



THE ORIGIN OF THE MULEFOOT HOG

The origin of the American Mulefoot breed is not clear. F.D. Coburn, in his classic 1916 book *Swine in America* notes that the Mulefoot hog was found in Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Indiana, across the southwest and in some parts of Mexico. The National Mulefoot Hog Record association was organized in Indianapolis, Indiana, in January 1908. Two additional registries were also founded. In 1910 there were 235 breeders registered in twenty-two states. Mulefoots were taken to Canada between 1900 and 1920 but no attempt was made to establish a herd book and pedigree records were not maintained according to J.W. MacEwan in *The Breeds of Farm Livestock in Canada*.

AN ENDANGERED BREED

Today, the Mulefoot is the rarest of American swine breeds. The most distinctive feature of the American Mulefoot hog is the solid hoof, which resembles that of a mule. This breed is unique to the United States and is critically rare.

The Mulefoot hog population is classified as "Critical" by the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy (fewer than 200 in annual registration). However its outlook is improving. Very dedicated breeders are now raising the Mulefoot across the nation.



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All information contained is to the best of our knowledge.

We welcome further historical information any time.

The American Mulefoot Hog Association & National Registry

The Mulefoot Pig—On the brink of extinction



"... When the last individual of a race of living things breathes no more, another Heaven and another Earth must pass before such a one can be again. — William Beebe

THE LAST HERD

A tribute to Mr R M Holiday

A remnant population of the American Mulefoot has been owned by R.M. Holiday of Louisiana, Missouri, for nearly 40 years. During 1976 he swapped animals with a breeder in North Dakota, which introduced some undesirable traits such as prick ears, wattles and split hooves. After his experience with this "exotic" animal dealer he sold no more stock except those contracted for slaughter. During these years the Mulefoot registries folded and all known copies of the herd books were lost. Nevertheless, Holiday's strong and consistent production selection has maintained a generally uniform and characteristic herd. *We salute you!*

Mr Holiday has now sold his remaining herd to Maveric Heritage Ranch located in South Dakota. Arie McFarlen and Brent Kortie now own the largest documented purebred herd in the world. ~We thank you!

MULEFOOT DESCRIPTION

Coburn describes Mulefoot hogs as black, with occasional animals having white points; medium flop ears; and a soft hair coat.

The hogs were of fairly gentle disposition, fattened quite easily, and weighed from 400-600 pounds at two years of age.

Note: A solid hoof alone does not make a pig a Mulefoot.

EXCEPTIONAL QUALITIES

They were considered the highest quality ham hogs and were fed to great weights before

slaughter. For some years breeders claimed that Mulefoots were immune to hog cholera. That claim has been disproved, though the breed does possess remarkable hardiness.

In order to preserve a dying breed, you must create and maintain a market. The Mulefoot produces top quality meats for the discriminating consumer that demands exceptional taste. The Mulefoot Pig is a heritage breed of swine. The meat they produce is a unique rose-red beefy color and very tender. Only the rare heritage breeds of swine produce this type. The meat is highly sought after and considered gourmet quality meat. Standing orders are common.

The Mulefoot has a fairly gentle disposition. They forage well on pasture.

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The American Mulefoot Hog Association & National Registry

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*We would like to thank all breeders for their
unwavering dedication!*

Or contact breeder below for further information:

THE AMERICAN MULEFOOT HOG ASSOCIATION & NATIONAL REGISTRY

We have founded the American Mulefoot Hog Association and National Registry. Our association's goal is to document and preserve the critically rare Mulefoot Hog. We welcome any historical information on the Mulefoot Pig.

For membership applications, registration applications or to request information packet: call 517-767-4729 or visit: us on the web at: mulefootpigs.tripod.com



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