



CORRIENTE CORRESPONDER
The Official Newsletter
of the
North American Corriente Association
(PUBLISHED QUARTERLY)

Volume 1, No. 1

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I. Forward

Welcome to the exciting world of Corrientes!!

This is the first official newsletter put out by our fledgling organization, and we are pleased to have the opportunity to provide it to you. We hope that you enjoy reading the "Corriente Correspondent," and that you find its information valuable. More particularly, we hope that it answers some of the questions you may have regarding this unique breed of cattle, and/or the purposes of the North American Corriente Association.

We would also like to encourage you to send any comments, questions, complaints, or suggestions you may have concerning this publication, or the information contained herein, to our association offices. You will receive a courteous and timely response from one of the members of our staff. Please address all correspondence to:

North American Corriente Association
P.O. Box 3333
Billings, Montana 59103-3333

II. THE ASSOCIATION

TRUE CORRIENTES HAVE BECOME MORE AND MORE DIFFICULT TO FIND. TIGHTER CONTROLS ON THE MEXICAN BORDER HAVE RESTRICTED IMPORTATION OF THE PURE MEXICAN STOCK. THE MEXICANS THEMSELVES ARE TURNING MORE TO BEEF ANIMALS, SO THE ORIGINAL CORRIENTE MAY BE HEADED FOR EXTINCTION.

IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THESE UNIQUE AND VALUABLE ANIMALS, A GROUP OF CORRIENTE BREEDERS IN THE WESTERN UNITED STATES AND CANADA RECENTLY FORMED THE NORTH AMERICAN CORRIENTE ASSOCIATION. THE PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION IS TO PROMOTE THE EXPANDED USE OF THIS OUTSTANDING RODEO ANIMAL, AND TO INSTITUTE AND MONITOR A REGISTERED BREEDING PROGRAM TO PRESERVE THE TRUE BREED AND MAKE IT AVAILABLE FOR THE FAST GROWING RODEO CIRCUIT. A BUYER OF REGISTERED CATTLE WILL BE ASSURED THAT THE ANIMALS POSSESS THE TRADITIONAL ATTRIBUTES OF THE CORRIENTE.

THE ASSOCIATION IS ORGANIZED AS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF MONTANA, WITH ITS PRINCIPAL OFFICES IN BILLINGS, MONTANA. BYLAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION WERE ADOPTED AT THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING HELD OCTOBER 16, 1982. THE FORMAL REGISTRY HAS NOW BEEN ESTABLISHED, AND THE ASSOCIATION IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION.

III. Director's Notes

by Tucker Ashley

After the headaches and hangovers of the passing of 1983, we can now look back at what we may call a tremendous year for the North American Corriente Association.

1983 was the year the internal machinery of the association really started turning. The results can be seen in new members, more cattle numbered and registered, and more public awareness. I believe that everyone affiliated with this organization should be congratulated, as the hard work of organizing and planning can now be seen.

We still have a long way to go and, I am sure, many more obstacles to deal with. But we as members have the toughest job done--we are an Association, and we can work together now.

Our memberships are increasing and we are hearing from different states, and even some foreign countries, so we know there is interest, both here and across the oceans. It may be hard to imagine a Corriente in Rome, but who knows? They may decide to start roping.

Well, everyone, get your cattle horned up for the spring sales and rodeos.

Tucker Ashley

IV. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS
OF THE
FIRST ANNUAL ASSOCIATION MEETING
HELD IN BILLINGS, MONTANA

OCTOBER 1983

The first annual meeting of the North American Corriente Association was held October 18, 1983, in Billings, Montana. As in any new endeavor, many points which had not been considered during the conceptual and formative stages of the new Association were brought to the attention of the directors by members and applicants. Situations and questions were constantly arising which required discussion and decisions by the Association's Board of Directors.

The first of these was the need to increase the size of the Board of Directors from five members to six members to meet the growing needs of the Association and provide greater geographic coverage for the members. Mr. Jack Cates of Wagon Mound, New Mexico, was elected as the sixth Director. A brief biographical sketch of this newest Director is included in this issue.

The remainder of the meeting was used for the members of the Association to present their views, ideas and discussion regarding any subject they felt the Board of Directors should consider during their afternoon meeting. During this session, many ideas were discussed in open forum.

It was during the afternoon Board of Directors meeting that the following important additions, corrections, and changes to policy were made, which shall go into effect immediately:

1. Perhaps the most significant decision made by the Board this year was its consent to allow special reduced rates for registration of cattle, when applications are received within eight months of the date the applicant/owner became a life or active member of the Association. The reduced rate for each animal will be the lesser of the regular fee or the following reduced rate:

1. Domestically bred cows	\$ 20.00
2. Domestically bred bulls	\$ 60.00
3. Imported cows and bulls	\$100.00

This fee schedule represents a significant reduction in the cost to register breeding stock animals. The following chart shows the normal registration fees.

