



**RARE BREEDS
TRUST OF
AUSTRALIA**

**SECURING THE FUTURE
PRESERVING THE PAST**

Paddocks and Perches
Official Newsletter of
Rare Breeds Trust of Australia
June 2025



Race de Shetland.
*Vache de 5 ans propriété d'Andrew Duncan, Esq de Coumshingaugh,
 élevée dans l'île nommée le Macinland.*

Publié par RR, les membres de l'Association R.B.A. Propriété et de l'Association Australienne des amis de la race de la
 France. Quel Volume n°??

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From the editor

As a footnote to the article published in the last newsletter the Trust wishes to make the following statement:-

In Australia willows are classed as an invasive species. The exceptions to this law is the weeping willow (Salix Babylonia) and two hybrids of pussy willow (Salix Calodendron and Salix Reichardtii).

Please check with your local council as to the legality of using willow in any way on your property!

Front cover:-

Shetland cow, c. 1845 by William Sheils, published in 'The Breeds of the Domestic Animals of the British Islands' by David Low.

Photo supplied by Janet Lane

Rare Breeds Trust of Australia

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[https://www.facebook.com/groups/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/53617001689)

53617001689

Managing Director's Report

By Anne Sim

What to do when we can no longer keep our beloved rare breeds

Many of us keep a herd or flock of less common animals. That is why we are a member here. Because of your interest and because we love them. We are all aging so have you considered what will happen to this group of precious animals when you are no longer able to care for them?

This highlights the importance of planning for the future. There are several approaches that could be considered to help preserve these animals and their heritage:

Establishing a Network: Creating a network of like-minded individuals who share an interest in preserving these breeds can be very beneficial. These discussions can be about the future of these animals, including potential guardianship arrangements.

Education and Awareness: Raising awareness about the value of these breeds can help attract new caretakers. Workshops, community events, and social media campaigns can highlight their unique traits and importance to biodiversity.

Fostering Partnerships: Collaborating with agricultural schools, universities, and conservation organizations can create opportunities for internships or research projects focused on these breeds, ensuring that their care and preservation are passed on to future generations.

Have a Registry: Establishing a registry for less common animals can help track their populations and lineage. This could be a resource for potential buyers and caretakers, ensuring that they understand the significance of what they are acquiring.

Promoting Ethical Breeding: Advocating for ethical breeding practices can help maintain the integrity of these breeds, preventing them from disappearing due to poor breeding choices or neglect.

I hope that these thoughts have got you all thinking about the future of your breed and that no breeds will be lost in the future.

NOTICE—NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Anyone sending in articles, photos, etc. to the editor for inclusion in a RBTA newsletter please note:-

As of the March 2024 newsletter, articles with permission of the article author, are being offered to Australian Community Media group (ACM) for potential inclusion in one or more of their publications.

Authors and other content creators will retain moral rights, including their name attribution, in the article/s.

This has come about because the Editor of Farmers Weekly, a publication of ACM, offered to run some of our stories on a regular basis and make them available for usage within the ACM group. ACM may or may not run a given article/s.

Commencing with the March 2024 Newsletter, contributors will be asked to indicate their permission or otherwise to make their content available to the ACM group. Publications of the ACM group are listed at <https://acm.media/brands/>. Details of Moral Rights for content creators can be found at :- <https://www.artslaw.com.au/information-sheet/moral-rights/>

(In other words, anyone forwarding an article for the RBTA newsletter will be asked by return email if they are happy to have their story shared to other outlets.)

A big thank you to Peter Gelmi for getting the ball rolling. Peter contacted the Farmer Weekly, one of the publications of ACM about getting rare breed content published on a regular basis. The response was excellent with them wanting to do regular articles into the future and make available within the wider ACM group.

This will give the RBTA a huge audience around Australia and more acknowledgement of the RBTA endeavours.

Membership renewal is just around the corner! (Due by July 1st)

Those members with an email address will have now received their membership renewal notice with details on how to pay online. Thank you to all those renewing and supporting the work of the Trust.

If you do not have an email address or online access, and you do wish to renew, you can pay via direct deposit.

A/c Name: Rare Breeds Trust of Australia

BSB: 633 000 A/c No.: 114 996 127

If paying by Direct Deposit please email the payment receipt to rarebreedstrustau@gmail.com so that we can update your membership record.

If you want printed Newsletters for the 2025/2026 membership year, please make sure you include both the Membership fee and the Print Newsletter annual fee (\$20) in the direct deposit amount.

Membership fees

Membership category	Annual	5 Years	10 Years
PERSONS			
Individual	\$35	\$150	\$290
Family	\$55	\$240	\$470
Pensioner	\$20	\$80	\$150
Junior	\$35	Not available	Not available
CORPORATES			
Breed Association	\$35	\$150	\$290
Organisations (Business or not-for-profit)	\$35	\$150	\$290

Paddocks and Perches Newsletter

All members with an email address receive an emailed copy of *Paddocks and Perches*, the Trust's quarterly Newsletter, as well as the emailed quarterly *Quick Bites*.

For members wanting to receive *Paddocks and Perches* as a printed version through the mail, please order through the RBTA Online Shop. It's now just like subscribing to a magazine BUT only Trust members are eligible to order. Find the shop at <https://rarebreedstrust.com.au/public/shop/products>. The annual subscription to *Paddocks and Perches* is \$20 (this is additional to the membership fees set out in the table above). Only one year at a time may be ordered, so members with 5 or 10 year memberships will need to order each year. We will pop a reminder in each June Newsletter about this.



One of the happy entrants.

Helping Out - A lovely short story

By Carol wormald

With good intentions of helping our local agricultural society with their show this year, I attended the last meeting of the year. I envisioned helping in the canteen, maybe a bit of cleaning, nothing too onerous. At the end of the meeting, however, I had managed to become not only a volunteer, but chief steward of the poultry barn! My eldest daughter is mostly to blame for this mishap, as when it was mentioned that the previous years' steward wasn't available, she was furiously twisting in her seat and looking pointedly at me. I was studiously looking at the ground! Eventually I looked up, and the rest is history.

