

Randall Lineback Cattle Making A Comeback

For a low input, all purpose milk and meat cow, take a look at Randall Linebacks. A breed developed in the Colonial days, Randall Linebacks are coming back.

Named for the Vermont family who saved the breed and for the characteristic white stripe along their spines, Randall Linebacks are a small and very sturdy breed.

At Chapel Hill Farm in Berryville, Virginia, Joe Henderson is developing a herd of Randall Linebacks. Of the approximately 250 purebred Randall Linebacks known to exist, 120 are in his herd. He sells their meat to several high-end Washington, D.C. restaurants where chefs prepare Randall Lineback sausage, heart, tongue, kidney, and the standard rack of veal.

Randall Linebacks and other so-called Landrace cattle descended from European cattle imported in the early 1600's. Once herds were established, shipments of cows from Europe stopped by the early 1700's. With the coming of mechanical power in the early 1900's, animal power was no longer as important, and dairy farms began acquiring more specialized milk cows, especially

Holsteins. But in Sunderland, Vermont, three generations of the Randall family continued to guard their closed herd. They kept their cows from interbreeding with other cattle, even castrating bull calves before sale so that they could not be bred elsewhere. After the death of the last Randall farmer, the herd was sold and dispersed, and many were slaughtered. A twisting trail of ownership followed. At one time, there may have been as few as 15 purebred Randall Linebacks in the world.

Now the number of Randall Linebacks is increasing. Through the efforts of Joe Henderson and groups with an interest in saving rare breeds, Randall Lineback numbers are rising. These intelligent, calm cattle are both handsome and easy to keep, especially in areas where winters are harsh. They seem to prefer being outdoors, reveling in the snow.

By late 2007 or 2008, Joe Henderson hopes to be able to offer Randall Lineback stock to qualified breeders. Young bull calves for the rose veal market are currently bringing over \$1,200 at market. Older breeding heif-



Randall Linebacks are a small and sturdy breed that was developed in the Colonial days. Now they're making a comeback.

ers will likely be priced at about \$2,000. To ensure that this rare breed is not wiped out by accident or disease, Henderson would like to see a minimum of 1,000 animals dispersed into at least five geographically divided herds.

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For further information: <http://randalllineback.com>; The Randall Lineback Breed Association; <http://randall-linebacks.org>.

“Speckle Park” Cattle Catching On Fast

Speckle Park cattle have been in development for 46 years. In 2006, the Canadian government finally recognized it as a separate and distinct breed.

The Canadian Speckle Park Association has 71 active members. About 3,100 animals are registered.

The splashy black and white beef breed originated with a herd of speckled cows near Greenstreet, Sask., that were bred from Short-horn and White Park cattle. Speckled heifers were crossbred to Black Angus and, in the early 1960's, the Speckle Park breed was born.

The breed's offspring come in four different color patterns: (1) black sided with speckled hips, a white top and roan faces; (2) leopard spotted; (3) white with black points; (4) solid black animals (because the blacks don't display the breed's characteristic coat patterns, they're treated separately within the registry so that they can be retained for breeding).

Speckle Park cows are moderately sized at 1,200 to 1,400 lbs. The udder is well set

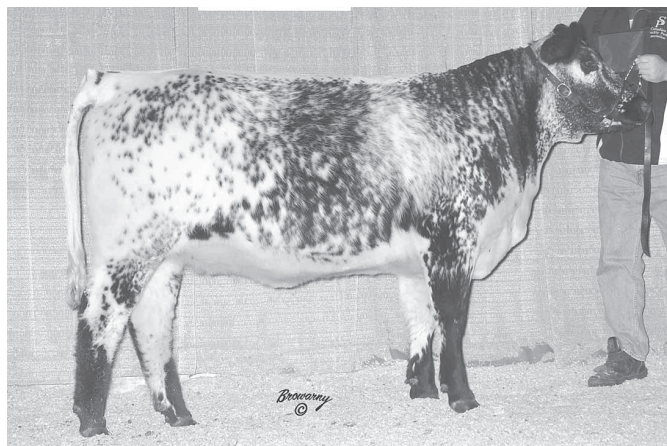
and tight. Bulls average 2,000 to 2,200 lbs. Newborn calves average 70 to 75 lbs. and are said to be unusually vigorous.