Age	Cost to Register	
	Cows & Heifers	Bulls
Under 8 months old	US \$ 15.00	US \$ 25.00
8 months to 12 months	\$ 20.00	\$ 30.00
12 months to 24 months	\$ 50.00	\$ 60.00
24 months and over	\$200.00	\$210.00

Imported Animals of any age:

Within 1 year of importation:	\$100
After 1 year from importation:	\$500

The Board of Directors also agreed to apply the reduced fee schedule to all applications received by June 18, 1984, to allow existing members the benefit of the reduced rate for a period of time. After that time the normal fee schedule will apply to all existing members. New members will continue to have eight months after joining to register at the reduced rates.

2. It was decided by the Board of Directors that calves produced by embryo transplant shall be eligible for registration under the same rules as calves produced by natural breeding.
3. Applications for registration of 1/2 bloods and imported animals shall be accompanied by a photograph.
4. A visual inspection fee of \$5.00 per animal shall be charged in the future, with inspection to occur within six months. Expedited inspections will have increased assessments charged to the applicant.
5. It was agreed that when an imported pregnant cow drops her calf in the U.S. or Canada, the calf shall be accepted for registration as a domestically bred animal.
6. The Directors agreed that if the dam or sire of an animal for which application for registration is being made is not a registered Corriente, its breed shall be noted on the registration papers.
7. Finally, the Directors determined that any bull having only one testicle would only be considered for registration under the hardship rules.

V. SPOTLIGHT MEMBER

Each issue of the Corriente Corresponder will contain a profile of one of its members. In this way, we not only will get to know each other better, but we can use this as a forum to gain new ideas on what other people are doing in this new and exciting venture of raising pure blood registered Corrientes, which may help each of the members become better, more efficient operators in their own right.

This month our spotlight member is the newest member of our Board of Directors, Mr. Jack Cates.

Jack Cates was born near Mills, New Mexico, and has ranched in the northeastern area of that state all his life. He has primarily raised Hereford cattle, but began his Corriente herd in order to produce bulls to breed to his first calf Hereford heifers. In 1969 he bought eight black Corriente bulls from a ranch near the Mexican border. He bred most of these bulls to his Herefords, and was extremely pleased with the resulting calf crop. The heifers calved in large, rough pastures with no problems at all. The calves were very small, but very vigorous and strong. As yearlings, the cross-breeds gained as well as the straight Herefords, and fit well with them since they were all red or black baldies.

When he purchased the original eight bulls, Jack picked out the two smallest bulls to breed to small Jersey-type cows. The calves from this cross were then bred back to Corriente bulls until over the years the herd became basically full blood Corriente with purely Corriente characteristics. The bulls generally weigh 500-600 lbs. as two year olds, and less than 900 lbs. at maturity. Their horns have heavy bases, but are not as long as Longhorn's. The cows weigh 650-850 lbs. at maturity and give birth to 25-40 lb. calves. The herd is mostly solid red or black, or red or black roan.

In the past few years the herd has grown large enough that the yearling bulls and some two year olds have been used for team roping. Their small size, gentle dispositions, stamina, and athletic ability have been excellent for this purpose.

In March 1983, Jack was pleased and somewhat amazed to hear about the new Corriente Association. He and his wife, Ginny, soon became members, and last summer the herd was inspected for registration. Jack was elected to the Board of Directors of the Association at the annual meeting in October.

VI. MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

The Association continues to grow in strength. We currently have 33 Life, Active, and Associate members. Four of these have joined since our October meeting.

Additionally, we currently have registered 311 pure blood animals, and 181 cross-breeds for a total of 492 animals. There are currently an additional 50 applications pending, awaiting visual inspection or Board approval.

This has to be one of the most exciting aspects of the entire Association; to realize that this small group of less than 35 people is about to embark on a voyage of uncharted waters. Never before has a group of cattlemen tried to breed cattle for the sole purpose of preserving and promoting the recreational aspect of the cattle industry.

Through membership in this unique organization, we hope to pool our resources, knowledge, ideas, and talents, so that every member can profit from the efforts of every other member. Here is our opportunity to make quantum leaps in the breeding and upgrading of these cattle. Every member does not have to re-invent the wheel, but rather can draw on the experience of other members who may have faced similar situations, and can save others countless hours and dollars by sharing his suggestions and ideas. For all people who are truly interested in a breeding program of Corriente cattle, the Association offers unlimited potential.

