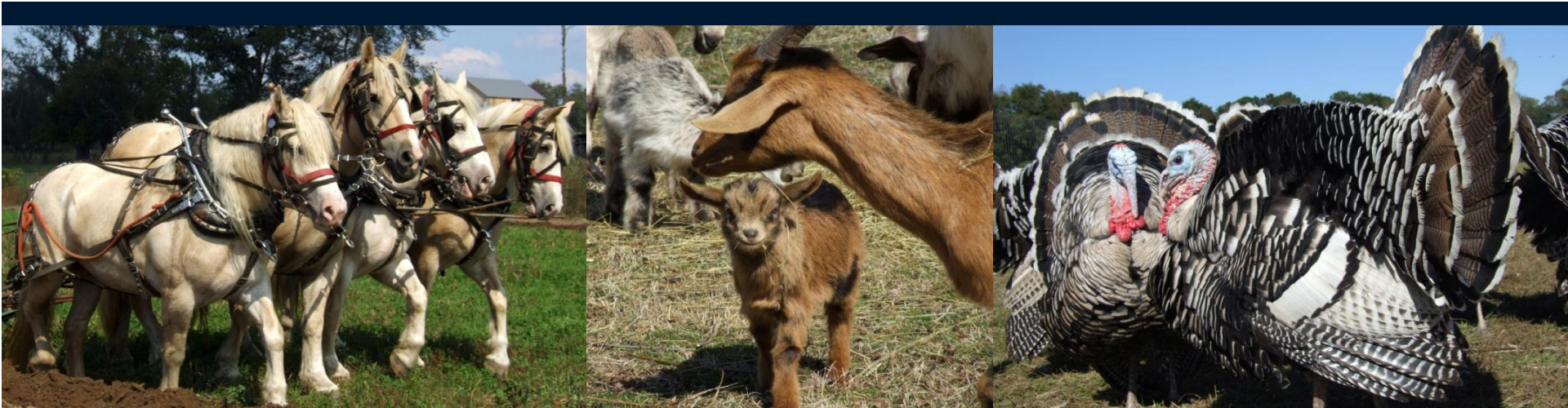




THE AMERICAN LIVESTOCK BREEDS CONSERVANCY



An Overview of Our Organization, Mission, and Work

Question:

How many of you have heard of the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy?



How many of you have heard of “heritage breeds”?



Who is ALBC?



Who is ALBC?



- ALBC = American Livestock Breeds Conservancy
- National non-profit (501-C3)
- Membership organization
- Protects 189 livestock and poultry breeds from extinction
- Focuses on genetic conservation
- Works with farmers and others around the country to preserve heritage breeds
- Established in 1977 (35 years of conservation success)
- Headquartered in Pittsboro, NC



ALBC has members across the country and internationally. The highest states for membership are highlighted accordingly.



ALBC's Mission

- Strengthening the future of agriculture through the genetic conservation and promotion of **endangered breeds** of livestock and poultry.



Turkeys



Donkeys



Cattle



Goats



Horses



Sheep



Pigs



Rabbits



Chickens



Ducks



Geese

Endangered Livestock & Poultry



Livestock are Endangered?

Species



Species:
Horse
(*Equus caballus*)

Cleveland Bay



Clydesdale



Akhal-Teke



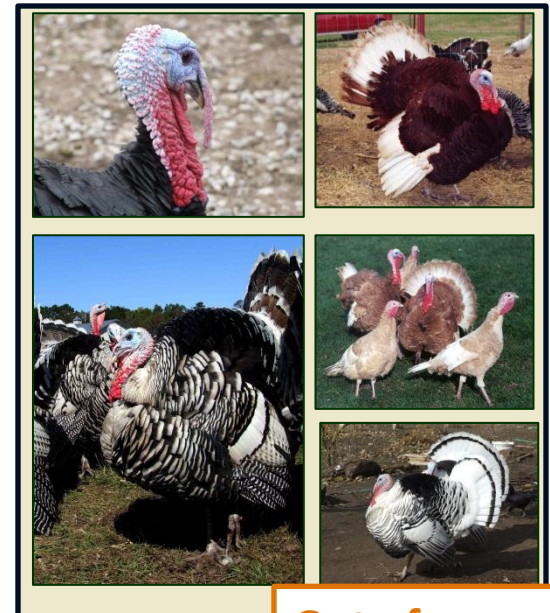
Breeds

ALBC conserves endangered breeds.

Why are breeds endangered?

