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## PARTHENAIS, CORRIENTE, AND WAYGU “New” Cattle Breeds Catching On Fast

Exotic “new” breeds of beef cattle have been catching on fast with cattlemen across the U.S. and Canada. FARM SHOW associate editor Bill Gergen recently tracked down details on three of the most unusual:

**Parthenais** - This French breed was introduced to Canada in 1991 via embryo transplants. There are now about 70 purebred Parthenais in Canada and a Canadian Parthenais Association was formed in 1992 with about 50 members.

In France, the heavily muscled Parthenais are used as draft animals. They're buckskin in color with tough black hooves and black pigment around the eyes and genitals. Moderate in size, they produce rapid weight gain in crossbred calves.

Mature cows weigh up to 1,600 lbs. and top bulls up to 2,600 lbs. Parthenais have a high muscle-to-bone ratio - purebreds dress out over 67% while carcasses regularly cut out at over 77%. The meat is low in calories, fat and cholesterol while retaining excellent flavor and tenderness.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, The Canadian Parthenais Association, P.O. Box 910, Cardston, Alberta, Canada T0K 0K0 (ph 403 653-4437).

**Corriente** - This Mexican breed was first brought to North America from Spain on Christopher Columbus's second voyage, chosen because of their small size. Through the years they've been popular in Mexico as work animals due to their gentle disposition and willingness to work. Their even temperament makes them the number one choice for team roping and bulldogging in the rodeo world today.

Corrientes are aggressive foragers, hardy, and naturally disease and insect resistant. They're highly fertile and adapt well to all climates. Their small size makes it possible to run almost twice as many head per acre compared to some of the larger beef breeds.

The North American Corriente Association was established about 10 years ago by a small group of ranchers who had problems finding good Corriente steers for team roping and bulldogging. Their solution was to raise the cattle themselves. The number of registered cattle has grown to over 7,000 and the association has more than 300 members, with 135 active breeders in 20 states, Canada, and Mexico.

“We're trying to preserve a breed of cattle that could become extinct in Mexico because of crossbreeding,” says Mike Bowl-

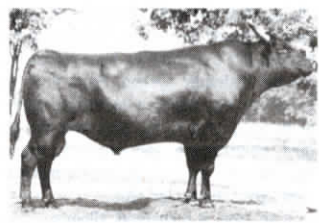


Corriente cattle were brought to North America by Christopher Columbus.

ing, an association director from Allen, Okla., (ph 405 436-2298).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, North American Corriente Association, 9101 E. Kenyon Ave., Suite 3000, Denver, Colo. 80237.

**Waygu** - Waygu cattle are considered by the Japanese to be a national treasure. The world's only purebred Waygu breeder cattle, outside Japan, are in Iowa. Two young purebred bulls are kept at Hawkeye Breeders Services, Adel, Iowa. And three



A Waygu steer won the carcass contest at the National Western Stock Show in 1992.

pureblood Waygu cows are housed at the Sioux Center headquarters of Trans Ova Genetics, a leading collector of cattle embryos.

“We've had a lot of interest in them,” says Lloyd Jungmann, of Hawkeye Breeders Service. “The bulls don't appear to be a meat-type animal; they're small like dairy cattle. However, Waygu cattle produce tasty, well-marbled beef that's surprisingly free of cholesterol.” The breed's popularity got a boost in 1992, when a crossbred Waygu steer took the grand championship carcass contest at the National Western Stock Show in Denver.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hawkeye Breeders Service, Inc., 3257 Old Portland Road, Adel, Iowa 50003 (ph 515 993-4711).

## “On-The-Go” Yield Monitors

You've probably heard a lot lately about Global Positioning Systems (GPS), field mapping, and site specific farming as the coming thing in farming. Now, new “on-the-go” yield monitors are pushing the new technology closer to practical application. The monitors provide visual feedback as you go through the field, unlike conventional yield monitors which provide information only when you unload grain from the combine. The new monitors can record yield and field position simultaneously, and can also be used with GPS satellite receivers and portable computers to collect data for yield maps of each field.

Here's the latest on two “on-the-go” yield monitors just introduced.

