

NORTH AMERICAN CORRIENTE ASSOCIATION



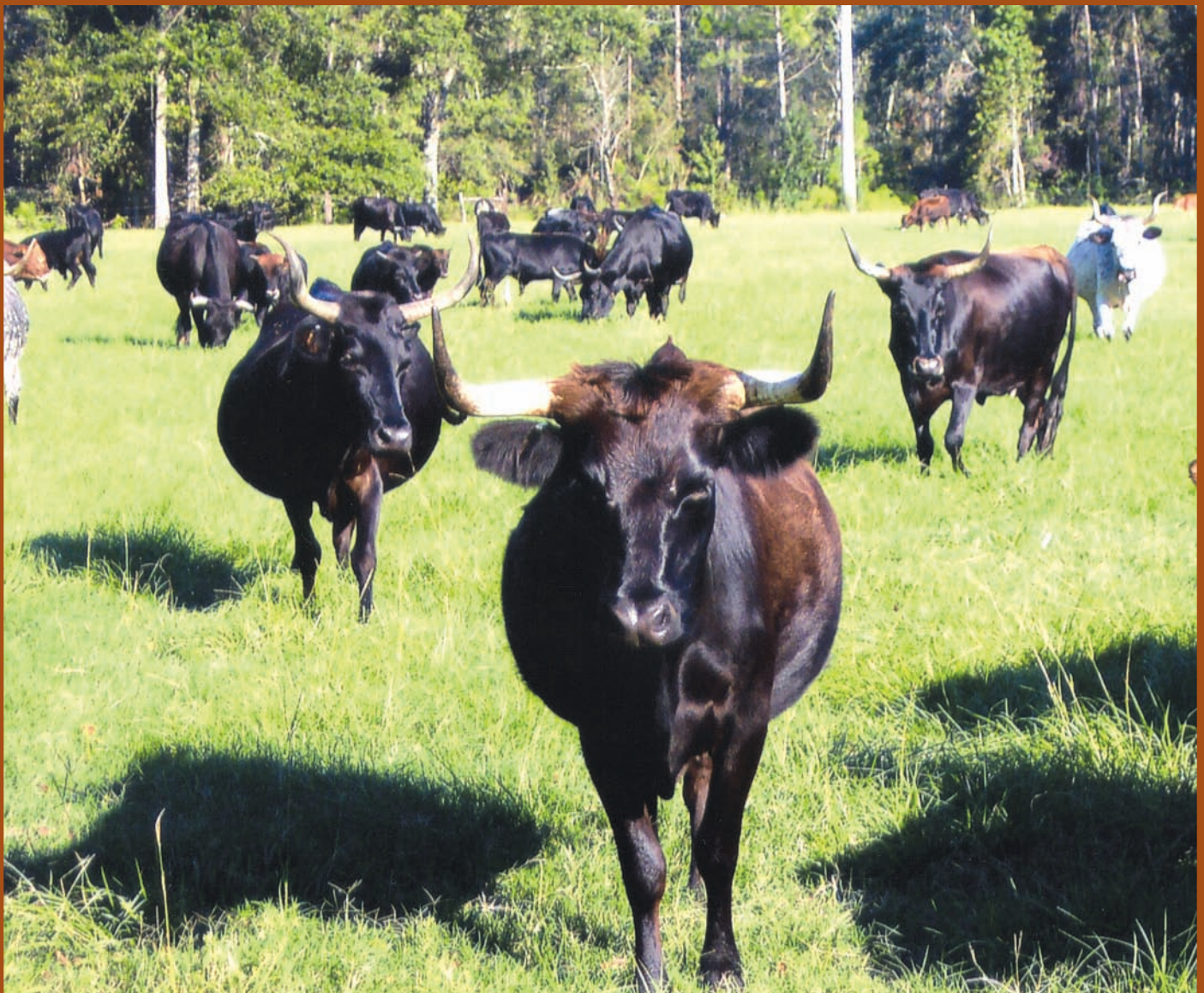
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To Promote and Preserve Corriente Cattle

Corriente Cattle

Corrientes are raised primarily for sports cattle, while preserving such natural attributes as high fertility, early maturity, trouble-free calving, and foraging efficiency, as well as disease and parasite resistance. This unique breed differs greatly in conformation, behavior and hardiness from cattle raised only for meat. Most of the production problems experienced by today's cattlemen are a result of increasing size and weight in order to fit the current commodity market. Corrientes remain untainted by the manipulative animal husbandry which has affected and weakened many domestic animals.