But, the deed was done, and how hard could it possibly be! Record some entries, take some money, go home, right? Well, actually, not exactly!

I cruised through February and March not thinking about it beyond approving the classes in the schedule, and finding a judge (thanks to the previous steward!). Then April arrived, and hurray, show entries were opened and available on the website with the schedule. Then entries arrived in my email. Then reality struck! What on earth was I to do with these chicken and duck entries? Having only ever shown turkeys, who almost always have their own palatial, uncrowded areas in the poultry pavilions, it dawned on me that I had never actually paid attention to how the chickens, or ducks were arranged. Were they arranged? Surely it wasn't just higgledy-piggledy throw them in the first available pen. So I reached out (well actually, I screeched in panic!), but I reached out to a knowledgeable and organised person who shows chickens. Help, please! And she did (bless her!) Forms and guidelines not only for help with the pen organisation, but with the other responsibilities required of a steward. (In my utter and complete ignorance, it never dawned on me there were other responsibilities!).

So armed with my new knowledge I attended the next society meeting. The pavilion currently had 50 pens and I had over 75 entries. Reasonably (I thought) I asked were there more pens. No, no there aren't. Can some be split? Well, yes, provided you do it. Now I'm the one looking pointedly at my good husband. He failed to look at the floor fast enough, and new pens were on the horizon!



The newly built pens

Thankfully, the ground's keeper knew where some started but not finished pens were in the storage shed disguised as shelving. I commandeered those (being chief steward and all!), and my husband (bless him!) made 16 new pens, and split 2 in the older sets, so I had enough pens for all the chickens, and ducks.

Show day came; chickens and ducks arrived; chickens and ducks were put in fairly organised order in the pens; judge arrived; judging happened; ribbons and cards were handed out; chickens and ducks were released and went home. And voila! A successful show day!

I'm sure you're eager to ask if I'm doing it again next year.

Well, yes, yes I am! I enjoyed it immensely! And not only am I stewarding at the local show next year, but I, and the daughter who caused all of this, have volunteered in the poultry pavilion at the largest show in the area for this year.

So, if you're thinking of volunteering at a local show in any capacity, go for it! It's absolutely worth the effort. And if you get stuck, ask for help. People are amazing, and happy to help!



The pavilion ready for show day. I was so pleased with it!

Supporting Cattle Breed Diversity in Australia

By Catie Gressier

Over the past century, the goal of animal husbandry has shifted to increasing performance for economic gain. Cattle have been divided into dairy or beef breeds and are selectively bred for milk volume or rapid growth and muscling, respectively. Production increases have been extraordinary, yet have come at a considerable cost.

The livestock industry's favouring of a diminishing number of these high-yielding commercial breeds has resulted in the **extinction of at least 184 cattle breeds globally**. That is at least 17% of cattle breeds we've already lost. In Australia, around 83% of the dairy herd are now Holstein-Friesians and approximately 70% of the national beef herd is Angus. Twelve cattle breeds are now extinct, with another 38 listed as under varying levels of threat by the **Rare Breeds Trust of Australia** (RBTA).

This echoes a broader pattern of loss of our agricultural biodiversity, which poses a significant threat to food security. The shift to corporate ownership of certain seeds, breeds and bloodlines has resulted in the homogenisation of our diets globally. As **Dan Saladino** writes: the source of much of the world's food – seeds – is mostly in the control of just four corporations; half of all the world's cheeses are produced with bacteria or enzymes manufactured by a single company; one in four beers drunk around the world is the product of one brewer; from the US to China, most global pork production is based around the genetics of a single breed of pig; and, perhaps most famously, although there are more than 1,500 different varieties of banana, global trade is dominated by just one, the Cavendish.

Alongside this loss of variety within our fruit and veg, crops and breeds, artificial insemination (AI) technology has resulted in a vast reduction of bloodlines within livestock breeds. This is evident in Holstein-Friesians, whose high milk yields have seen their popularity soar. In the US, over 90% of dairy cattle are Holsteins. In their research into male Holstein lines, **researchers at Pennsylvania State University** found that almost all AI Holstein bulls worldwide traced their lineage to one of two bulls born in the 1880s. Their lineages extend to two AI bulls born in 1960, from whom 99.84 percent of North American Holstein bulls are today descended. In terms of genetic diversity, these nine million cows are thus estimated to be equivalent to a herd of **fewer than a hundred animals**.

In Australia, with the cattle industry thriving, some might wonder whether this loss of breed and bloodline diversity matters. Given the speed of climatic and social change we currently face, I think allowing this loss of diversity constitutes an enormous gamble. Scientists have long understood that risk is mitigated by ensuring diversity at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels. And with cattle, the cracks are already beginning to show. The global dissemination of lucrative bloodlines has resulted in the spread of genetic defects, such as the case of Arthrogryposis Multiplex (AM) and Neuropathic Hydrocephaly (NH) in Angus cattle. Among Holsteins, the intensity of selection for milk volume has compromised other traits resulting in metabolic and structural problems, increased production disease prevalence, and reduced fertility and longevity in the breed. Moreover, Holsteins high milk outputs require high feed inputs, increasing negative ecological impacts.

On a big picture level, there are serious disease risks posed by a lack of biodiversity, especially when compounded by intensive animal confinement, where zoonotic diseases have ripe grounds for catastrophic outbreaks. **Rob Wallace**, an evolutionary biologist emphasises the need for 'immunological firebreaks' against disease pandemics. Such firebreaks emerge from a diverse gene pool and are embodied in certain breeds for certain pests and diseases.

Conserving breed and bloodline diversity not only mitigates against disease risks, but also ensures the perpetuation of a wide array of traits to meet the needs of future populations. Consumer preferences are always changing, as seen in the fixation of recent decades on lean meat and milk, which is now beginning to wane. It's difficult to predict what trends will emerge in future, so conserving breed diversity keeps our options open. And, of course, breeds form a valuable part of our cultural heritage, with many of the old breeds who are currently at risk being docile, hardy, beautiful animals that have unique qualities and quirks that make them a pleasure to have around.