The breed is polled and noted for fertility, calving ease and efficient, trouble-free maintenance. The black pigmentation around the eyes and teats of the udder markedly reduce the problems of pink eye and sunburned udders.

“The breed's number one strong point is their consistently high quality carcass and high marbling ability. Butchers are impressed with the fact that, unlike most breeds, Speckle Park are able to achieve AAA marbling without the thick layer of outer fat which usually accompanies an AAA carcass,” says Rod Remin, president of the Canadian Speckle Park Association.

Out of 43 entries of various breeds, Speckle Park carcasses won first, third and fourth place at the 2006 Calgary Stampede Steer Carcass Competition.

Frozen embryos and semen are currently being exported to Australia. Prior to the BSE crises, some registered Speckle Park were



Speckle Park cattle are a splashy black and white beef breed that originated with a herd of speckled cows in Saskatchewan.

exported to Oregon.

Speckle Park semen is available from Independent Breeders, Airdrie, Alberta.

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dian Speckle Park Association, P. O. Box 5032, Spruce Grove, Alberta, Canada T7X 3A2 (ph 780 934-6682; fax 780 962-9437; cspa@telus.net; www.specklepark.ca).

Mower Turned Into “Traveling Lawn Chair”

“I call it my traveling lawn chair,” says Grady Glenn, Odessa, Texas, who mounted an old metal tractor seat on top of a push-type mower with the blades and engine removed. The seat mounts in place of the engine and is supported by four metal legs that ride in caster holders off an old bed. As a result, Glenn can swivel the seat up to 270 degrees and work on either side of the mower.

The top end of the legs are welded to a metal plate that bolts onto the bottom side of the seat. The caster holders bolt onto a 10-in. dia. plate that bolts onto the deck.

“I use it for weeding my yard,” says Glenn. “I can position the chair in whatever direction I want to work. I move by using my legs and pushing back against the seat. When I get to the end of the yard, I get off the seat and reposition it for the next pass.

“For safety when getting up or sitting down, I drilled a hole through the mower housing and push a rod or long screwdriver



Metal tractor seat mounts on top of push-type mower with its blades and engine removed.

through the hole and into the ground to serve as a brake.”

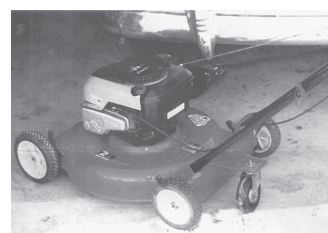
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Easy-Turn Mower Pivots On Rear Caster

“I have several acres that I mow with a 6-ft. finish mower and it does a wonderful job. But there are a lot of trees, shrubs and other obstacles that have to be trimmed around,” says Buck Trimble, Mt. Sterling, Ky.

“I used a 20-in. push mower for many years. When it finally quit running, I bought a larger 22-in. mower because all the smaller ones were sold out at my local store. When I started using it, I found it was much harder to turn when trimming. I decided to make it easier to use.

“I took off the back wheels and replaced them with two smaller wheels and then raised them up as high as they would go. Then I attached a caster wheel to a piece of old truck spring, and attached it to the center of the back of the mower. It works great. Lets the mower move left and right with ease. By leaving the mowers on, they help when you get in a low place. If I want to use it as a regular mower, I can just let the mowers down again.



Caster wheel, attached to center back part of mower, lets mower move left and right with ease.

“The trick is to get a good large caster wheel because there is a lot of pressure on it when turning. The truck spring is strong and will take a lot more stress than regular plate steel.”

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