The Corriente is a small, agile, athletic animal with stamina, heavy horns, and a gentle disposition. These characteristics make the Corriente an ideal animal for team roping, bulldogging and an excellent choice for cutting and team penning.



The Future and Corrientes

Many of today's farsighted ranchers realize that successful cattle production is most accurately assessed by total income in conjunction with an analysis of the cost of production and impact on the land. Beef producers often boast about weaning weights without reference to conception rate, calving losses, deteriorating range conditions and feed, medicine and labor expenses. A perceptive cattle producer is wise to aim for a cow herd which weans healthy calves, has suffered no loss, stress or ill health, has required a minimum of care and expense, and has foraged widely on diverse vegetation. Corrientes fit the vision of the future rancher in that they are highly productive, inexpensive to care for, and resourceful foragers that utilize and benefit the environment as naturally as wildlife.



These traits are especially advantageous to producers who want to maximize production from their ranch, and still maintain plant diversity and promote sound ecology. While most Corriente breeders' major market is for sports cattle, their value as productive range cattle, unspoiled by overdomestication, cannot be overlooked.

Additionally, many beef cattle producers use Corriente bulls on first calf heifers for calving ease, and then put the crossblood heifers back in their herd to increase fertility, foraging efficiency and hardiness. The preservation of the Corriente is not simply about raising small cattle with horns for the expanding sports market. It is an effort to preserve an important resource for the cattle industry; an effort not to lose nature's best cattle.

Characteristics

Conformation: The desired conformation for Corrientes reflects their use for sports as well as the traditional characteristics they evolved to survive and thrive. Many characteristics typical of the beef breeds are not desirable.

Corrientes are small, trim cattle, with sufficient bone and strength for easy action and endurance. Generally, a mature bull weighs less than 1,000 pounds, and a mature cow less than 800 pounds. The cattle are narrow with high withers and a short, peaked rump. They have a clean dewlap, deep girth and high flank. Cows have neat, tight, trouble-free udders with small to moderate teats, and produce rich milk. Bulls have a tight sheath. A high, bushy tail switch and pronounced mane are notable characteristics. Any color is acceptable, except pure white with no pigmentation whatsoever. The head is “V” shaped, never boxy and square nor excessively long.

The horns begin curving at approximately the tips of the ears and then curve forward, or forward and upward. A 12-month-old bull's horns should show at least 6” of length and 6” of base circumference, with 7” to 8” more typical. At this age the horns may be nearly straight, but soon develop a curve so that the animal can still go through a roping chute easily as a two-year-old. Thus, extreme length is not considered ideal. Many breeders report especially vigorous horn growth at approximately 10 to 12 months of age, or two to three months after weaning. Most operations aim to produce ready-to-rope steers at 12 to 14 months of age.



Yearling Corriente Bull

Most breeders expect their roping cattle to last for two to three years and breed for a smaller, traditional animal. However, breeders raising bulldogging cattle may prefer a heavier, taller animal, and some may want to raise team roping cattle with the potential to "feed out" after one summer's use in the arena, in order to avoid caring for them through a harsh winter. Regardless of size, the general conformation, horn shape and disposition remain constant throughout the breed.



Disposition: The Corriente has a remarkably gentle disposition. Not to be confused with Mexican fighting bulls, or even Texas Longhorns, they easily tolerate human contact and some even seek it. Historically raised in small herds in remote areas of Mexico, these cattle were often gathered on foot and were depended on in many ways for the livelihood of their owners. They are easy to handle in the pasture, and easy to train in the rodeo arena. They do not have a tendency to wander, with the bulls staying home and keeping their cows gathered together.

Corriente steers used for roping and dogging are consistent performers and learn their roles quickly and willingly. They need only a short, gentle introduction to the activity, and are much less likely to "sour" than other breeds. Respecting these values and treating cattle carefully will prolong their performance and usefulness in the arena.



Yearling Corriente Heifer

Raising Corriente Cattle

Corriente breeders agree that raising the cattle is a pleasure and relatively hassle-free. Having evolved over centuries in remote areas of Mexico, they are natural survivors and have not lost the instinct to thrive.

Terrain and Climate:

Corrientes can readily adapt to various terrains and extreme climates, and develop heavy winter coats if necessary. Registered NACA herds are now found from the cold northern plains of Canada, to the hot, rough desert country of Arizona, to the lush, humid pastures of Florida.