- Modern agriculture favors the use of a few specialized breeds.
- Breeds that don't "fit the mold" are being lost.
- Breeds that are being lost contain valuable traits and genetics that may be needed in the future.
- Breeds = **GENETIC DIVERSITY!**
- Loss of Breeds = Loss of Genetic Diversity.

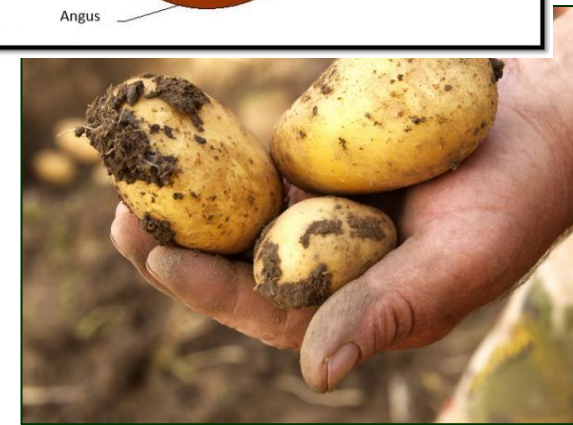
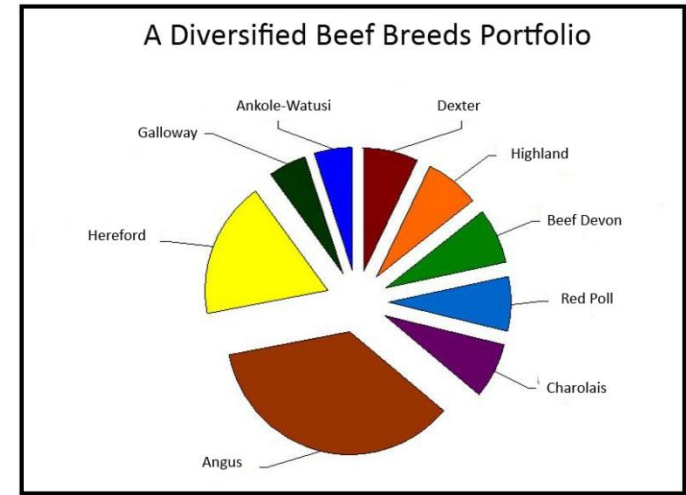
One breed



Out of many

Why does genetic diversity matter?

- Agriculture is like a stock portfolio – **diversifying secures our assets.**
- **Genetic diversity = Agriculture's Security and Future**
- **Example of not diversifying:**
Irish Potato Famine (1840s) –
The crop was all one variety of potato.
Blight hit the one variety and the entire crop was lost. Nearly a million people died of starvation.



How does ALBC conserve heritage breeds?



Current Projects

South Carolina Goat Rescue

- Discovered an isolated and unique population of Spanish goats in SC.
- Researched history and documented phenotype
- Removed select goats from island and placed in a breeding program.
- Breeding program has produced offspring, now going to farms.



Research



Rescues



Current Projects

Master Breeder Program

- Through our vast network of national contacts, ALBC has identified old-time breeders who are experts in their fields.
- ALBC interviews and records first-hand information from these individuals, documenting information for the next generation.
- ALBC publishes the information obtained from Master Breeders, and teaches workshops and clinics to share the information.



Research



Learning & Documenting



Education

Current Projects

Marketing, Outreach, and Promotion

- ALBC is working with partners to define “Heritage” as a marketing term for each species of livestock and poultry
- ALBC travels to multiple fairs and shows each year. At each event, ALBC provides lectures and educational seminars on heritage breeds.
- ALBC provides free materials and resources to help members and heritage breed producers to market their products.



Outreach & Promotion



Education

Current Projects

Saving Endangered Hog Breeds

- ALBC is currently working on a national swine project with several university partners.
- Education, research, carcass evaluations, training, and DNA analysis are all part of the project.
- The three-year initiative will produce materials that heritage breed swine producers can use to raise, breed, market, and sell heritage pork to consumers.



Outreach & Promotion



Education



Learning & Documenting

Research



DNA Collection

Securing Heritage Breeds



- ✓ Protects our food system;
- ✓ Ensures genetic diversity for the evolution of agriculture;
- ✓ Conserves valuable genetic traits
- ✓ Captures our heritage, history, and culture;
- ✓ Maintains breeds of animals that are well-suited for sustainable agriculture;
- ✓ Gives small family farms a competitive edge.

How can I help?

- Become a member of ALBC
- Use rare breed products (eggs, meat, fibers, etc.)
- Visit a rare breed farm to get an up-close view of what raising these breeds is all about
- Educate yourself about heritage breeds and their importance
- Support businesses that use heritage breeds (restaurants, fiber artists, etc.)



