



Mitchel Amason & Virgil Berry
Keeping Tally

*FROM THE
PINEYWOODS* *Conserving the Pineywoods*

Newsletter of the Pineywoods Cattle Registry & Breeders Association

7th Annual PCRBA Cattle Auction a Success!



In Memoriam

We note with sadness the passing of a Pineywoods patriarch and friend, Virgil Berry, on July 4, 2011. We are grateful for the time, tradition, wisdom, and guidance that Mr. Virgil provided us and extend our

The Pineywoods breeders came together for a 7th annual sale and celebration on May 14. As our cattle increase in national recognition and breed popularity, breeders are increasingly challenged to provide starter herds for new breeders and new blood for experienced breeders. The annual sale serves this purpose and more. Breeders and fans meet one another, learn faces with names, visit local farms, and generally add new dimensions to the community.

The sale this year was very relaxed (for both folks and cattle) and more cattle were sold for better prices than in past years as well. Meeting at Stone County Fairgrounds in Wiggins, Mississippi, PCRBA officers and members again produced the highlight event of the year with the sale of 18 lots with an average of \$681 per lot. Seven heifers averaged \$535, eight pairs averaged \$912.50, and young bulls averaged \$537. We also sold one yoke of 3-year-old oxen. We had a large crowd of 70 people in attendance, marking a steady increase each year and especially significant in this year of bad economy. Pineywoods are becoming an increasingly popular breed and may not only avoid extinction but even enjoy a demand faster than breeders can supply. Phil Sponenberg should have a busy year registering.



Presentation of Honorary & Lifetime Membership Plaques to Mitchel Amason and Virgil Berry by Jess Brown at the PCRBA auction for their many years of support of PCRBA and for maintaining a pure herd of PW cattle. Both of these gentlemen owned pure herds of the Conway strain of cattle.

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Welcome Members!

Greet our new members on page 3. Some may be your neighbors.



Broadus cow owned by Ryan Schaffer, bred by Jess Brown

Pineywoods Make National Geographic! If this is a sign of hitting big-time recognition, we welcome the press. An article, *Food Ark*, page 126 of the July 2011 edition in of *National Geographic* featured heritage foods and the mostly remote places in the world that preserved them...except our own, not-so-remote native Gulf states that have practiced heritage cattle breeding for generations. The article emphasize the crucial important of these plants and animals to help meet the challenge of feeding a future world population. While little was said about cattle in the text, the article pictures six notable heritage cattle, one of which was a Pineywoods. You can also view this article on the following website:

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2011/07/food-ark/cattle-breeds#/3>

7th Annual Cattle Sale a Success!

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Folks were able to visit with breeders as well as take time to view cattle and eat a great PW lunch put together by Mrs. Dottie Diamond and the Diamond Belles This year introduced a first time feature of crafts, as well as refreshments, that included homemade soaps, quilts, yokes, and PCRBA mementos of cups, t-shirts and hats. Special thanks go to organizer-in-chief Jess Brown and family, catalog publisher Edie Varnado, and craft show organizers. Please ready your calendars for major upcoming events in 2011 and 2012. We look forward to meeting you at the NEXT one!

Why Bother with Registration?

By Phil Sponenberg, Registrar

Registering livestock can be a real chore at times, and it often just seems like so much useless paperwork to add to an already busy schedule. Over the years I've noticed a few patterns of animal registration by the owners.

One pattern is typical of younger, eager breeders. They register everything! This does help me to keep an eye on what is being bred and which bloodlines are being used. It also alerts me to anything unusual or interesting out there. It does, however, end up registering animals (usually bulls!) that really don't have much hope of being used for breeding.

A second pattern is typical of committed and loyal older breeders. They are diligent to register stock but tend to register only the heifers and bull calves that are likely to either be sold for breeding or used in the home herd. This is a useful strategy because it works to track the very animals that are being used to produce the next generation. In addition, because of the way I track things (not perfect, but decent!) it also helps to alert me to animals that might have unusual combinations of bloodlines or other details that might help breeders make decisions on how to use such animals in their herds.

A third pattern has become all too common, and this is for breeders to register cattle irregularly or not at all. In a rare breed like the Pineywoods Cattle, this can present problems for being really effective in conserving the breed. It is easy to lose track of who has what, and it is also easy for important individual cattle to slip through the cracks and get lost to the breed. This is especially the case if a family or health emergency hits – no one will be able to figure out the identity on the cattle, and that could easily lead to important animals being lost to the breed.

There are several very rare bloodlines in this breed, and if we lose track of those, we may wake up one day to find them gone. I really hope that does not happen. Registering and identifying these is especially important!

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Welcome, Recent PCRBA Members

Russ & Elizabeth Bates
B & B Family Farm
Cave Spring, GA 30124

Angela Broussard
Silveroak farm
Saucier, MS

Christopher Burger
Century Seed Farm
Knoxville, TN 37917

Hilda Hicks
Lindell, TX

Brad & Trista Jones
Coalgate, OK

Lynda Jarrell
L J Farm
Petal, MS 39465

Max Kilcrease
Rocking K Ranch
Drumright, OK 74030

Curt Lacy
Tifton, GA 31793

Kevin A. Lindell
Canterbury, CT. 06331

Johnnie J. Smith, JR.
Poplarville, MS 39470



Frank Brown shares family memorabilia.

PW Family Genealogy: A New Role for our Registrar??