When I learned back in 2017 about the extinction crisis unfolding on our farms, I was shocked that more people weren't talking about it. I designed this **project** to examine these issues and, in 2020, was awarded Australian Research Council funding for myself and two PhD students to spend three years working with the rare and heritage breed farmers conserving breed diversity across Australia. We're over halfway through now, and within this rather dystopian story of extinction and loss, there are also many heartening success story.

Supporting Cattle Breed Diversity in Australia

By Catie Gressier

So how to keep a marginal breed thriving? Everyone has their opinions, and there's plenty of valuable debates to be had, but here are my thoughts based on what I've learned so far. Contrary to much of the discourse we hear from agribusiness, the Food and Agriculture Organization confirms that approximately 80% of the world's food is produced on family farms. Family farms tend to be more ecologically sustainable, and foster more vibrant rural communities, while being home to greater wildlife variety and agrobiodiversity. Accordingly, growing the number of small-holders, rather than pursuing the get-big-or-get-out approach to farming of recent decades, seems the best way forward.

For the health of the animals and the planet, ensuring high animal welfare and good land stewardship are, of course, essential. Consumers are quite rightly increasingly concerned about these issues, and sharing knowledge with them about sustainable farming, the unique qualities of particular breeds, and the value of breed diversity is time well spent.

Maintaining the quality of animals is also key. Protecting bloodline diversity—especially when there's a relatively small gene pool—is important, as is breeding for a balance of traits given the dynamic and unpredictable consumer market, and the risks of a narrow productivity focus. Making the hard decisions and ensuring faults are not bred into the herd—including not only issues related to conformation, fertility and performance, but also temperament—is critical for the long-term health and reputation of the breed.

Finally, perhaps the least acknowledged aspect of supporting breed longevity is the social component. Encouraging and mentoring young people to get involved with the breed builds a future pipeline of skilled breeders and handlers. At the other end, making plans for succession with your herd ensures unique bloodlines aren't lost. Being inclusive and tolerant of different views, sharing knowledge and opportunities, and being one of, or offering support to, the hard-working volunteers who run the societies and shows are perhaps among the greatest gifts you can give the breed.

A new book on heritage breed farming in Australia

It has taken 10 000 years to develop the world's extraordinary diversity of domestic livestock. But with advances in selective breeding and artificial insemination technology, a small number of profitable livestock types now dominate globally. Their popularity has left ever more heritage breeds at risk of extinction.

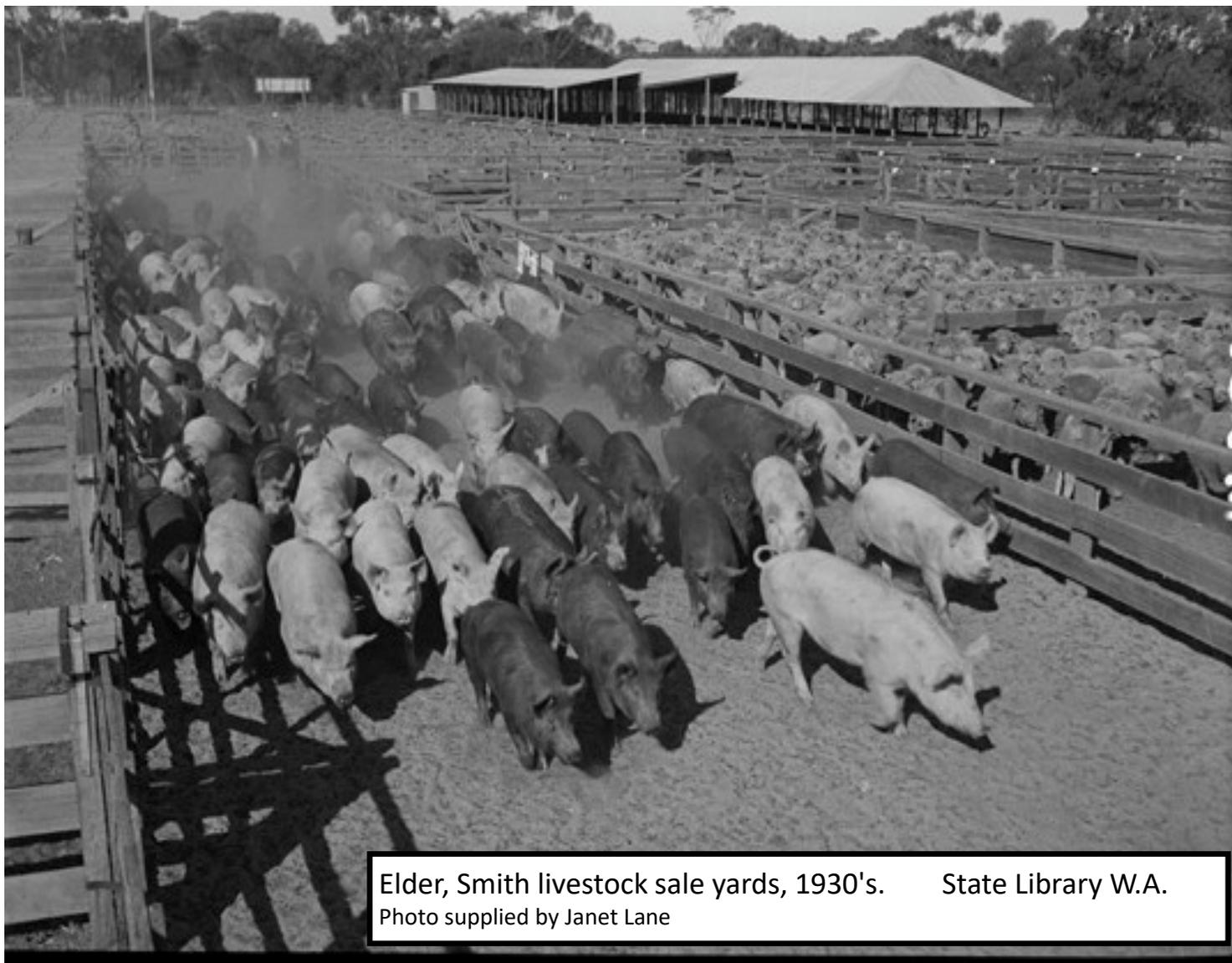
Since 2020, I've been conducting research with the heritage breed farmers across Australia working hard to preserve breed diversity (including many of you reading this newsletter!) Growing from this research, in my new book, *Saving Heritage Breeds: A Love Story* (UWA Publishing, 2025), I describe how rare and heritage breed farmers are motivated by one of the most powerful conservation tools we have: love.

