

N.C.H.C.A.

Vol 66 3rd Edition

Aug 25

The Highland HOOFBEAT

MISSION STATEMENT: North Central Highland Cattle Association shall protect the integrity and sustainability of the Highland breed by promoting education and social interactions of its members.

That's A lot of Bull!

Producing Elite Highland Bulls

Page: 03

Summer Picnic

Gathering in the green the NCHCA
summer picnic at Windland Flats Farm.

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What does that * mean?

All about Impact dams.

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Maureen Matt

President

Maureen and her boyfriend
Dennis Breneman own Hidden
Ridge Farm in Loganville WI. 45
head of highlands. Their focus is
breeding healthy, quality animals
and beef production.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Rooted in tradition, growing with purpose."

I arrived home from the NCHCA Summer Picnic at Windland Flats Farm in Princeton MN this weekend and felt so blessed to be part of this group of people. It was a gorgeous day to gather for a potluck, discussing calf dystocia with Dr Chris Nord of Mille Lacs Veterinary Clinic and having a chance to talk with representatives from FerAppease, Form-A-Feed, NRCS and Shade Haven.

The current NCHCA board and all association committees are focusing a great deal of energy on connecting with our membership. We have put together a quick survey to learn more about what interests you, our membership. [You can find the QR code link in this issue of the Hoofbeat](#), or via an email sent directly to you or your farm.

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HERE IS YOUR CHANCE TO GET AN HEIRLOOM QUALITY WORK OF ART

& SUPPORT THE NCHCA JUNIORS AT THE SAME TIME

The NCHCA Juniors will be selling raffle tickets for a Highland Cow quilt (pictured below) to support their activities. Tickets will be available before and during the NCHCA show in Austin, MN in September. More details will follow, be on the lookout for ticket sale information or contact a junior in your area.

The quilt is 100% cotton with 100% wool batting and a super snuggly flannel backing. It is built to be used and to last! It measures 65" x 77". It would make a nice twin bedspread or a full bed size coverlet.



THAT'S A LOT OF BULL!!!

Proof in the Performance: Producing Elite Highland Bulls Through Bull Test Success

The North Central Highland Cattle Association (NCHCA) is actively preparing to hold a landmark Highland bull test program, culminating in the sale of the top-performing bulls in 2026. This program is designed to evaluate and benchmark the genetic potential of Highland bulls, providing data-driven insight that will benefit both beef producers and cow/calf operations.

In any cattle operation, the bull plays a pivotal genetic role—contributing 50% of the genetic makeup of your future calves. Investing in superior genetics through a well-tested bull can positively influence your herd's productivity and quality for generations. The NCHCA Bull Test presents a valuable opportunity for breeders to understand what their bulls have to offer, backed by comprehensive performance data.

Bull Test Enrollment Qualifications

A total of 30 bulls will be accepted into the NCHCA Bull Test Program, on a first-come, first-served basis due to space constraints. Bulls must meet the following requirements:

- Born between March 1, 2025, and May 15, 2025
- AHCA registered
- Weigh a minimum of 500 pounds
- Be virgin bulls, with no structural defects or abnormalities (e.g., ringworm, pinkeye, lice, warts)
- Exhibit a calm, manageable disposition
- Possess a 840 EID ear tag and an AHCA tattoo that matches registration
- Weaned at least 45 days prior to arrival at the testing facility
- Negative for TB, BVD-PI and Brucellosis before

December 1 (no more than 30 days prior for TB & Brucellosis)

•Up to date on vaccines as outlined by feedlot requirements

NCHCA reserves the right to remove any bull not meeting the above requirements.