Meet the Breeds

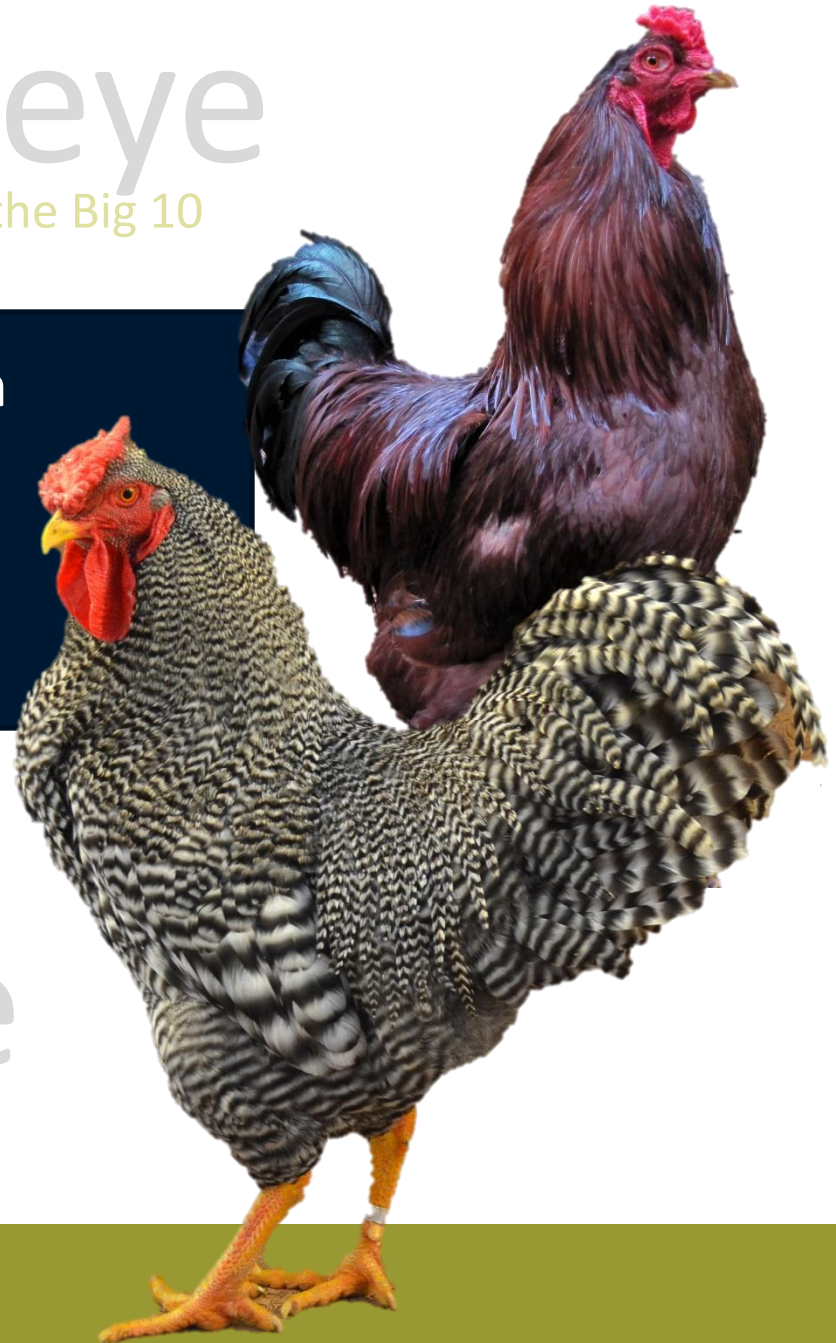


Buckeye

The Breed, Not the Big 10

The Dominique was the first American chicken breed. (1750s) The Buckeye was the first American chicken breed developed entirely by a woman.

Dominique



Tunis sheep

Add a “Redhead” to Your Flock

The foundation stock for the Tunis sheep breed came to the United States as a gift to George Washington in the late 1700s. Thomas Jefferson also worked with the breed.



American rabbit

An American Original

The American rabbit is one of only 6 rabbits breeds developed in the U.S.



Francis Marion, the famous general from the American Revolution, rode Marsh Tacky horses – the ultimate all-terrain vehicles of the day.



Marsh Tacky horse

The Swamp Fox's Steady Steed

Cotton Patch goose

King Cotton's Prince Charming

Cotton Patch geese were used to weed cotton and corn fields in the South up until the 1950s.



