoyed learning more about the background of this rare breed and purchased our first Red Wattle hogs over 5 years ago and our first registered breeding stock 3 years ago and haven't looked back. I am excited for the future of our Red Wattle breeding program and the direction our farm to table business is going.



Image courtesy of Kyle Nagle

As I said you may recognize me as the current Vice President, but I am hoping to take more of a leadership role in the RWHA. Since becoming a board member I have learned and witnessed how extremely important it is to have a strong, trustworthy, positive and open minded person as the president of this association. I have no intention of partaking in "drama" or personal issues with people. I do intend to listen to the membership and hear your ideas and take those ideas and do something with them! I want to bring the RWHA into the current times with many updates, such as, updating the website, updating the bylaws, and holding all member meetings to name a few. Of course, these things take a team and I'm hoping I can play a role on that team to bring our board and membership back to a positive place. I'd like to "Make the RWHA great again!"



Image courtesy of Copper Penny Farm



Image courtesy of Copper Penny Farm

Joe McCabe - McCabe Family Farms (continued)

I believe I am an opened minded person who thinks outside of the box. I also believe I am a positive, trustworthy person who is willing to do the important, hard work that needs to be done. I would like to see this breed expand while keeping the original qualities and values. I am eager to hear more from fellow members and if elected, I'd like to explore new ways to grow the number of active members and improve communication between them. Educating people about the breed and promoting the RWHA is important to the future of these wonderful animals.

I welcome and encourage you to give me a call (507) 421-7806 to hear from me personally or send me an email (mccabefamilyfarms6@gmail.com) with questions or concerns. I'm happy to chat with anyone!
Thank you for your consideration,

What's in their feed (continued)

Many of the feed related problems that vets see, come from feed that is incomplete, home-ground, scavenged, or fed in inadequate amounts. Another issue is what is known as "garbage feeding" or feeding scavenged and untreated food from restaurants, food banks, grocery stores etc While this practice can lead to nutritional deficiencies it is also a prime source of other issues and is for another article. Diagnosis of a nutritional deficiency will take careful observation and consulting with a vet, feed analysis and documentation.

If you do not have a veterinarian that you regularly work with, and you are having a hard time pin-pointing a cause, you can reach out to most any university with a veterinary or ag program and ask for help. Your local extension agent will also be a source of help if you need it.

This list is not a complete list but only an outline of some of the most common problems and how they present themselves in animals.



Image courtesy of Keith E. Clinker

Vitamin deficiencies show similar symptoms to those of humans. Vitamin A deficiencies can cause eye problems including blindness in piglets. Respiratory, reproductive, nervous, urinary and digestive issues are the effects can also result. A herniated spinal cord in fetal pigs is almost always a sign of lack of vitamin A in the sow. Vitamin B12 deficiencies can show up as loss or change of voice, unexplained pain, and incoordination in the hindquarters.

Deficient riboflavin can show up as impaired reproduction in postpubertal gilts with no other clinical signs. They will farrow dead litters from 1 to 3 weeks earlier than scheduled. These piglets may be partially reabsorbed and may have larger forelegs.

Protein deficiencies (including the amino acids) can present themselves as poor feed conversion, slow growth and fatter carcasses. Sows may show a failure to come into a post weaning heat cycle, excessive weight loss and if lactating, they will have a much lower milk production.

There are no real studies that show protein poisoning as a problem. Protein content as high as 50% were found to be less efficiently used and had a laxative effect but not harmful. The biggest thing about protein supplements is that they need to be fed with a grain and fed routinely or free fed in order for the protein to become available in digestion. Regular or free feeding of protein supplements will allow the amino acids that they contain to be used by the body on an "as needed" basis.

Fat deficiencies (poly unsaturated fatty acids included) are essential. A linoleic acid deficiency can show up as hair loss, scaly dermatitis, skin necrosis on the neck or shoulders and growing pigs can look unthrifty.

