

Pineywoods Cattle at the Kerr Center, 1995 - 2014

Pineywoods cattle are a heritage breed, descended from the first Spanish cattle in the New World – a “cousin” to Longhorns.

The breed is listed as “threatened” (fewer than 1,000 yearly U.S. registrations and fewer than 5,000 global population) by the Livestock Conservancy.

Pineywoods cattle are resistant to parasites and diseases, tolerate heat and humidity well, and are productive on marginal forage.

They have correspondingly lower growth potential than modern commercial breeds. They bear lighter calves with a lower per-pound price, but also have lower per-pound production costs.

The Kerr Center first acquired Pineywoods cattle in 1995, with the arrival of a herd at the Overstreet-Kerr Historical Farm. In 2006, the Pineywoods herd expanded onto the Kerr Ranch. Preserving the polled Carter strain became the main management focus for the Overstreet herd, while the Kerr Ranch herd became the center of efforts to demonstrate the breed's viability for low-input commercial beef production.

The Overstreet herd was dispersed with the closing of the historical farm in 2010. The Kerr Ranch herd sold in 2014.

A more detailed history of the Kerr Center's work with the Pineywoods breed was published in the [fall 2010 issue](#) of the Kerr Center newsletter, *Field Notes*.

For more information on Pineywoods cattle, visit the websites of the Pineywoods Cattle Registry & Breeders Association (www.pcrba.org) and the Livestock Conservancy (livestockconservancy.org).