Eighteen Year Old Corriente Cow with calf

Breeding: Breeders of any kind of cattle would like to have the productive results with the reliable ease of Corrientes. Conception rates

among the herds of NACA members range upward from 95%, with similar live birth and weaning rates, including first calf heifers. Breeders are quick to point out the calving ease of the Corriente. Calving problems are virtually non-existent. Heifers usually have their first calves as two-year olds, and do not require any special care, assistance or even observation. Because they suffer little stress during calving, they breed back easily. Corriente cows are expected to produce calves into their twenties, and many a 20-year-old cow has weaned nineteen calves. The cows are careful, protective mothers and always claim their calves. The cattle have not lost their instinct for survival, and they are naturally alert and aggressive toward predators. Cows and calves have an unusual awareness of each other's location and tend to stay paired up even on long drives in very rugged terrain.

The calves are hardy, active and alert at birth and weigh an average of 35 to 45 pounds. Average weaning weights are from 225 to 350 pounds. Weaning is likely to be less stressful and involve less sickness than with the heavier, less hardy beef breeds.

Feed: Feed and forage is required only to keep these small cattle healthy and fertile. NACA Corrientes are small genetically and not, as sometimes believed, stunted from a harsh environment. Corriente breeders find that they require 1/2 to 3/4 the amount of feed and pasture necessary to maintain ordinary beef cattle. Corrientes have not lost the instinct to forage on many plants unpalatable to other cattle, and since they are extremely efficient foragers, they utilize pasture better, instinctively searching out the best feed or a new water supply, rather than relying on a ranch's "soft spots" or on human caretakers. Ranchers in wintry climates usually supplement with hay and protein, particularly when there is snow on the ground; amounts, however, are far less than for ordinary beef breeds.

Bulls: Corriente cattle mature quickly. Bulls have sired offspring as early as 12 months of age, and some breeders have successfully used yearling bulls on as many as 50 females. Mature bulls are routinely bred to 50 cows, and commonly to as many as 70 head of cows over a three month season. Corriente bulls are excellent for breeding to first calf heifers of beef breeds for calving ease, to produce vigorous, marketable calves and to insure healthy stress-free dams. The resulting cross-blood calves often bring the same price per pound as ordinary beef cattle. Though they may weigh less than other calves off the same ranch, they more than make up for this shortage in the number of live weaned calves and healthy dams.



Three Year Old Corriente Bull

The Market

Breeding Stock: The primary reason for starting the NACA more than two decades ago was to increase the availability of Corrientes in the U.S. and Canada. It is very difficult to import any breeding stock from Mexico. Stringent health requirements, lengthy and arduous testing processes, quarantines and bureaucratic red tape make this option time-consuming, expensive and often unsuccessful. Politics, different government agencies and timing play a capricious role in any importation attempt.

True Corrientes are becoming more difficult to find south of the border, since the Mexican cattle industry has introduced European and Zebu breeds. Consequently, most of today's horned Mexican cattle do not retain many of the attributes of true Corrientes, despite their appearance. Today's NACA breeding stock, many with extended pedigrees and progeny records, may actually possess purer Corriente bloodlines than many Corriente-type cattle of unknown ancestry which cross the border.

The NACA Membership Directory contains the names of people raising and registering Corriente cattle in the U.S. and Canada. As the number of breeders has grown, so has the availability of stock for sale. However, since the industry is growing, the supply is somewhat limited.

