

Carroll County

Farm features rare cattle and hogs

By MALCOLM HALL
GateHouse Media Ohio

In the world of livestock farming, Michael Gotshall has been playing host in southeastern Carroll County to some rare characters.

First, there are the Scottish Highland beef cattle. The breed sports a set of long horns and wavy coats of hair, giving them an appearance unlike the beef cattle normally seen in Ohio. Also, there are the Hereford pigs who have red bodies and white faces, making them resemble their namesake, Hereford cattle.

The meat product that

comes from Gotshall's farm, which is in the 7200 block of Pearl Road SE in Carroll County's Lee Township, is not found in grocery stores.

"We are pasture-to-table for beef and pork," said Gotshall, who operates the Rax and Trax Farms with his wife, Lacey. "We do home-delivery service for some counties."

The Scottish Highland cattle originated in northern Scotland. They are not nearly as prevalent in the United States as the beef cattle breeds, Angus, Simmental and Hereford. Gotshall owns 18 Scottish Highland cattle.

Tender beef

"The quality of beef they offer is the lowest fat and cholesterol content of any commercial breed," Gotschall, 33, said.

They are considered a heritage breed of livestock, or farm animals that were more common in earlier eras before industrial farming took root. Scottish



Ray Stewart, GateHouse Media Ohio

Lacey Gotshall greets Beethoven, a Scottish Highland bull, as he comes in from the pasture to eat.

Highland cattle were introduced to the United States about a century ago.

"A few years back, they estimated there were 30,000 registered Highlands in the United States," said Ginnah Moses, operations manager for the American Highland Cattle Association, which is based near Denver, Colo.

"I certainly don't know why people don't have more

of them. Most of them are sold private treaty. That means selling them privately. There are a lot of our members who like raising heritage breeds. Highlands have a unique look to them; long horns and long hair. They are definitely tender. Our members that sell the beef say they have customers that say the beef is tender. We have around 1,300 members throughout the United States."

Gotshall, who also is employed by Brechbuhler Truck Sales in the Canton area, became acquainted with Scottish Highland cattle through his grandfather.



Priscilla's curiosity about the camera didn't stop her from eating. She is one of the herd of Scottish Highland cows on the Rax and Trax Farms in Carroll County.

Now he and his wife have their own Scottish Highland operation.

"Independently, she and I have had those five years now," he said.

The other red meat

As for the Hereford pigs, they arrived later at Rax and Trax Farms.

"We have had Hereford pigs for about two years," Gotshall said. "We have 14 out an estimated 2,000 in the United States. They are a red meat pork, not a white meat pork like you see in the store."

The Hereford pig was de-

veloped in the United States in the early 1900s through a synthesis of other hog breeds.

"It is becoming a more popular breed in the state," said Bryan Humphreys, executive vice president of the Ohio Pork Council. "Herefords are known for a darker, redder meat. The darker the meat, typically, the better tasting."

The way the business works for Gotshall, he takes his cattle and hogs to meat processors, such as Don's Custom Meats or Polen Meats. There the livestock is slaughtered and meat is vacuum sealed.

"Then we start our marketing process," Gotshall said. "We have a delivery route. We use social media quite a bit."

Farm breeding is how the Gotshalls prefer to replenish their stock. Purchasing cattle and hogs from other farms and breeders is not optimal.

"Not unless we absolutely have to, unless there is some extenuating circumstance," he said. "If we absolutely have to, we will buy. Because of the type of breeds that we have, they are slower growers. They just take longer to mature."



- ERTL Toy Tractors & Equipment
- Bruder Trucks & Construction Toys
- BREYER Horses & Accessories
- Melissa & Doug Toys
- Radio Flyer Wagons
- Antique Toys & Collectibles

330-627-5343

Hrs. - M-F 9:30 to 5 &
Sat. 10 to 3

Most Credit Cards Accepted
**75 W. Main St.
Carrollton, OH 44615**

For more information go to
www.budsfarmtoys.net



Modern insurance for modern farmers.

Ohio Mutual Insurance Group has been a leader in the farm insurance industry throughout Ohio since 1901. With over 100 years of experience, our farm products have evolved to meet the needs of 21st century farmowners. As farm technology has advanced, so has our coverage.

We offer:

- Sudden and accidental pollution liability coverage
- Equipment breakdown coverage
- Equine liability coverage
- Care, Custody, or Control coverage (Contract Hog Operations)

Contact your local independent insurance agent today to learn more!



HOMETOWN
INSURANCE AGENCY



JENNIFER GRIGSBY

AUTO • HOME • LIFE • FARM • BUSINESS

330.866.3580 • www.finnicuminsurance.com

366 N. Main Street • PO BOX 393 • Magnolia, Ohio 44643



Thomas Turnipseed

Agency Owner
TURNIPSEED ALLSTATE AGENCY

Allstate Insurance Company

160 2ND ST SW
CARROLLTON, Ohio 44615

Phone 330-627-3092
Toll Free 800-686-3093
Fax 330-627-3094



24-Hour
Customer Service TTURNIPSEED@ALLSTATE.COM

M-F 9-5 • Auto, Home, Life, Retirement