

SALORN: A NEW BREED OF CATTLE

Salorn, a new breed of lean beef cattle, is under development in the United States. The Salorn is comprised of 5/8 French Salers and 3/8 Texas Longhorn blood. This combination of genetics utilizes the most historically adapted breed of cattle in America—the Texas Longhorn—with the Salers, which is claimed to be the most proven carcass quality breed.

The Salers breed is one of the oldest in the world. Prehistoric man knew the cattle and left drawings on South African cave walls dating back more than 7,000 years.

The cherry red cattle are considered to be one of the seven native breeds of France, and are believed to be the direct descendants of ancient Egyptian Red Cattle. They originated in the Salers Valley in the Cantel Region of southcentral France, which is mountainous with poor soil and a harsh, damp climate at an elevation of 3,000 to 7,000 feet above sea level. The breed was developed solely on grass and grass hay. Because of its "isolation" in this area, the breed is one of the genetically purest of all breeds—creating remarkable hybrid vigor when used in crossbreeding programs.

In 1972, a French cattleman was allowed to export a bull to his ranch in Quebec, Canada and semen from this bull was eventually distributed in Canada and the U.S.

The American Salers Association was formed in Minnesota, MN in September 1974.

The Texas Longhorn is by far the most adapted breed to the southern U.S., having been in North America for nearly 500 years. The Salers and Longhorns evolved in almost the same areas of the world before coming to America. Many of the Salers' traits are very similar to

those of the Longhorn, and in addition, Salers have a tremendous growth factor combined with calving ease and superior carcass quality.

The SALORN creating program begins with registered Texas Longhorn females carrying the genetic traits of adaptability. Superior full blood, smooth-coated, muscu-



Mr. Anthony with a group of his registered yearling F-1 Salorn heifers, bred to a registered Salers full blood bull. They will calve before they are 2 years old.



Registered Salers herd bull, 3 yrs. old, approx 2000 lbs.



1/2 Salers—1/2 Longhorn (F-1 Salorn) bull calf. Born 2-28-89; Birth weight=79 lbs; Will weigh approximately 630 lbs at 205 days.

lar Salers sires are mated to these cows. The resulting half Salers-half Longhorn are then bred to 3/4 Salers-1/4 Longhorn to produce the 5/8ths x 3/8ths result, which is the first generation (F-1) SALORN. For maximum heterosis, a number of generations of the 5/8ths x 3/8ths SALORN is necessary to insure breeding consistency.

The potential for this breed, as an outcrossing synthetic breed improver, is unlimited on a global scale. Eighty percent of the cattle producing areas of the world

are tropical. In four-fifths of the world, Brahman synthetic breeds dominate the basic genetics, but when compared with Texas Longhorn and Salers they are inferior in carcass quality and the latter lack their genetic defects.

The cattle pictured here are owned by Mr. Bill Anthony, B-D Ranch, Ardmore, Oklahoma, who has been a breeder of Texas Longhorn for many years and is now developing a herd of SALORN.

FOR YOUR LIBRARY

MEDICINE AND SURGERY OF SOUTH AMERICAN CAMELIDS: Llama, Alpaca, Vicuna, Guanaco

Murray E. Fowler

In recent years there has been a rise in the popularity of llamas and alpacas in North America, Australia and western Europe. Animal practitioners are being called upon to set up parasite control and vaccination programs and/or to treat llamas for colic. But most practitioners have little or no knowledge of camelids. *Medicine and Surgery of South American Camelids* is the first and only text in any language that covers the whole spectrum of medical problems of South American camelids. Just published by the Iowa State University Press, the book is the result of inquiries made to the author from practitioners concerning llama problems over the past few years. The emphasis of the book is South American Camelid (SAC) medicine; however, some comparative medicine of Old World camels has been included.

Camelid medicine is in its infancy. There are many gaps in the literature. This book discusses both North and South American camelid diseases and is thus comprehensive and usable throughout the world. It is directed toward clinical medicine and surgery, but biologic and anatomic information is also included. Llamas and alpacas have many unique anatomical and physiologic characteristics that require special consideration when a

physical examination or surgery is conducted. The reproductive cycle, with induced ovulation as a prominent feature, requires special understanding in order to deal with infertility. The term "llama" includes all SACs unless otherwise specifically mentioned. Llamas may share some diseases with cattle and sheep and react to colic as would a horse, but camelid anatomy is unique; surgery techniques must differ.

Although there is much yet to be studied about lamoids, the literature and the author's experiences provide a foundation for dealing with medical problems now and can be a stepping stone for future studies. Each chapter of *Medicine and Surgery of South American Camelids* has been reviewed by those with experience and expertise in the topic. This book will be invaluable to a veterinarian faced with the challenging case of a sick llama and alpaca, or who must deal with preventive medical problems and infertility.

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