Milking Devon cattle

The Pilgrim's Passengers

The Pilgrims brought British Devon cattle to New England beginning in 1623. Selection through the years gave rise to the Milking Devon breed.



Spanish goats

Conquistadors' Contributions

As a ready source of milk, meat, and hides, these goats were taken everywhere by the early Spanish explorers.



Bourbon Red turkey

Kentucky's *Other* Bourbon



Originally called the “Bourbon Butternut,” they were renamed the “Bourbon Reds” - *Bourbon* for the creator’s home county of Bourbon, Kentucky, and *red* for the rich, chestnut color of the plumage.

Gloucestershire Old Spots pig

Polka-dot Pig

Noted for its distinctive white coat with black spots, the Gloucestershire Old Spot (GOS) pig looks like the Dalmatian of pig breeds.



Runner duck

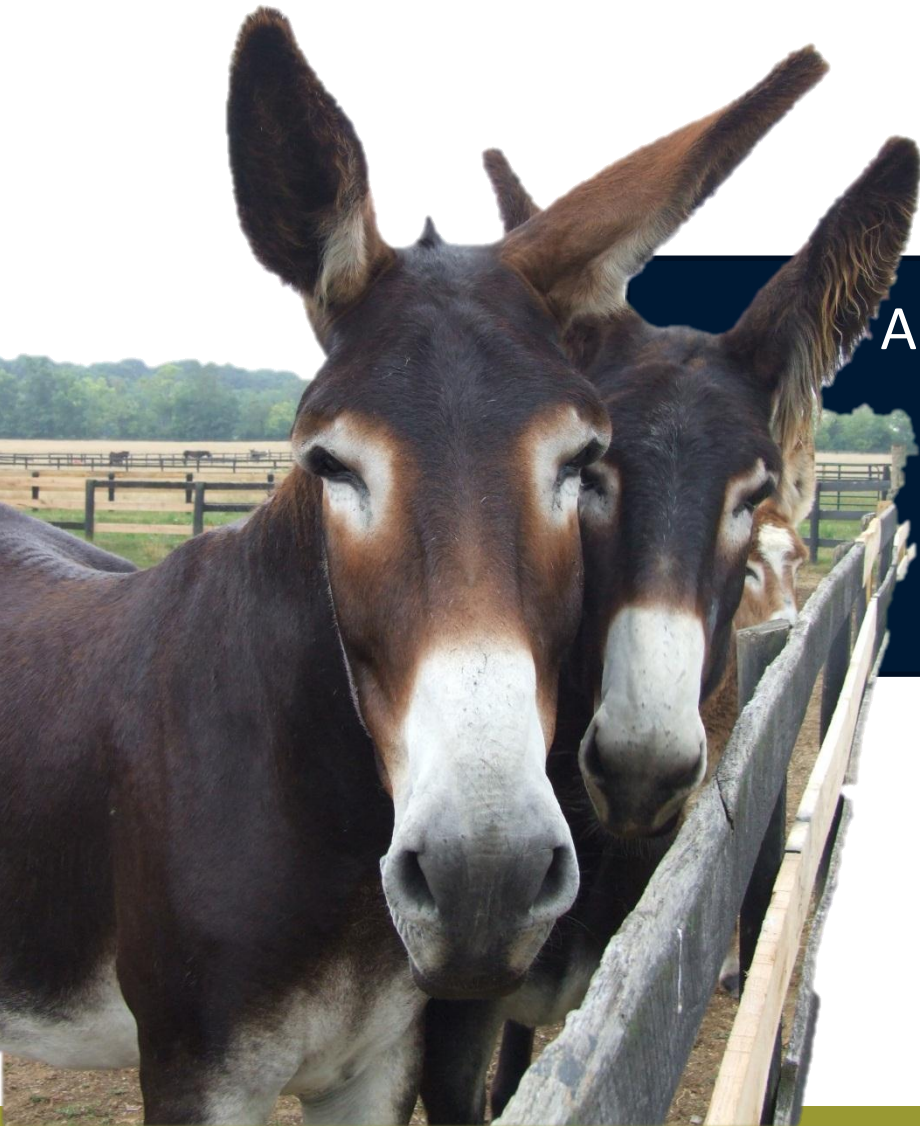
A Bowling Pin duck



Ancient temple carvings suggest Runner-type ducks existed in Indo-China over 2000 years ago.

American Mammoth Jackstock

A Founding Father's Legacy



America's own George Washington was one of the innovators that helped to develop the AMJ breed.

American Livestock Breeds Conservancy

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Questions

and Sharing



The American Livestock

Breeds Conservancy

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