Love doesn't often feature in agricultural research. But it is an important force. We know from wildlife conservation that humans act to save what they love. This holds for livestock, too. This book is a celebration of heritage breed farming in Australia, and it addresses the key issues surrounding agrobiodiversity loss and conservation. It's just \$22.99 and is available [online](#) or by order from your local bookshop.

There wasn't space to include all the amazing stories you told me, but every conversation shaped my understanding of the issues, and I want to thank this amazing community for your support for this research, and all that you do to preserve so many wonderful livestock breeds.

Catie Gressier.





Elder, Smith livestock sale yards, 1930's. State Library W.A.
Photo supplied by Janet Lane

State Library of Western Australia

Rare Breeds Trust of Australia Sponsorship of the Novice and Junior Judging Competition at Dapto (NSW) Poultry Club



Congratulations to Louis Kerbert winner of the Dapto Poultry Club's Young & Novice Judging Competition 2025. And thank you to Bevan Nicholas of the Trust who presented him with a 12 month Trust membership award, amongst the other awards including NSW State Junior Champion Exhibitor Trophy that this talented young poultry exhibitor received on the day.

Left to Right:-

Bevan Nicholas (RBTA),
Louise Kerbert, Ryan
McParland (Dapto Poultry
Club) and Ken Bergin
(Judge)

Breton or Brittany cattle - now known as Bretonne Pie Noir

No longer in Australia, these little beauties were brought here in earlier times. A small breed - some take offense at the term miniature - they measure females to 117 cm, males to 123 cm. It appears all that came here were black and white.

They were distinctive for their coats of black and white, or red and white. Black and white was the most common colour and is the only colour of the breed now - however in the 1800's a breed called the Armorican was created from some red and whites in Brittany - still going although rare. Sadly, the Carhaix Pie Rouge or Red Pied Cow of Central Brittany is now extinct, yet numbered half a million at the beginning of the 20th century.

The amount of colour varies - Some are almost solid colour - just the tummy white, others are almost all white. They are horned with neat curving, black tipped white horns.

Used primarily for milking, but like most smallholder cattle are versatile - beef and draught work being other uses. Times were hard in centuries past, the cows were often milked three times a day so people could survive. Often they became lean from lack of feed, and were kept in a shelter joined to the house at night, to save stress from cold. The cattle became small in stature over time and very hardy, becoming very good doers - giving very rich milk to keep their humans and calves nourished.



*Breton Cattle
Australian Town and
Country Journal, 9th
November 1872*

Brittany in France is very close to the islands of Alderney, Guernsey and Jersey – far closer than the UK. The Breton port of Saint Malo is only 70k from Jersey.

These three islands had their own breeds – tragically the Alderney, once very popular in Australia in earlier days, became extinct in WW2. All these breeds are rich in butterfat. All are similar in appearance; the Jersey, although whole coloured, is known to throw a little white patch at times, while the Guernsey and Alderney show strong resemblance to the Breton.

Alderney is only 25k from Le Hague in Brittany - Alderney cattle were small, only a little bigger than Bretons.

Jersey is 70k from Saint Malo on the Brittany coast, cattle the next size up from Alderneys.

Guernsey is 112 k from the port of Saint Malo, cattle the largest of the Channel Island breeds, a little larger than Jerseys.

These islands are far closer to France by a direct route - just using closest port to measure shipping route. The Breton is the smallest and oldest breed of all these.

The Shetland, another rare breed, is from the distant Shetland Islands off Scotland. Would they too have some Breton genetics?

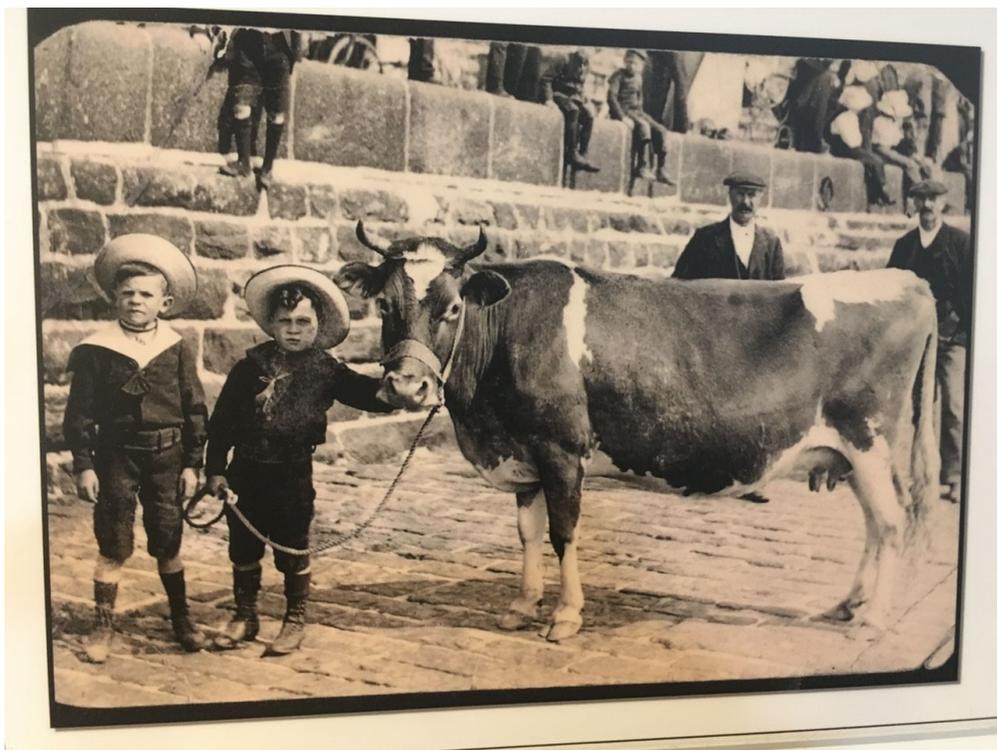
Cattle from Brittany and Normandy were imported to the Channel Islands during the 1600's, but by 1789 Jersey enacted a rule preventing cattle imports except steers for the table, as they'd formed their own breed. Indeed, Jersey cattle were imported to England as early as 1747.