VII. PRESS RELEASE

Following our annual meeting last October, a formal press release was issued to 15 different cattle, livestock, and horseman publications. If anyone saw or clipped any of the articles, please contact the Association to tell us when and where the release was run, so that we might continue to put articles in our scrapbook. Also, if you have any recommendations as to publications which may like to receive press releases in the future, please contact the Association.

VIII. MUST WE CHANGE OUR NAME SO SOON??

IS IT POSSIBLE THAT AFTER ONLY ONE YEAR IN EXISTENCE, WE HAVE ALREADY OUTGROWN THE VISION OF OUR INITIAL FOUNDING DIRECTORS? AS TUCKER INDICATED IN HIS DIRECTOR'S REMARKS, WE ARE ALREADY RECEIVING INQUIRIES FROM PLACES AS FAR AWAY AND DIVERSE AS HAWAII, AUSTRALIA AND OTHER FOREIGN COUNTRIES, REQUESTS FOR SEMEN HAVING BEEN RECEIVED WITH MANY OF THESE SAME INQUIRIES.

PERHAPS OUR FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS IN OUR NEXT MEETING SHOULD BE A MOTION TO CHANGE OUR NAME TO "THE WHOLE EARTH CORRIENTE ASSOCIATION."

IX. ADVERTISING

The next issue of the Corriente Corresponder shall contain space for advertising to help cover the cost of printing and distribution of the newsletter. Following are the guidelines and rates:

1. All advertisements are subject to editorial review and privilege.
2. Any type of item or animal may be advertised.
3. Any individual or organization may advertise.
4. No layout, design or artwork will be done by the staff of the Corresponder. All ads with graphics must be submitted in a camera-ready state.
5. Ad rates will be:

a) classified (less than 35 words)	\$ 7.00 plus 10¢/ word thereafter
b) 1/4 of an 8½"x11" page	\$20.00
c) 1/2 of an 8½"x11" page	\$35.00
d) full 8½"x11" page	\$50.00
6. No other size of ads will be run.
7. Payment must be submitted with the ad.
8. Ad must be received at Association headquarters no later than 15 days prior to publication.

X. JACKETS - EMBLEMS - HATS

A JACKET FOR THE NORTH AMERICAN CORRIENTE ASSOCIATION IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING MADE. CRYSTAL ASHLEY HAS BEEN WORKING WITH TERRY MURFF OF THE FRANCIS & LUSKY COMPANY OF NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE. THE JACKETS WILL BE SILVER WITH THE LOGO AND NAME OF THE N.A.C.A. ON THE BACK. THE LOGO IS TO BE EMBROIDERED IN SIX COLORS AND SHOULD LOOK SPECTACULAR. WE'RE NOT FAR ENOUGH ALONG TO QUOTE PRICES, BUT WE DO PLAN ON HAVING JACKETS AVAILABLE FOR SALE NO LATER THAN MAY. IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE SOME IDEA OF HOW MANY AND WHAT SIZES TO ORDER FOR THE FIRST SHIPMENT. CONTACT CRYSTAL BY TELEPHONE OR LETTER TO GET MORE INFORMATION. CRYSTAL ASHLEY, RR1, BOX 100, PUKWANA, SOUTH DAKOTA 57370, (605) 778-6885.

XI. THE FORUM

Every issue of the Corresponder will have a section known as The Forum where readers and members may submit contributions, questions, or suggestions to the readers.

To begin this feature, I would like to ask the question, "CAN CORRIENTE CATTLE KEEP BODY WEIGHT AND SIZE DOWN, AND HORN GROWTH UP, WHEN SUMMERING ON RICH NORTHERN LAND GRASSES??" Would any member having experience in this area please send comments to the Association headquarters.

XII. PHOTOGRAPHS NEEDED

The publisher of Western Horseman has asked for good black and white photos of Corrientes which he can keep for file photos. If any member has any good photos and would like to see your animals in a national publication, please send them to the Association headquarters as soon as possible. They will be forwarded to Western Horseman.

XIII. THE TAIL END

We hope you have enjoyed this initial issue of the Corresponder. As you can see, it is written for you. Please give us any comments, ideas or suggestions you may have. If you would like to write an article or submit a letter, please do so. All reasonable length submissions will be included with editorial privilege.

Possibly the most valuable part of this entire publication will be The Forum. But only if people are willing to submit letters regarding their personal philosophies, experiences, ideas, suggestions, or even questions to be published. Please feel free to submit any and all ideas to us.

In conclusion, thank you for your interest in the Association and in its cattle. We hope you have a safe and warm winter, and that the spring brings you renewed enthusiasm and determination to be the very best Corriente breeder in the entire Association.

E.G.