**Ag Leader Technology** - New “Yield Monitor 2000” has a key pad and 2-line display, along with a plug-in for a “memory card”. Features include:

- Continuously measures and displays yield, moisture, combine speed, grain flow, and acres per hour.
- Calculates, displays and records average yield, average moisture, area, distance, wet bushels, dry bu., harvest date and time for each load, as well as field totals.
- Records field and load names for easy identification in your harvest summary.
- Records data for up to 976 loads.

“It's the most advanced on-the-go yield monitor on the market today,” says Allen Myers, president. “It's accurate to within 2 to 3 percent. As you harvest, you can look at a yield read-out for every area of the field. It keeps data on loads organized by field. You can transfer the data to a computer to make a printout that maps yields.

“We tested about 100 units in the field last year. Everyone who used them was surprised by how much yield variation they found within fields. You can use the information to apply differing amounts of fertil-

izer or herbicides, within the same field. In some cases it'll tell you where drainage is poor. One farmer was so convinced his yields were hurt by poor drainage that he called his drainage contractor right from the combine.”

Complete system sells for \$3,390; \$2,995 without moisture sensor.

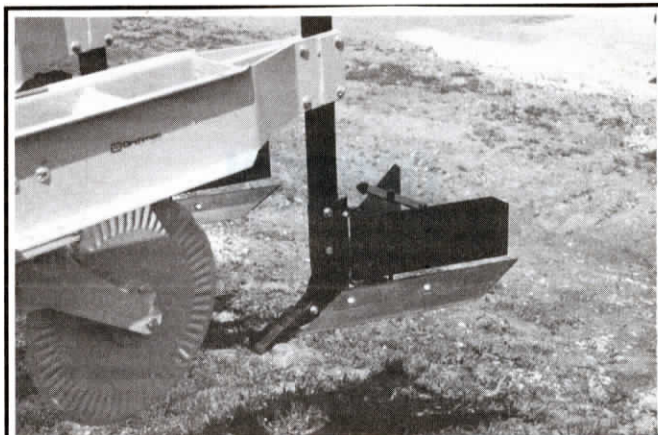
Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ag Leader Technology, 1201 Airport Road, Ames, Iowa 50010 (ph 515 232-5363).

**Micro-Trak** - HarvestYield monitor shows the number of bu. being harvested per acre. At the touch of a button you can also view the number of acres combined, average yield per acre, yield per hour, total bu. harvested for a given area, ground speed, and distance traveled. Accurate to within 2 to 3 bu./acre. An electronic grain flow sensor mounts solidly to combine's clean grain elevator and continuously records the flow of grain by measuring the force applied to a sealed load cell. Eliminates the uncertainty of mechanical devices.

A new version, scheduled to be available by June, will include Grain Trak and Data Trak on-board monitors. The Grain Trak will incorporate a moisture sensor. It will interface with a Data Trak memory card that can be downloaded into a computer to give you a printout. The memory card will be able to be linked up to a GPS receiver so you can continuously collect both yield and combine position data on a memory card. This data can be loaded into a mapping program to make yield maps for all your fields.

Sells for \$1,250. Grain Trak will sell for \$2,300. Data Trak will sell for \$600 (not including memory card).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Micro-Trak Systems, Inc., Box 3699, Mankato, Minn. 56002 (ph 800 328-9613 or 507 257-3600).



## 31-In. Wide Cultivator “Quick Sweep”

“We think it's the best non-slabbing sweep on the market,” says Fred Goertzen of Goertzen Manufacturing about his add on “Quick Sweep” that fits Orthman, Bufalo, Lilliston and other cultivators that have 1 by 3-in. shanks.

In addition, Goertzen makes brackets to adapt the wide sweep to Deere 885 cultivators, Lorenze, and other curved shank cultivators.

The new sweep blades range in size from 17 to 31 in. wide, and Goertzen also provides replacement chrome points as well as a ridging wing that mounts above the sweep with just a single bolt. The

ridging wing can be adjusted for any row width.

“This sweep doesn't slab and it also doesn't boil the soil like conventional sweeps. Soil flows over it and then rolls evenly and gently around the plant,” notes Goertzen.

The sweep is priced at \$109 with 17-in. blades. The ridging wing is \$55. Brackets for Deere 885 and other curved shank cultivators are \$70.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Fred Goertzen, Goertzen Mfg., 1508 W 7 RD, Aurora, Neb. 68818 (ph 402 694-3089).