Breton or Brittany cattle - now known as Bretonne Pie Noir

Big cattle markets were held weekly in Brittany, many by the coast - an easy matter to put a couple of these small cattle on a boat to the islands. At times, some were taken to England where, like here, they were regarded at first as a curiosity for their size - but beloved for their rich milk, easy keeping and docile temperament. Perfect for a small acreage.

The milk flavour is described as the best of all milk, being a sweet nutty flavour, high in Vitamins A, D and E. The cream is a delicious flavour too, said to be superior to all other cream. The butter fully retains its flavour when cooked - so is popular for making rich pastries, butter cake and butter biscuits. The little cows give about 10 quarts of milk a day – just over 9 litres. Cheeses too are made, and a fermented milk called Gwell, like yoghurt.

The beef too is highly praised, full of flavour and tender, regarded as a delicacy.



Left:-

*Mrs Gaskell and Miss Betty Barker's Alderney cow
Elizabeth Gaskell House
website – more photos on
the site*

Below:-

*Trottinette with its mother
Radiouse, Bretonne Pie Noir
cow and calf
Photo on ACTU-Bretagne
website, in their L'Echo
section.*

In this era of DNA testing for congenital problems, dwarfism has been tested for with the Bretonne Pie Noir and never found in the breed. They are naturally small, and have been for centuries. A very healthy breed.

Bretons were in Australia in healthy numbers by 1860 - the Breton cattle class and the Alderney cattle class at Port Phillip Show (Melbourne) had numerous entries that year. One Breton cow exhibited by Mr Kissock gave so much cream (for butter) it not only supplied his household, but there was plenty of butter over to sell each week. Mr Lyall showed a Breton bull at the same show.

More Bretons came here in 1860 – by then they'd also been imported to various states of the USA too. Canada had them far earlier - the first Breton cattle going there about 1620 with French settlers. Plenty of Breton cattle went there.

In 1860 Two bulls and six pregnant cows, all black and white, were imported to Victoria on the ship Maid of Judah by Mr Philpotts, despite the long journey they were landed in good condition. Some Normandy cattle too. Two Breton cows and a bull were imported by Mr Lyall to Victoria that year too.



Breton or Brittany cattle - now known as Bretonne Pie Noir

In 1861 Mr. McLanahan imported a Brittany bull and cow on the Royal Shepherd, his purpose to use these “lilliputian” cattle as lawn ornaments on his farm in Tasmania, and indeed, to keep his lawn mowed. By 1864 he had six of this breed, which he took to shows.

In 1861 on the ship Windward, Captain Lulham landed a Brittany cow and an almost fully grown Breton bull calf, for his own use.

1862 at a sale at Malvern, Victoria, two Brittany cow, two heifers, a bull and a young bull went for auction.

Plentiful mentions of them in newspapers of the times, including husbandry notes that said to be aware these cattle were kept indoors at night in their homeland, so needed to be sheltered if possible from extreme weather for a time after importation - but that they soon adjusted to outdoor living all year round. And that at Christmas in Brittany was a time honoured festival of Blessing the Cattle.

They were also said to be immune for a lung disease that affected other cattle (perhaps TB).

By 1882 it was reported numbers of Alderney and Breton cattle were slowly dropping in South Australia. Several sold at Geelong sales in 1887. Still showed in Victoria through to the 1890's.

Bretons disappeared in Australia in the early 1900's. The Dexter and Kerry superseded them in popularity with those seeking miniature cattle. The Kerry is gone from Australia now.

In 1905 a lovely Breton cow was imported to Victoria and placed on a government farm at Richmond, but soon met her death from an unknown cause. The Breton breed was hailed as “The Poor Man's Cow” by Mr. Thompson, Supervisor at Hawkesbury College - as he said they could thrive on a small area of very poor country. However it appears this label of being a poor man's cow turned people off. The “happy peasants cow” however is accepted as a term in France.

Hopefully this old breed will return to Australia one day as an insurance population. Their proper name is Bretonne Pie Noir – Breton Pied Black - their studbook formed in 1886. In 1976, when numbers dropped to 15,000 the breed was actively saved by the French government and the efforts of Pierre Quemeneur who travelled around the last breeders, rallying them to the cause. France's first ever cattle conservation effort. Nonetheless, numbers stand at only 1,600 cows now in Brittany, their homeland.

They were so precious to Brittany that it was exempt from salt tax, so butter could be made. Bread and butter is still a favourite snack there, and wonderful cheeses made from the milk form part of many meals.

Link to a little video about the breed <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nBdXNP89ayQ>

Janet Lane
2025

*A Bretonne Pie Noir
(Brittany or Breton
cow)*

*Black and white is
the only colour now,
and was the
preferred colour by
those importing to
Australia in earlier
times too.*

*Photo from the
Brittany Tourism
website.*



A REMARKABLE WA DISCOVERY - A SHEEP WITH TEETH OF PURE GOLD

Article supplied by Anne sim

A remarkable discovery was made quite accidentally at Fremantle in 1891.

Mrs. Kerr's landlord happened to drop in for dinner and whilst partaking in the soup, noticed the unusual appearance of the sheep's jaw-bone on his plate.

A cursory inspection revealed that the teeth appeared to be encrusted with pure gold!

The landlord was quick to submit the sheep's jaw to an established dental surgeon Mr. Bingay and other experts, for careful examination. After applying nitric acid and doing the other usual tests, all were thoroughly satisfied that the "marvellous encrustation" on the teeth of the aged sheep, was indeed gold!