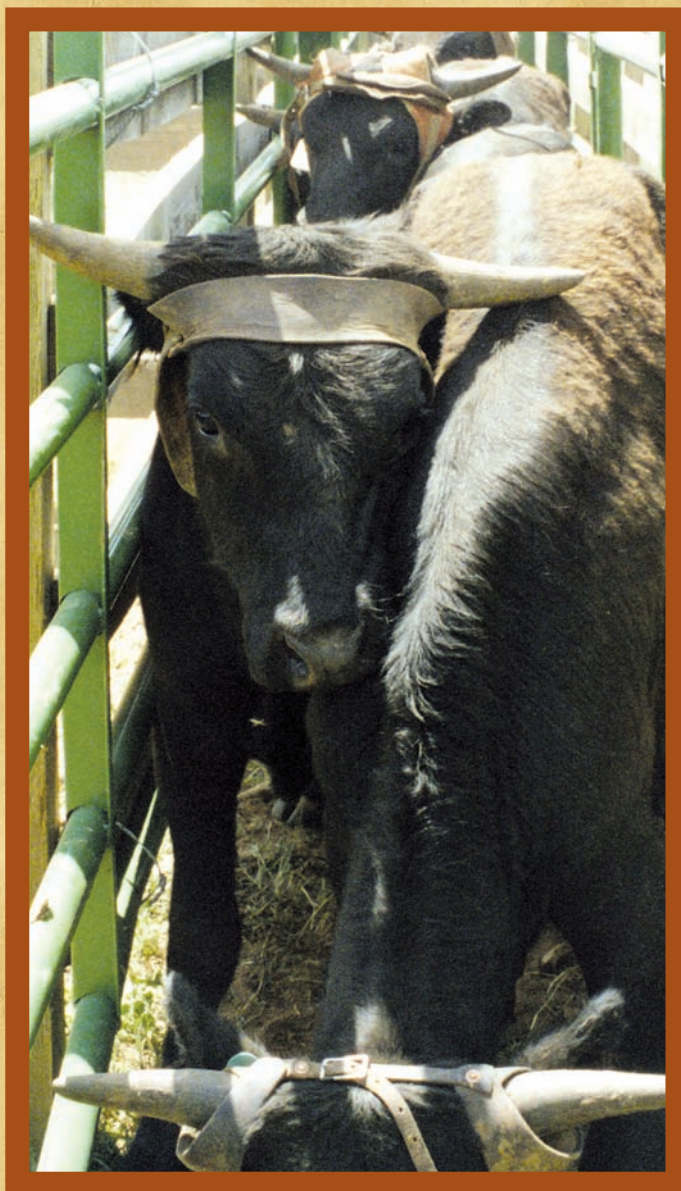
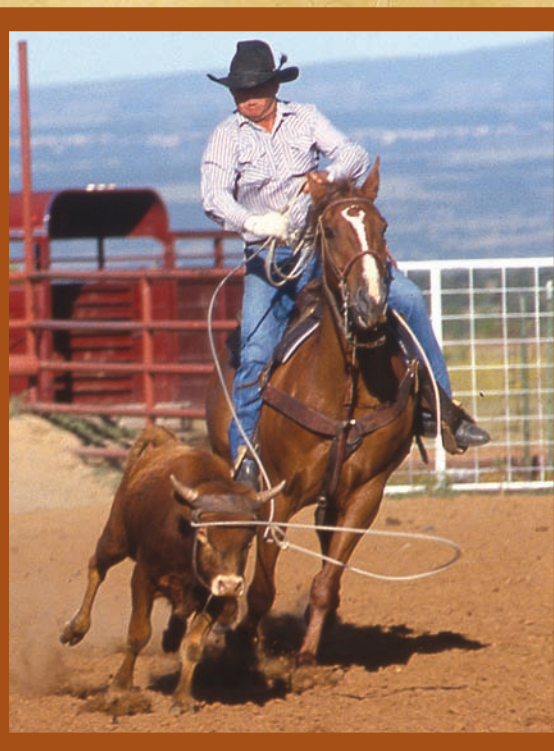
Prices vary, depending on the quality of the cattle and the demand in the region. Because the cattle are highly productive and inexpensive to keep, they can prove profitable for the buyer within a short time. Price is not dependent on the commodity beef market, so Corriente breeders have not experienced the devastating low prices typical of the cattle cycle.



Two Year Old Corriente Cow

The Sports Angle: The dominant interest in and demand for Corrientes today is due to their excellence as stock for team roping and bulldogging. Their stamina, disposition, vigor and agility are also encouraging their use for team penning and cutting events, as well as for practice cattle. Their intelligence, willingness to run true and endurance make them favorites with competitors in these sports.

At 12 to 16 months of age, Corriente bulls and steers weigh from 325 to 425 pounds and have horns with heavy bases and sufficient length to use as roping cattle. They generally require an additional six months before they are ready to be bulldogged.



Heifers can also be roped, but may need additional time to reach sufficient horn development. When heifers are roped during the breeding season, it may interfere with conception rates, depending on how they are managed.

The current demand for sports cattle in the U.S. and Canada is strong, with consistent growth predicted. Breeders continue to find themselves with far more interested buyers than available steers. Many rodeo contractors, who need large numbers of cattle, still get their steers from Mexico; however, the increase in quality and availability of Corrientes domestically, combined with tightened health restrictions on importation, is changing that tradition. Additionally, beef breed influence is continuing to decrease the supply of desirable imported Mexican cattle. Prices for domestically bred steers are higher than at the border, but worth it to a buyer who saves on transportation costs and receives a healthy, top quality animal, adapted to the region.