By Julie Brown, PCRBA Secretary/Treasurer

Along with the carefully preserved lineage of Pineywoods breeding, of as much interest is the lineage of those who have bred them for generations. This year, The Covington County Genealogical & Historical Society met at 10:00am on Saturday, April 16, at the Seminary Depot. Program chairman June Ellis gave credit for this program to the November picture in the society's 2011 Historic Calendar showing Pineywoods oxen. She soon discovered that the PCRBA website had some interesting information on the subject. Introducing Billy Frank of Pearl River County, Mrs. Elis stated, "We may be the only genealogical society that has

Why Bother with Registration?

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Registration is just as important for the more common bloodlines. All bloodlines can be much more easily tracked and monitored when breeders register stock. This also helps to manage the bloodline for a secure future because I know who has what and who is actively breeding so it is possible to guide interested breeders towards breeders that I know are actively producing calves from these bloodlines. It doesn't happen a lot – but each time it does, someone gets to make a sale.

The bottom line is that keeping registrations current is a great help to the breed and helps us all to assure that each important component (each herd!) keeps going and doesn't get lost to the future. We all owe a huge debt to the previous generations who saved these cattle. They didn't need registrations, but after range closure, and after the herds of 1000 head or so diminished, we really do need to track these important pieces more carefully to be sure the next generation has the benefit of this genetic wealth that we are so fortunate to work with.

D. Phillip Sponenberg, DVM, PhD
Professor, Pathology and Genetics
Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine,
Blacksburg, VA 24060

PCRBA 2010-2011 Officers, Board of Directors, and Support Staff

Officers

Jess Brown, President
Julie Brown, Secretary/Treasurer
Ryan Schaffer, Vice President

Board of Directors

Thomas Allen
Mitchell Amason
Billy Frank Brown
Greg Diamond
Jim McPherson

Support Staff

Bill Fritz, Webmaster
Bonnie Fritz, Newsletter Editor
Susan Nicotra, Advertising
Dr. Phillip Sponenberg, Registrar
Edie Varnado, Advertising

Pineywoods Meets Radish

The Farmers Market and City of Long Beach (once radish capital of world) is having a Radish Festival. Saturday November 5th from 9-4 or 8-4 and has invited folks with heritage and local produce and products to attend. They want us to set up PCRBA booth and give a talk on PW cattle. Soooo...plans are afoot to do something with PW Beef--give out as samples, maybe even sell bowls to make money for the association as well. The main thing, however, is to get folks interested in the cattle and the beef they produce!!! You can look the radish festival up on facebook by typing in Long Beach Mississippi Radish Festival

This event will be a good time to get together that night for dinner at a sunny MS Gulf Coast restaurant (Dutch treat).

Please share your ideas about the booth with Mrs. Edie Varnado Camptopisaw@wildblue.net or PCRBA President Jess Brown at cowpenecreek@aol.com.

Call for Articles

Your newsletter, *From the Pineywoods*, needs your help and expertise for articles. While full articles are always welcome, you can send in bits of information on any subject related to Pineywoods and we will work it into the newsletter. Some current topics are

1. Memories and thoughts about Mr. Virgil Berry.
2. Who is breeding which strains.
3. Marketing information.
4. Pineywoods in the news.
5. Tips for new breeders.
6. Historical stories and information.

Advertise your brand here.

For a limited time, the newsletter will carry free advertising so take advantage! You can send us an ad that is ready to go or just send in information and we will organize it for printing. Size will depend on the space available. Contact Bonnie Fritz at bfritz@gsu.edu.

This is your application
for the
2011 Long Beach Farmers Market
Radish Festival

Saturday, November 5, 2011
9 am - 4 pm

Long Beach Town Green
Jeff Davis Avenue
Downtown Long Beach, MS



Please return completed application to:

Long Beach Farmers Market
Radish Festival
Post Office Box 689
Long Beach, MS 39560

longbeachfarmersmarket@gmail.com
228.234.8732
www.realfoodgulfcoast.org

Long Beach Farmers Market *Radish Festival*

Real Food Gulf Coast and the Long Beach Farmers Market are pleased to invite you to participate in their 2011 Farmers Market *Radish Festival*.

The Long Beach Farmers Market Radish Festival recognizes Long Beach's status as the one-time Radish Capital of the World. The Festival celebrates our community's rural heritage while also recognizing the farmers and of today and our future.

Approximately 50 spaces will be available for the varied selection of food and hand craft exhibits. There will be also a number of interpretative and historical exhibits, cooking demonstrations and tastings, and live music.

Deadline: October 1, 2011.

Please forward any questions to:

Dita McCarthy
Long Beach Farmers Market
P.O. Box 689
Long Beach, MS 39560
228.234.8732
longbeachfarmersmarket@gmail.com



Long Beach Farmers Market
Radish Festival
Saturday, November 5, 2011
9 am - 4 pm

Long Beach Town Green
Jeff Davis Avenue
Downtown Long Beach, MS



Long Beach Farmers Market
Year-round all local food farmers market
Saturdays, 9 am - 1 pm

126 Jeff Davis Avenue
Downtown Long Beach, MS
Phone: 228.234.8732
Longbeachfarmersmarket@gmail.com
www.realfoodgulfcoast.org

PS: The newsletter is available on the PCRBA website (pcrba.org) and via email. To receive a copy online, email your best, current email address to bfritz@gsu.edu.