It was Mr. Bingay's expert opinion, that the precious metal had become affixed to the sheep's teeth while the animal was grazing "newly-grown herbage" in the Murchison area - known for its gold. The unique curio was put on display in Bingay's dental surgery, opposite the Governor Broome Hotel.

Almost 25 years later in Victoria, another remarkable case of a sheep whose teeth were covered with a veneer of gold, was reported in Swan Hill. Also discovered at the dinner table, this time by motor garage proprietor John MacPherson.

A decade later in 1925, a sheep's head was bought from a butcher at Castlemaine, Victoria. When cooked and cut in two, it also revealed teeth coated in gold.

A few years on, also in Victoria, a sheep killed at the Meredith Abattoir was found to have its teeth heavily encased in gold. Residents had visions of "auriferous wealth" but this time testing suggested that it was not gold but rather "new chum gold" (mica cemented together with organic matter).

But despite this finding, in 1950 you couldn't buy a sheep head in Portland, Victoria. When Mrs. Keiller bought a sheep head to make broth and retrieved the bones from the pot, she found the teeth glittering with gold.

Two jewellers, a Western Australian gold-mining 'expert', and a dentist concluded that the covering was indeed gold, starting a gold rush! The Portland butcher's staff "went prospecting" on 79 other sheep's heads from the St Arnaud area, uncovering more gold the next day.

Over in Melbourne in the same year, a man brought a set of sheep's jaws from a St Kilda butcher and found teeth encrusted with gold. Newspapers at the time recounted similar cases on record involving other animals.

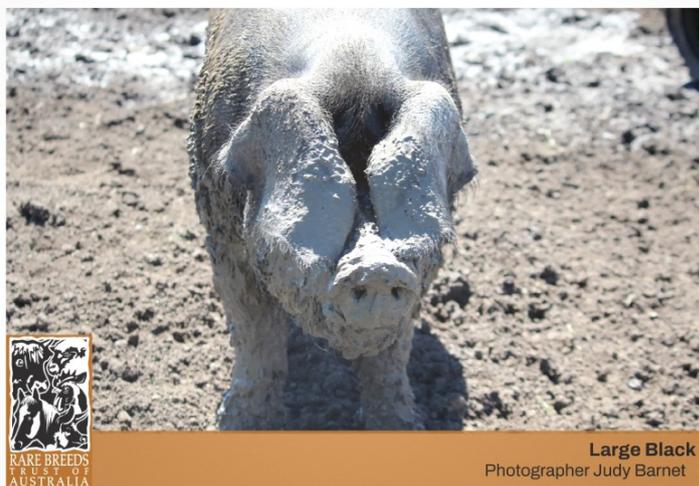
Several ounces of gold had been found on the teeth of three heifers at Monara in NSW in 1941. While two pennyweights of gold had been found in a pair of geese at Dunnstown near Ballarat in 1935.

Today we know that the metallic-looking encrustation found on the teeth of sheep is not gold. Rather it is a combination of phosphate of lime with organic matter, its metallic appearance an optical effect.



POST CARDS

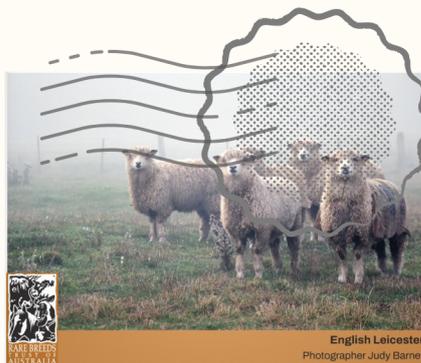
The RBTA now has a shop on its website where members and the public can purchase newsletters and these wonderful postcards donated by Judy Barnett. They are not shown to size but the size is ? X ? Which is a standard postcard size.



RARE BREED POSTCARD SERIES

The Rare Breeds Trust of Australia's new postcard series is a great way to promote rare breeds. Use the postcards to send to friends or family, or just pin to your fridge!

Find them on the Trust's online Shop at <https://rarebreedstrustofaustalia.tidyhq.com/public/shop/products>



to: _____

 from: _____
<https://rarebreedstrust.com.au>

Tas Doornbush recounts his life in just a few words. – compiled by Tasman Doornbusch

Pt. 2 - Continued on from the previous newsletter (March 2025)

By 1994 I had sold off my Salers cattle and decided to research the rare Pinzgauer, having read up on them. I contacted the Agricultural Department of Western Australia and was told that just one stud existed north of Donnybrook. The stud was a retired Swiss father and son team who had imported embryos from Canada into surrogate angus x Friesian cows. From a small start they had upgraded and now had a nice herd. I made enquiries and was told they would sell their original bull called Donald. When I drove down to pick him up I also purchased four F1 red and white nicely marked heifers. Luckily one of these was naturally polled. I later returned to Brookhampton and bought another young bull called Victor. These cattle I loved for their quiet temperament and attractive markings.

On my way home from Europe I visited the Johannesburg zoo, here I saw the strangest looking Llamas I had ever seen. Fast forward to 1990 (25 years ago), when the opportunity arose to buy some Llamas freshly imported from Chile I was a keen buyer. For my \$80,000 I bought 4 hembras and 2 machos, all supposed to be two years old. I immediately joined the Australian alpaca society and registered my herd. The metal ear tags numbered 10 – 16. I was the first member to register any alpacas in Western Australia. Now, in addition to my Pinzgauer cattle, a few sheep, pigeons and poultry I added my small herd of Llamas. I soon discovered they were very different to any livestock I had ever kept.

There are two types of alpacas, the Huacayas with fleece resembling fine merino wool and the rarer ring lock fleece of the Suri variety. During this time most alpacas were of the Huacaya variety with just 10% being Suri.

Farmed alpaca in south America are a lustrous white, however my original hembras consisted of 2 black 1 brown and 1 self (whole grey). During the 1900's a lot of breeders bought into imported Chilean alpacas. 90% were of a lustrous white colour with 10% being spread over all the other self colours. Broken pied colours were sold off as pets or guard animals for flocks of lambing ewes. In the late 1900's a few of the rarer alpacas were imported. I saw my first ones at our club shows.