Beef: Many Corriente breeders feed out cattle and market the beef commercially or directly to the consumer. Following a profitable career in the arena, even older cattle can be fed out efficiently and profitably. University studies compared Corriente beef to Certified Angus Beef and found that Corriente beef had the same or superior taste, tenderness and aroma, with only half (50%) the total fat. While ordinary beef breeds have a predominance of white muscle fibers, Corrientes have a predominance of red muscle fibers, allowing them to marble in a shorter feeding period.

Corriente (Criollo) beef has recently been added to the “Ark of Taste” of the Slow Food Foundation for Biodiversity, an international organization that promotes healthful, flavorful, heritage foods. This should result in a growing demand from discerning chefs and consumers of beef, and another opportunity for producers of these unique cattle.



Mature Corriente Bull



Mature Corriente Cow


The Registry

When the NACA Registry was established in 1982, cattle were issued registration certificates upon passing a visual inspection. Some of these cattle were imported from Mexico and some were bulls which entered the U.S. with a load of roping steers. Many were Corriente cattle from the Mexican border area of the U.S., and a few were Swamp cattle from the Louisiana area, or Cracker cows from Florida. The progeny of these cattle have since been registered by written application.

A breeder must keep accurate records in order to register cattle. The sire, dam, and birth date of each calf is required on registration applications. Multiple sires, artificial insemination and embryo transfer are acceptable. Cattle must be branded or tattooed with an identification number before registration.

The process of registration and carefully kept production records help a breeder evaluate the herd and increase its value. The income from a registered herd will consequently be greater than for a commercial herd. Members may participate in a computerized system of production records and registration through the Association office. The results of sanctioned NACA cattle shows are certified, and are noted on registration certificates and on the pedigrees of progeny.

6430 14




North American Corriente Association
Certificate of Registration
This is to certify the pedigree of
JESSE JAMES 037*
 A Fullblood Bull

Registration Number
34014

Date Issued: 01/15/2007

Birth Date 03/15/2000	Tattoo: LE RE	Number Brand/Location 037 RH	Holding Brand/Location RB RR
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Breeder: RAY RANCH, ROY, NM
 Owners: RAY RANCH, ROY, NM



* Denotes show winner
 The above described animal has been accepted for entry in North American Corriente Record in accordance with regulations certified by the breeder to the Registrar of this Association. Certificates and entry are subject to right of correction and cancellation.

North American Corriente Association
 P.O. Box 12399
 North Kansas City, MO 64116

James H. [Signature]

221 MANITO - P03* FULLBLOOD - VISUALLY INSPECTED 1238 EL JEFE 603* FULLBLOOD 723 MISS DOUBLE R 412* FULLBLOOD 551 RIO NR 216* FULLBLOOD MULTIPLE SIRES 1705 MISS DOUBLE R 726 FULLBLOOD 984 MISS DOUBLE R 502 FULLBLOOD 1939 DOUBLE R 803* FULLBLOOD 4904 RIO NR 104* FULLBLOOD 1233 MISS DOUBLE R 622 FULLBLOOD 20352 MISS RR 605 FULLBLOOD 1389 PATRON* FULLBLOOD 2487 MISS DOUBLE R 916 FULLBLOOD 1233 MISS DOUBLE R 622 FULLBLOOD	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; font-size: x-small;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">First Generation Multiple Sires</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>5.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>6.</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; font-size: x-small;"> <tr> <th colspan="4">Subject Animal's Show Record - Last Five Placings</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Place</th> <th>Class</th> <th>Location</th> <th>Date</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>GBR</td> <td>2008 NATIONAL SHOW-CORTEZ, CO</td> <td>06/15/08</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>1ST MR</td> <td>2008 NATIONAL SHOW-CORTEZ, CO</td> <td>06/15/08</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.</td> <td>1ST</td> <td>2008 CSCA SHOW - HUTCHISON, KS</td> <td>09/20/08</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.</td> <td>8TH MR</td> <td>2004 Nat Show - Ocala, FL</td> <td>09/20/04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5.</td> <td>1ST</td> <td>2003 SWCA SHOW-PUEBLO, CO</td> <td>06/19/03</td> </tr> </table>	First Generation Multiple Sires		1.		2.		3.		4.		5.		6.		Subject Animal's Show Record - Last Five Placings				Place	Class	Location	Date	1.	GBR	2008 NATIONAL SHOW-CORTEZ, CO	06/15/08	2.	1ST MR	2008 NATIONAL SHOW-CORTEZ, CO	06/15/08	3.	1ST	2008 CSCA SHOW - HUTCHISON, KS	09/20/08	4.	8TH MR	2004 Nat Show - Ocala, FL	09/20/04	5.	1ST	2003 SWCA SHOW-PUEBLO, CO	06/19/03
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History

