

# Lineback Cattle, Lenapi Traditions

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didn't know what else to do. Since then, several Lineback bulls are available through DHIA. The registry is open through this year in order to establish the foundation animals in the states, then it will close in order to preserve the genetics of future breeds.

Baily reports that he has three generations of pure Linebacks that are registered.

He is grateful to Chester County extension agents for pushing for the breed to become recognizable and allowed to compete in fairs and other competitions. The Bailsys show Linebacks at several fairs but district competition is as far as they can go at this point.

"Our goal is to go to (Pennsylvania) Farm Show," Baily said. He is working to have Farm Show officials offer competition in the Lineback breed.

Jane said of her husband's enthusiasm in helping his daughters compete in many shows, "He enjoys 4-H shows as much as the girls. I think it's because he didn't have the opportunity growing up."

The Bailsys operated two farms about three miles apart. They live on 110-acre farm that has been passed down through his mother's side, but also farm his father's 131-acre farm, where his 83-year-old mother still lives.

They family cannot determine how old the Baily family farm actually is. But it is believed to have been built in the 1700s. A Chester County history book published in 1881 shows a drawing of the Baily farm.

"It looks the same today as it did back then," Baily reported with obvious pride. Wooded rail fences line the farm lane that continues at least a quarter of mile. The original stone barn and several other outdoor buildings are still in use, but a 400-head freestall barn and a milking parlor and milk house were added in the 1950s and 1960s. Red barn calf pens matching the red barns on the property have been erected to house three calves to a pen.

A kitchen, bathroom, and new windows were added to the farmstead, but other than that the horsehair plastered walls, the large rounded deep windowsills, and wooden floors are still in the original condition.

Family heirlooms brought from England have been passed down through the centuries. "The Bailsys have always liked old things. We don't know how old the things are, it's just part of us and has always been here," said Baily's mother Dorthea. Her husband Eusebius died in 1983.

It's evident that a grandfather's clock is extremely old, but no date appears on it. Inside the clock, dates are written of when it was repaired. The oldest date marked is 1827.

Although it has not been determined how old the farmhouse where his mother lives is, the Baily family's farmhouse was built in 1730.

"I don't push for high production. I believe in encouraging a long life span by keeping cows in

good health and producing a calf every year," Baily said.

"I heard some push their cows so hard that they get only two lactations. I don't believe in that. I have some on their 10th lactation."

His wife said, "He has one that is 18 years old."

"Don't tell other farmers that. They'll think I'm crazy," Baily said with feigned embarrassment. "But that is my best Blue Lineback. It's a pet."

His wife added, "I always say every pasture needs a pasture ornament and that is what it is."

Speaking of pastures, Baily is a firm believer in putting the cows out to graze. However, he does not follow intensive grazing practices.

"I think intensive grazing is a great idea, and I almost made the switch two years ago, but I got cold feet because of potential water problems," he said.

Dry cows and heifers are completely pastured during the warmer months until Thanksgiving.

John Stidhum, the Baily's herdsman for 11 years, calls the farm "The Bailey Zoo." A peacock, a Red Bourbon turkey, Silie chickens, and even a mule, about which Jane published a children's book. It's a farm that school classes enjoy touring.

Stidhum milks 110 cows every day but once a week, Baily fills in for him. Baily takes care of the calves and replacements and much of the field work.

Baily helped organize a Lineback promotional sale in May at the New Holland Sales Stable and is planning another one in the

spring of 1998.

"Heifers were shipped in from New York, Maryland, and as far away as Wisconsin," he said. "Prices were above average because there was so much interest


in the breed."

Baily maintains that Linebacks are genetically superior to other breeds. He said, "They have good longevity, strong legs, udders and

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Jane follows the tradition of her ancestors who were of the Lenapi tribe. She did the intricate beadwork that appears on the bag, which is traditionally made in pairs and used for storage on either side of a horse while travelling. Jane founded the Lenape Honoring Festival held annually on the Baily farm. Thousands of people attend the festival, which will be held this year on Sept. 13-14, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.



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