At these shows I exhibited my coloured fleeces winning many sashes and other prizes. A Suri alpaca stud, Windsong Valley of Bedfordale, held regular field days and it was there that I was introduced to the newly imported silky white Suri. Normal Huacayas have fleeces like merino sheep but these stunning looking Suri were curly fleeced similar in appearance to an angora goat. When I discovered that Windsong Valley had purchased a world class stud from the USA for the record price of \$250,000.00 I was truly impressed. Two years later Windsong offered his offspring for sale.

I sold off all my Huacayan machos giving me enough money to buy just one of their offspring. So once again using my knowledge of genetics I set about breeding up a flock of F1, followed by second and third crosses back to this top quality breeder.

Using the pure white male the colours of my crias varied greatly. I now had fawns, light and dark browns, plain greys and a very rare rose-grey. The colour was so rare that when I sent the fleece to Melbourne they had no use for it being the only one they had ever seen and it was sent back to me. by now I had a flock of some two dozen suri.

I always exhibited every year except for when away in Europe, from 1966 – 2017, a truckload of poultry, fancy pigeons, and from 1995 Suri alpaca coloured fleeces.

I turned my lounge room into a trophy room which became much adorned with trophies, ribbons and sashes.

Forward to approximately 2014 I started to experience a past life catching up with me and was slowing down and did not get about so easily. I was starting to struggle with all the things that needed doing with the alpaca. About this time the alpaca market also started collapsing, a result of too many breeders breeding too many cria. It cost \$25 to register just one cria and then when time to sell at the market they would fetch \$50 less 10% commission. I found a buyer who took my complete herd to use as guard animals on a huge sheep station.

A farmer who was also a friend was telling me of the time he went looking for one of his missing guard alpaca that were looking after lambing ewes. He found it trying to kill a big goanna that was dragging off a dead lamb.

In 2016 vandals burnt my home to the ground and I lost all my memorabilia including photographs.

Final chapter in the next newsletter.

BELVUE RANCH exhibits belted galloway at Southern Highland country shows. A Report from Bridget & Ben Flocco

Recently BELVUE RANCH exhibited at two of our local country shows in the southern highlands NSW.

Being ROBERTSON & then MOSSVALE with our belted galloway cattle and junior parader show team.

Thankyou to both show societies, beef committee, volunteers, judges & stewards for a great couple of days at this year's show for both locations. Lots of fun & hard work for our little team of paraders with our current other commitments but we're keen to be able to show case our cattle to the local public, community and catch up with other exhibitors & mates in the beef production community.

Big highlight for us was to get in the ring with our current donated steers at ST GREGORY'S & CHEVALIER COLLEGE!!! Excited to see them out with both show team's doing a fantastic job and having fun with their belties!!! All students looked very impressive with their cattle.

BELVUE RANCH walked away with a couple of ribbons at ROBERTSON SHOW =

☑ BRITISH FEMALE 20-24 months went to BELVUE RANCH ULTIMA

☑ BRITISH FEMALE 24-30 months went to BELVUE RANCH UBEAUTY

MOSSVALE SHOW =

☑ SMALL BREED FEMALE 20-24 months went to BELVUE RANCH ULTIMA

☑ SMALL BREED FEMALE 20-24 months went to BELVUE RANCH UREEKA

☑ SMALL BREED FEMALE 24-30 months went to BELVUE RANCH UBEAUTY

☑ PEE WEE JUNIOR PARADER BRIAH FLOCCO
Congratulations to all involved and the other exhibitors for their



achievements at this year's shows !! And appreciate everyone looking out for us and accommodating our needs as we continue to grow our show ring experience.

Big thank you to our family and friends for coming out to support our junior paraders whom always give it their best and do us and the breed very proud!! Well done kids!

Also cheers to the lads from MAYFIELDPARK for clipping the cattle. Unfortunately we missed out on Camden Show due to family commitments but plan to attend in 2025 and a couple of heifer shows later on this year with our belted galloway to proudly represent rare breeds as well as we are able to in our capacity.



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Above are logos and names of businesses and people who kindly donated to the Trust's auction. Without their sponsorship our genebank would probably not exist.

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My apologies to those whose logos I could not find, and anyone I may have inadvertently missed.

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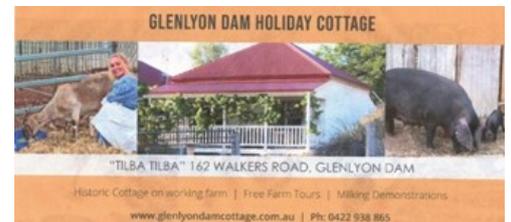
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Leftover Turkey Meat Recipe - Submitted by Carol Wormald

Raising heritage Australian turkeys means lots of turkey meat in the freezer (usually!). A whole roast turkey is lovely from time to time, but a whole bird lasts us up to a week, and by then, there are groans when its served again.

In making the family happy with leftover turkey beyond the tried and true turkey sandwiches, and turkey soup, I've discovered a few other family favourites. So if you have left-over turkey, this recipe is a great way to use it up!

Turkey Tikka Masala

Recipe originally published at:

www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/turkey-tikka-masala

Ingredients

- Sunflower oil
- Onion finely chopped
- 3 garlic cloves crushed or finely grated
- Thumb-sized piece of ginger peeled and finely grated
- 1 red chilli deseeded and finely chopped
- 1 tsp cumin seeds
- 1 tsp ground coriander
- ½ tsp paprika
- ½ tsp ground turmeric
- ½ tsp garam masala
- 1 tbsp tomato purée
- 400g can passata or chopped tomatoes
- 1 tbsp mango chutney
- 100ml double cream
- 2 tbsp natural yogurt (optional)
- About 600g leftover roast turkey cut into large chunks



Our Feast!