The Corriente can be traced back to the first cattle brought to the New World by the Spanish as early as 1493. These hardy cattle were able to withstand the ocean crossing and adapt to their new land. They were brought to the West Indies and south Florida, as well as to Central and South America. Over the centuries the descendants of these cattle were bred for different purposes – milk, meat and draft animals. They also adapted through natural selection to various regions. Eventually, their descendants spread across the New World. In the early 1800's, European and other breeds were introduced, and by the 1900's many ranchers in the Americas were crossing their herds with modern beef cattle. Pure descendants of the original Spanish cattle almost disappeared, but some managed to survive with little human care or intervention in remote areas of Mexico, Central and South America, and in very limited numbers in some areas of the southern U.S.

Today, there is evidence of a worldwide growing interest in preserving various strains of these hardy, native cattle. Cattle associations in Spain, Cuba, Mexico and South America are making efforts similar to the NACA's to recognize their attributes, though few actually support registries.



Mature Corriente Bull

The Name "Corriente"



In Central and South America, the various descendants of the early Spanish cattle are generally referred to as "Criollo." In parts of northern Mexico, they are often called "Corriente," although this term is frequently used for any small cattle of indiscriminate breeding and not just for the type of cattle recognized by the NACA. "Corriente Ropers" became the most common term used at the border to refer to the cattle purchased for rodeo use. Thus Corriente was chosen by the founders of the NACA to be used for this registry.

John E. Rouse, in his book, *World Cattle, Vol. III, Cattle of North America*, explains the names used in Mexico.

"Descendants of the original Spanish cattle, little influenced by modern breeds, are now seen only in the remote parts of the country. These are generally known as Criollo cattle, although in the state of Sonora the term Corriente is more common, and in Baja California the word Chinampo is used. All these terms, meaning 'common cattle' or 'cattle of the country' are applied to more or less pure descendants of the Spanish cattle, as well as to the indiscriminate mixtures of these and more recently introduced breeds."

Regardless of the name, the NACA has made great in-roads toward defining, describing and preserving Corriente cattle as a specific breed.



What Is The NACA?

The North American Corriente Association was established in 1982 to promote and preserve the Corriente. The pure Corriente was in danger of becoming extinct through cross-breeding of the original Spanish cattle with other breeds. A small group of interested ranchers agreed to join forces to perpetuate the Corriente in North America by forming an association. Their motivation came from difficulty in finding good, healthy Mexican steers to rope and bulldog. They were joined by others with the same motivation, and by those interested in preserving the breed for its many other attributes.

The NACA's primary function is to maintain the cattle registry. This documents the pedigrees of all registered animals so that breeders and buyers alike can be assured of their genetic background. The Association also sponsors an annual membership meeting with educational activities, a cattle show and team roping.

In addition to the national convention, there are several sanctioned regional shows and membership gatherings sponsored by NACA members. Registered stock is judged on conformation and on performance in roping and dogging events. Performance classes are unique in the cattle industry and a highlight of Corriente events. This encourages the promotion of Corrientes as prime rodeo cattle, and preserves the breed's unique physical traits.



Corriente cattle are judged on many traits at NACA sanctioned shows throughout the nation.

The Association office addresses the concerns of members from Massachusetts to Oregon and Canada to Mexico. The NACA continues to grow in cattle numbers, members and prestige, while perpetuating and promoting the Corriente breed.

Membership in the North American Corriente Association will help to preserve the unique and valuable characteristics of these cattle. The NACA maintains a very useful website with a popular classified ad section and also publishes an award-winning quarterly magazine for members titled, *The Corriente Corresponder*.

*It is the mission of the North American Corriente Association
to be a dynamic member-driven breed association
dedicated to the promotion and preservation
of Corriente cattle by providing tailored services
and innovative programs that will make
North American Corrientes the #1 choice for recreational cattle.*

Photo by dawsonphotography.com



To join NACA visit our website or contact:

North American Corriente Association
P.O. Box 2698 • Monument, CO 80132

Telephone: 719-425-9151

<http://corriente.us>



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