Mineral deficiencies such as calcium or phosphorus can show up as rickets or bending of the long bones in growing pigs and as fractures or paralysis in the rear of older pigs. The weakness or paralysis is due to fractures in the lumbar areas of these pigs. Sows that are in milk are particularly susceptible to paralysis toward the end of lactation or in very early post weaning. While vitamin D deficiencies can also cause this, a phosphorus deficiency is far more commonly the cause.

Diets low in salt can cause a pig to drink the urine of other pigs to try to get the salt that they need. A low salt intake is usually found in pigs that are "off feed" or have a very low feed intake. These pigs will be unthrifty and have poor hair condition.



Iodine deficiency can cause a sow to have hairless piglets and these piglets may be very weak or stillborn. A mild or borderline deficiency can show up as weak newborns that eventually gain strength as they grow but their thyroids are enlarged although some feeds like soybeans or soymeal in larger amounts can cause goiter as well.

Deficiencies in copper and iron result in a lower hemoglobin level and this can cause pale mucous membranes, an enlarged heart, skin edema around the neck and shoulders, listlessness, the "thumps" which is an irregular and heavy breathing pattern. Many people will give iron injections to piglets but my local vet and many expert hog farmers have said that if you have a dirt run for the animals most generally they will get what they need from rooting. A soil sample will give you your most common minerals found in your soil.

A zinc deficiency can cause Parakeratosis in young growing piglets. Parakeratosis is a zinc related dermatitis that is often mistaken for greasy pig disease or sarcoptic mange. This is more common in diets high in cereal grains or oilseed meals coupled with a calcium that is higher than recommended. These animals will recover if you reduce your calcium and balance the zinc/calcium ratios.

Low selenium and vitamin E can cause sudden death in young, fast growing piglets. It can make the nursing piglets susceptible to iron toxicity if you give iron injections.

This list is in no way complete. There are so many different vitamins and minerals that effect so many different systems in the hog. This is meant to be a starting place if you are starting to see a herd wide problem. To read more about this, you can find a very good source in The Merk Manual, The University of Minnesota of Veterinary Medicine and the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine, the sources of my notes for this article.



Image courtesy of Russ Lee

In The News

While the board hasn't officially met there was an issue of a member that had allowed his membership to lapse and had a litter that he wished to register born during that time. As soon as he realized the issue, he renewed his membership and reached out to us. The board discussed this problem and the issue was weighed. Three board members voted to not allow registration naming registration rule #12 and "integrity of the breed". Two members voted to allow the registration on the condition that he update his membership and provide the DNA samples that verified the piglets came from registered stock as rule number #10 allows for animals over 18 months to be registered through DNA and DNA doesn't change with age. Since the vote was 3 against and 2 for, the registration was denied.

PLEASE remember that memberships are due by the 31st of each March. There is no leeway on this and while it is mentioned in the winter and spring newsletters and mentioned on the Facebook page, it is easy to forget. You might write it down on your house calendar each year or put it into your phone calendar so that you don't forget.

I am sure that the new board will revisit this at some point so please make sure that you let us know your thoughts on this or any other matter. Your opinion really does matter!
There are no other board matters to report at this time.

Quarterly report of the RWHA as submitted by Doug of Mountain Niche Registry Services
The second quarter of 2021 shows that there were 38 new registrations of pigs under 6 months of age and 13 hogs over 6 months and 8 transfers and one delayed transfer.
There were 60 items processed at \$2.50 per item = \$150.00 (our quarterly minimum charge is \$250.00).

The final result: Fees collected - \$590.00
Minus Doug's printing expenses - \$ 6.48
Minus Doug's processing charges - \$250.00
Total fees returned to us = \$333.52

Doug is also returning 3 checks that were made out to the RWHA that should have been made out to him at Mountain Niche Registry. Please remember that if you register, transfer or ask for a duplicate registration for any of your hogs, these checks get made out to the Mountain Niche Registry. Checks made out for membership get sent to me at PO Box 275 Wykoff MN 55990 and get made out to the RWHA.