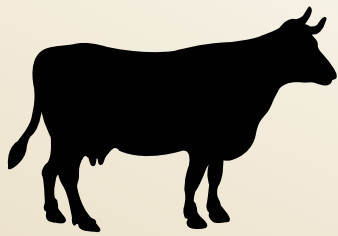


Randall Lineback Cattle



by Jacki Sonewald, INTERPRETIVE SPECIALIST

LAKE METROPARKS FARM PARK RECENTLY WELCOMED ITS NEWEST ADDITION to the dairy herd. Missy, a two-year-old Randall Lineback cow, comes from a small herd of these rare cattle in Pennsylvania and will join the rest of the bovine beauties in making milk once she has a calf later this year.

Randall Lineback cattle are a landrace type of cow. Within a domesticated species of animal there are breeds and landraces. Breeds are types of the species that, through human selection, consistently pass on traits, such as appearance, production and behaviors.

But within a species there are also landraces, which are not true breeds because they are more variable in appearance and are defined more by their adaptation to a certain area and its environment. Randall Linebacks are known for their hardiness, resistance to parasites and their ability to forage well on pasture. Although Randall Lineback cattle can trace their early ancestry to some of the more well-known breeds of cattle, they were developed in isolation for more than 80 years on the farm of Samuel Randall in Sutherland, Vermont.

Considered a critically rare breed by the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy (ALBC), the fate of

WELCOME MISSY



the Randall Lineback was murky when Samuel Randall's son, Everett, died in 1985 and the herd dispersed. Luckily the ALBC and others concerned with preserving the breed were able to save a small group of the original herd. This small group has become the foundation for efforts to save the breed from extinction.

When you visit Missy, you will see she is typical of Randall Linebacks. She is medium-sized with a roan pattern of black and white on the sides and a band of white along her back. Randall Linebacks are a multi-purpose type of cattle, able to perform in a dairy, as a beef cow or even as oxen.

Missy is a wonderful addition to the dairy program, so make sure you visit the park and say "hello" to this truly special and unique cow.

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\$100

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