



FROM THE **PINEYWOODS**

Volume 5, Number 1
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Conserving the Pineywoods

The Newsletter of the Pineywoods Cattle Registry and Breeders Association

Spring Calendar

Mark your calendars for the following events. Current details are provided here with more in the mail and on the website shortly.

March 1-3, 2007-ALBC Board of Directors meeting. We invite all PCRBA members and GCSBA members to attend the ALBC Board of Directors meeting. There will be speakers from all over the U.S. The workshop theme is "Using and Marketing Traditional Southeastern Livestock." The featured animals will be Pineywoods cattle, Gulf Coast sheep, Spanish goats, and Cotton Patch geese. The purpose of this workshop is to help us find better ways of marketing and selling our livestock to improve our farms' profitability, encourage others to begin breeding the animals we raise, and promote sustainability in agriculture. There will be a luncheon provided and the conference will be hosted by the Oral History Department on the campus of USM of Hattiesburg, Mississippi. On Friday night, March 2, there will be a dinner featuring Pineywoods beef, Gulf Coast lamb, and perhaps other regionally produced meats. This meal will be held at Seasons restaurant in Hattiesburg and a small fee will be charged. Some of the finest chefs from Hattiesburg and New Orleans will be preparing the meals and we encourage all to attend.

April 20-22, 2007. The PCRBA annual spring meeting will be held the 3rd weekend in April at the farm of Fred Diamond in Saucier, Mississippi. There will be a Board of Directors meeting prior to the regular business meeting.

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Background: Auctioneer Justin Pitts, Ticket Writer Jenny Vice, Records Keeper Lynda Jarrell, Foreground: Founding Breeders section. More pictures on page 3.

PCRBA AUCTION 2006

On November 18, 2006, the second PCRBA/ GCSBA sale was held in Laurel, Mississippi with over 70 head of sheep and cattle being sold. Despite this year's drought and lack of hay and feed throughout the region, the average sale of cattle was higher than that of the previous and first sale in November 2004. Additionally, several new breeders acquired their first herds and promise to be a valuable addition to the Pineywoods community. We thank all of our buyers who purchased cattle and we especially thank our consigners who generously provided the sale with many fine cattle to help promote the breed.

There was a brief meeting of the PCRBA board, which elected Jess Brown as new president. Other officers will be elected at the annual spring meeting in April. The membership also voted to moving the annual fall auction to the spring in conjunction with our annual spring meeting, which is the third Saturday in April unless otherwise stated. The primary reason for this change is that buyers would want cattle in the spring when the grass is greening up instead of going into an uncertain winter with them. The next scheduled PCRBA sale will be in April of 2008.

President's Column.....by Jess Brown
Thanks to everyone for their work and support on behalf of PCRBA and for the privilege of working with you all in this office. I also want to start the year by thanking everyone who helped with the November auction, especially Justin Pitts for all of his hard work and those who assisted, both members and those who aren't members but still helped with the sale. Also, for all of us, I'd like to thank the buyers who keep this organization alive and growing. Please send me your thoughts, concerns, and suggestions and bring them to the April meeting. See you then.



From the Back Forty

By Justin B. Pitts

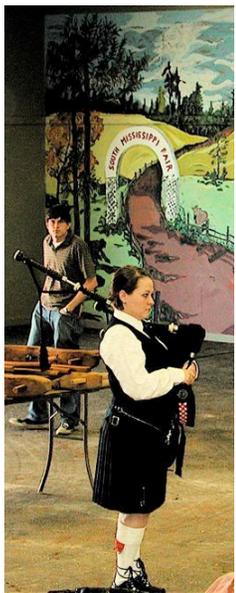
I hope everyone is doing well and their cattle are making the winter fine. While we've not had that much cold weather, what we have had has been hard on the stock. Cows that are calving now are in need of additional nutrition that they may not be getting from hay alone as many are feeding hay only. While a good quality hay may be sufficient for dry and bred cows, it does not contain enough nutrition for cows that are nursing calves especially cows that are heavy milking cows. I understand and respect the ideas of some of our members who are opposed to feeding grain to their cattle, but if this is going to be your strategy, then a calving schedule of March and April makes more sense than having calves now.

Malcolm Seals of Carnes, Mississippi always calved in these months because he ran government pasture and did not plant ryegrass pastures as many of us now do. He wintered his cows on nubbins (if you don't know what these are, you have no business reading this newsletter or raising cattle) and hay. The reason for this spring calving schedule was that the cows could follow the spring burns (a term for the controlled burning of the woods) and would flourish on the tender grass. His reasoning was that while he sold smaller calves in the fall, his overall cost of wintering was cheaper and wintering was not as

detrimental to his cows, the cows rebred faster, and he sold more calves overall.

