



WHYC

YAK TRACKS Breaking News

Getting Your News By the Horns



Welcome to WHYC

We would like to Welcome you! to the **World Heritage Yak Conservancy (WHYC)** You may have heard that there is a new Heritage breed in town. As of 2021, Heritage Yak were added to the Conservation Priority List at the Livestock Conservancy. At World Heritage Yak Conservancy (WHYC) we track yak in North America, support yak breeders and associations, and research the Heritage yak breed.

CALL FOR SUPPORT: WHYC Conservation

Research Partnerships

Benefiting the Yak Industry

Because we believe we are stronger together than divided, WHYC is inviting IYAK and USYak to our Data Exchange program.

WHYC asks the yak community to

"Support our efforts to create research partnerships with our yak breed associations."

We've written grants to fund genetic testing of historic dams and sires, so that we can link pedigree in the GeneSeek and Davis databases, as well as filling in gaps in the herd data of the North American yak.

"We've invited IYAK and USYAK to collaborate with WHYC on a Conservation Research Partnership to Exchange Genetic Data to fill in gaps in the yak databases."

Our WHYC members hold many purebred, seedstock yak that represent progenitors of calves that will attempt to transfer into other registries from new owners. We offer to share these new, pedigreed, seedstock Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) markers. This means progenitors do not need to be duplicated in retesting by multiple associations to achieve requirements for Parental Verification. This will allow associations inexpensively register additional animals. This will also help to protect the purebred yak and preserve this valuable genetic diversity for future generations. This will ease the testing burden to ranchers and associations, and further yak conservation.

"Our funding will ease the financial burden of genetic testing for ranchers and associations, and benefit the entire yak industry."

The Heritage yak breed and our conservation efforts will bring media attention to all yak in North America, and that means new buyers and more members. The work of WHYC is important to all yak ranchers and all yak associations. Not all buyers will want purebred Heritage yak, some will want beautiful white hybrids, economical alternatives, or some will want yak for meat production - and this additional attention will create demand for all yak.



CALL FOR SUPPORT: from the Center for Biological Diversity

The Center for Biological Diversity is a nonprofit membership organization known for its work protecting endangered species through legal action, scientific petitions, creative media and grassroots activism.

"At the Center for Biological Diversity, we support the efforts of the WHYC and hope you will too"

"We support the work of the World Heritage Yak Conservancy (WHYC) and their effort to stop the degradation of the endangered Heritage Yak breed and hope you will too. By tracking yak in North America, decreasing hybridization of purebred yak, and monitoring inbreeding, together we can save this important genetic diversity for future generations. WHYC's Research Conservation Partnership efforts will help this rare and endangered breed to survive and thrive."

"WHYC's Research Conservation Partnership efforts will help this rare and endangered breed to survive and thrive."

- Kieran Suckling, Founder and Executive Director, and Board of Directors of the Center for Biological Diversity

The Center for Biological Diversity is a multimillion-dollar nonprofit with income coming from government grants and private donations, including Pew Charitable Trusts, Rockefeller Family Fund, Turner Foundation and Patagonia Fund.

WHYC is very grateful to Kieran and the Board's support of the World Heritage Yak Conservancy. At WHYC we feel Collaborations are central to the future of yak in North America and the success of the Yak Industry.

[Visit Center for Biological Diversity](#)



Heritage Yak Breed

A Heritage Yak is a unique breed of hairy, horned bovid meeting a specific set of criterion as established by the World Heritage Yak Conservancy (WHYC) with the Livestock Conservancy. Since 2019, WHYC members have been working with The Livestock Conservancy to define yak as a "Heritage" breed in order to codify the term in the marketplace and create the criterion that identifies the breed. Established in 1977, thus far, the Livestock Conservancy has defined "Heritage" for chickens, turkeys, cattle, and swine - and now yak.

Google "Heritage Cattle" or Visit the North American Heritage Yak breed at the Livestock Conservancy.

[Read more](#) about Heritage Yak

[Visit Livestock Conservancy](#)



Association of Zoos and Aquariums: Conservation Partners with WHYC

WHYC is the only yak association that has an AZA affiliation. As an AZA Conservation Partner, WHYC embraces, in mutual support, the standards, mission, and work of AZA-Accredited aquariums and zoos and the staff and volunteers working to save wildlife and preserve genetic diversity. Our data will be made available (deidentified) to researchers around the world. This assures the members of the yak community, that at WHYC we are accountable to maintain excellence in genetic testing and high registration standards for the breed. We'll send out a photograph when our AZA plaque is received.

Yep, this means we're plaque worthy.

Listed in the Who's Who of Zoos and Aquariums

Our accepted membership application means we will appear among the 'Who's Who' of zoo and aquarium professionals and supporters with a listing in the AZA Online Member Directory - available to be viewed at any time by more than 6,000 members! This means yak will get more exposure and media attention to get the word out about this amazing, intelligent and endangered breed.



Yak Fest 2021

Saturday, October 2, 2021
9:00 AM 5:00 PM

A Yak or 2 Ranch
6885 County Road 571 Northeast
Mancelona, MI, 49659

This event is hosted by A Yak or 2 Ranch in Northern Michigan. Take a wagon ride into the pasture with the yaks, have a bite to eat, get your hands on yak products, learn more about Heritage Yak, and enjoy family friendly activities! Come see what the yak is going on at A Yak or 2 Ranch!

- Free fun and admission for everyone!
- Complimentary donuts and coffee from 9-11am
- Lunch (including yak burgers!) available for purchase from noon to 2:30.

[Yak Fest 2021](#)

Is Your Yak a Heritage Yak?

To find out if your yak qualifies as the rare Heritage Yak breed or to be put in contact with a Heritage Yak breeder contact the WHYC Registrar.

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or call WHYC 855-920-4925

Please share this newsletter with colleagues and post on your Facebook Page.

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