

By: Representatives Johnson (87th), Corley, To: Rules
Ladner

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 62

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE PINEYWOODS CATTLE, THE COLONIAL
2 SPANISH/PINE TACKY HORSE AND THE GULF COAST NATIVE SHEEP AS THE
3 OFFICIAL HERITAGE BREEDS OF CATTLE, HORSE AND SHEEP, RESPECTIVELY.

4 WHEREAS, the Pineywoods cattle, the Colonial Spanish/Pine
5 Tacky horse and the Gulf Coast Native sheep are breeds
6 particularly special to Mississippi farmers, breeders and herders,
7 and should be recognized as the official Heritage Breeds of
8 cattle, horse and sheep, respectively; and

9 WHEREAS, Pineywoods cattle are an endangered breed of
10 "heritage" livestock that are descended from the original Spanish
11 stock left along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts of Florida, Georgia,
12 Mississippi and Alabama by the Spanish explorers in the early
13 1500s, and the cattle evolved to be naturally resistant to most
14 diseases and are able to forage on rough vegetation that
15 commercial cattle will not touch; and

16 WHEREAS, furthermore, Pineywoods are also "dry land" cattle
17 and have evolved to avoid predators by spending only a minimum
18 amount of time at the watering hole, which makes them very low



19 impact cattle, as they do not contribute to bank erosion and
20 fouling of streams like most domestic stock; and

21 WHEREAS, Colonial Spanish/Pine Tacky horses, one of the
22 rarest of any breed, are an overlooked treasure in Mississippi and
23 extremely important because they came from the region of the
24 Choctaw nation before most of the group was removed to Oklahoma in
25 the 1830s; and

26 WHEREAS, the Choctaw people have been an important
27 horse-owning society for many centuries, and for most of that
28 time, the Choctaw horses were all Colonial Spanish horses, making
29 this horse an important part of Choctaw heritage; and

30 WHEREAS, Colonial Spanish horses, also sometimes called
31 Spanish Mustangs, have a long and rich heritage of use throughout
32 North America, but have become increasingly rare in the 1900s to
33 the point that now nearly all strains are rare or near extinction;
34 and

35 WHEREAS, the Gulf Coast Native is a breed of sheep native to
36 the states bordering the Gulf Coast, and also occasionally known
37 as the Louisiana Scrub, Pineywoods Native or simply Gulf Coast
38 sheep, the breed is a mix of many of the sheep varieties which
39 populated the Southern United States during the European
40 colonization of the region; and

41 WHEREAS, by the mid 20th century, Gulf Coast Native sheep
42 supplied nearly all the raw wool for the Southern United States
43 and hundreds of thousands of them existed; however, post-World War



44 II, deworming medications and other advances were widely
45 introduced to the sheep industry in the United States, meaning
46 more modern breeds with greater production capacity could be
47 introduced to the South, but this led to a precipitous decline in
48 the numbers of Gulf Coast Native sheep; and

49 WHEREAS, the Gulf Coast sheep is now an exceedingly rare
50 breed, but one valuable for its ability to adapt to the hot humid
51 climate of the Gulf Coast, and they are listed as "critical" on
52 the conservation priority list of the American Livestock Breeds
53 Conservancy; and

54 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
55 acknowledge the exceeding rare breeds of livestock in the state
56 and draw attention to their unique characteristics that make them
57 extremely useful to Mississippi and Mississippi farmers:

58 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
59 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
60 recognize the Pineywoods cattle, the Colonial Spanish/Pine Tacky
61 horse and the Gulf Coast Native sheep as the official Heritage
62 Breeds of cattle, horse and sheep, respectively.

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
64 furnished to the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation and to the
65 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