This form of management is probably the closest we have to what was originally practiced here with these cattle. However, we now have improved pastures and ryegrass seed that enable us, according to our tastes and abilities, to stray from this original format. Some of our membership control breeds by allowing the bull in the herd for a certain amount of time and then removing him so as to get calves within a certain time frame. While this may cost a breeder one or two calves overall in a cow's lifetime, it does ensure that you do not get calves in a time that isn't convenient (this is the hot summer here in the Deep South where calves do poorest in the hot, humid months of summer). I calve, or try to, in January or February because by March I usually have sufficient topseeded ryegrass. My soil is so sandy that breaking land contributes to erosion and I can't sow ryegrass early on as those with other soil types can. By the time the ryegrass is ready to graze my calves can handle the large amounts of milk my cows produce. Prior to being given access to ryegrass, my wet cows (those nursing calves) are separated and placed in a pasture to themselves and are fed good hay and range meal, a supplement to the hay being one part cotton meal (for protein), one part ground corn (for fat necessary for energy during the cold), and one part salt (to control intake). Cows will consume, on average, two to three pints of this mixture per day per head. As the ryegrass grows, the cows are allowed in for approximately two hours a day until the grass is sufficiently ahead of them and then they are given free access. First, this keeps dry cows whose nutrient requirements are far less than wet cows from consuming all the groceries. Second, heavy milking cows' calves don't sour due to too rich milk, and you generally get a more uniform crop of calves. No one way is the best. The best is what fits your particular program and schedule. From the Back Forty, we'll see you next time.

PCRBA AUCTION IN PICTURES



New Breeders Welcome. PCRBA welcomes new breeders and offers our expertise and resources to help you choose, purchase, and acquire the right start-up herd for your farm, taste, and pocketbook. Please contact Justin Pitts for more information at 601-543-5173.

Pineywoods Find a New Place in History.....by Bob Rhoades

Robert Rhoades and Virginia Nazarea, Professors of Anthropology at the University of Georgia, are among the latest to join the Pineywoods Cattle Association. Their daughter, Danni Rhoades, attended the November 2006 PCRBA Auction in Mississippi where she bought two sets of Hickman cows with Hickman/Holt calves on foot and another two Hickman/Holt calves due in spring. They hope to keep some consistency with Georgia heritage through the native Georgia Holt Pineywoods.

Bob and Virginia have a long personal history in the preservation of landraces. They both worked several years with the CGIAR (Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research) in Peru and the Philippines. The CGIAR has a mandate to maintain large collections of wild species and traditional cultivars of the major food crops. Rhoades worked on potatoes in Peru with CIP (International Potato Center) while Nazarea worked with the International Rice Research on rice and later on sweet potatoes for CIP.

After they joined the faculty at the University of Georgia, they founded in 1993 the Southern Seed Legacy, which is a network of farmers and gardeners in the American South dedicated to saving old time seeds and plants. On their Agrarian Connections farm (312 acres) in Oglethorpe County, Georgia, they have established a number of other projects dedicated to preservation of rural landscapes and lifeways. Projects include the Georgia Log Cabin Project dedicated to study and rescue of historical log buildings in the South.



Students from the University of Georgia have been conducting research on a "Trail of Time" which will be a reconstruction of historical periods in agriculture on the farm. This involves actual reconstruction of sites that reflect different periods in agriculture representing Native American agriculture (1000AD), pioneer agriculture (1800AD), yeoman agriculture (1860-1950), and futuristic agriculture.

The idea for Pineywoods cattle came about when Bob and Virginia realized that no historic accounting of agriculture would be complete without farm animals which were central in many aspects of life in the Piedmont of Georgia. The Holts represent what may be the only Georgia strain of Pineywoods and so fit well into the history of the project. The Hickman are valued both for their Holt calves and for their distinctive beauty among the strains.

The new herd that Bob and Virginia have begun is only a start. Both they and Danni look forward to joining the PCRBA breeding program to develop their herd as well as to acquiring other farm animals.

Jokes from Conway's Corner



Mr. Bruce Conway and Bob

finally arrived home, a friend was surprised to find them dirty and exhausted.

“What happened to you?” he asked.

“Well,” they said, “the sign said ‘Clean Restrooms for 8 miles’ ...so we did!”

Three beautiful blondes were traveling through Mississippi. When they