Method

- Heat the oil in a casserole dish or shallow pan over a medium heat, and fry the onions for 10-12 mins until golden.
- Stir in the garlic, ginger, chilli and all the spices, and cook for 2 mins more until the mixture resembles a paste.
- Stir in the tomato purée, passata or chopped tomatoes and mango chutney, and bring to a simmer.
- Cook for a further 10 mins.
- Stir in most of the cream and the yogurt, if using, and return the mixture to a simmer.
- Add the turkey and continue to simmer until the turkey is piping hot.
- Remove from the heat, drizzle over the remaining cream and stir through briefly. Scatter over some coriander and flaked almonds, and serve with the rice and naan breads on the side.

I served it on rice with fresh naan and green beans on the side. It was a huge hit with the family, and with me as it was easy to get on the table!



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THE BANTAM BRAHMA IN AUSTRALIA

A quick history

The Bantam Brahma was developed by W.F. Entwisle in Britain and separately by Louis Herbert in Germany in the late 19th century. Entwisle initially crossed Pekins with small Cochins to eventually produce the Bantam Brahma, with it first being shown at the 1885 Crystal Palace Exhibition.

By 1908 the Bantam Brahma was being advertised in Australia as an economical and friendly breed. However, the Brahma breed in both Standard and Bantam died out in Australia after WW2. Without the capacity at that time to import birds, talented breeders worked progressively from the 1970s to recreate the Brahma in both Bantam and Standard forms. George Childs and Don Jones, both from NSW and both now sadly passed, were the two core figures in the recreation of the Bantam form in Australia.

THE BANTAM ADVANTAGE

- Great temperament and child friendly
- Easy to handle with their smaller size
- Economical - less space and feed requirements
- Good egg size for a Bantam
- Good sitters and mothers

George Childs

George Childs had recreated a form of Buff Bantam Brahma by the late 1980s. George selectively bred Buff Pekin with Indian Game to breed for the bantam size and head and body type. George followed up with the recreation of Bantam Light Brahma. George's lines were taken up by committed breeders such as Neal and Linda Lynch, with many champion birds resulting from continuous selective breeding for type and variety.



BCCA Life member Neal Lynch and Linda Lynch.
(Inset) Light Bantam Brahma bred by the Lynchs.



(L) Bantam Dark Brahma hen. Bred by Brahma and Cochin Club of Australia (BCCA) Life Member Bryan Meade

(Below) BCCA Life member Bryan Meade (L) with Betty and Don Jones, and Cindy Pretty



Dark Bantam Brahma. Don Jones (r) with from left Luke Price (Brahma and Cochin Club of Australia Life Member), Betty Jones and Cindy Pretty.

Don Jones

The Bantam Brahma in Australia owes a great debt to Don Jones in his recreation work over the 1980s and 1990s. He was able to have the Light Brahma Bantam breed true by 1995, followed by the Dark Bantam. Breeds such as Pekin, Light Sussex, Indian Game and Wyandotte were selectively bred to meet the Bantam size and colour standards. The breeding of the hooded eye, head type, dewlap and wing set were challenges in the Bantam, but Don made headway on these features. Luke Price, Bryan Meade and Cindy Pretty were closely involved with working with Don's Bantams to progress the Bantam type. Don was a Patron of the Brahma and Cochin Club of Australia as well as a Life Member.. In his honour, the Club presents the Don Jones Best Bantam Dark Brahma award at its Annual Show.

Bantams from the 2000s

Following their successful recreation the Bantam Brahma was exhibited in good numbers along with the Standard Brahma. 118 Brahma, including 83 Bantam Brahma, were benched at the first Brahma Feature show in 2000. Poultry Judge Ken Bergin called it an outstanding achievement considering the breed "was just a memory" ten years previous to the Show.

Work has continued on sustaining the Bantam Brahma through ongoing selective breeding for type. The Brahma and Cochin Club's online Breeders Directory is a useful starting point to find Bantam breeders.
<https://brahmacochin.org.au/>.

The Bantam Brahma. Small is beautiful

Info sheet prepared by Susan Locke. Collaborators - Bryan Meade, Cindy Pretty and Neal Lynch.



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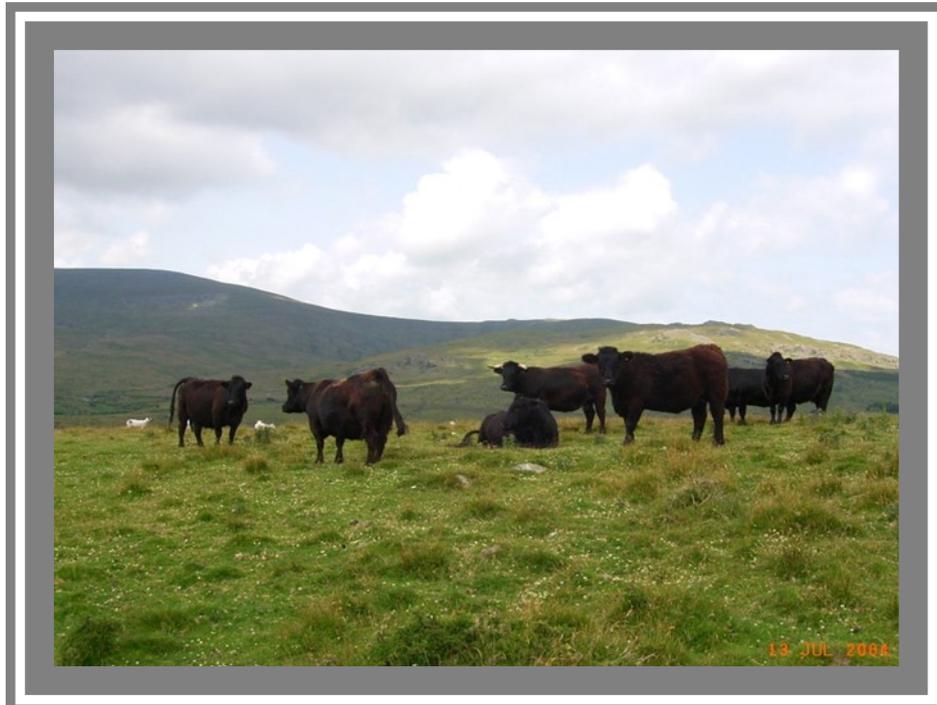
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