Submissions will be open on September 1st 2025. Breeders are encouraged to submit only their top candidates—this is a competitive and data-driven program focused on advancing breed quality. Upcoming Educational Opportunity: Bull Test Data Discussion

To assist breeders in interpreting and applying test data effectively, [the NCHCA Sale Committee invites you to an informative virtual session on Zoom, Monday, September 29, at 7 PM CST](#), led by John Keep of J Bar T Highland Cattle Co. John brings extensive experience in genetic evaluation and has analyzed data from the National Highland Sale as well as the Thorbardin Ranch bull tests conducted between 2000 and 2004. This session will cover key performance metrics such as: importance of weaning weights, average daily gain (ADG), intramuscular fat (IMF), carcass fat, ribeye area (REA), feed conversion, marbling, along with additional relevant data points.

Whether your operation focuses on beef production or show-quality cow/calf pairs, understanding and applying this data is essential to informed decision-making and long-term success.

GATHERING IN THE GREEN

NCHCA SUMMER PICNIC AT WINDLAND FLATS FARM



There's nothing quite like a sunny summer day in Minnesota to bring together Highland cattle folks for good food, great company, and a shared love of the breed.. This year's North Central Highland Cattle Association summer picnic was hosted at the beautiful Windland Flats Farm in Princeton, MN, where members and families gathered to connect, learn, and relax.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to the generous sponsors who helped make the day possible: **Form-A-Feed** and **Ferappease Cattle Supplement**, whose continued support nourishes both cattle and community; **Highland Genetics**, their quality highland genetics; and **Shade Haven**, with their ingenuis engineering to keep cattle—cool and comfortable. Their support made this gathering more than just a picnic—it was a true celebration of our Highland community.



The following is a summary of the Keynote presentation by Dr. Chris Nord from Mille Lacs Veterinary Group given at the summer picnic.

While most highlands get the job done on their own, sometimes a calf needs a little coaching—or a full-on extraction crew. Dr. Nord offered very practical details to help when **Calving Gets Complicated**. Intervening in a Dystocia—or calving difficulty because The 2 a.m. wake-up call is truly every cattlemans nightmare. Therefore, knowing when and how to help can save lives and protect your herd's productivity.

Dr. Nord gave some ideas on when to step in; for instance a cow or heifer should make clear progress within 30-60 minutes of active labor. If she's straining with no results, or if you see one leg, no legs, or a head with nothing else—something's not lining up and it is time to glove up and go in.



Continued on page 9

WHAT'S IN A (*)?

AHCA Impact Dams and Sires

I am going to share with you what took me 17 years to figure out so you can do something for your herd a lot sooner than we did. At least that is my hope.

Over the years I have heard the words 'Impact Dam' a few times but never thought much about it. Mark handled the registration of calves, so everything is taken care of, right? As I started to listen to people like Cindy Weideman of Schon Boden Farm talk about her record keeping I felt like we were missing something. So, I started digging.

I headed to the *American Highland Cattle Association* web site. After some digging, I found 'Impact Dams & Sires' listed under Performance Programs. This page lists the requirements for Impact Dams, Elite Impact Dams, and Impact Sires. This information is also published in the Spring edition of *The Bagpipe*. The 2025 list is on page 48 of *The Bagpipe*.

After finding this information, I sat down with Mark and talked about what he enters when he registers calves. There were a few problems with our existing process:

1. He only registers breeding heifers, with a few bulls scattered throughout the years
2. He was registering them before they were weaned, so we did not have any weights entered

Here are the Impact Dams and Sires requirements:

Impact Dam (*)

- Calve for the 1st time by the age of 3 years and 4 months
- Have at least 4 calves
- Calving interval of 380 days or less

Elite Impact Dam ()**

- Meet Impact Dam requirements
- Have at least 3 calves with a weaning weight ratio of 100 or greater (i.e., If a calf has a weaning Ratio of 106 it did 6% above herd average)

Impact Sire (+)

- Sired 4 or more Impact Dams

I looked at the requirements again and started collecting data - we have weights for most of our animals, so if I was going to enter the data, I may as well enter everything we had. It took some time to organize this as much of our data is in CattleMax, but we still had some paper files that had to be entered. The time spent organizing the data was worth the time invested.

I talked with Mark again about entering the data - and then called the AHCA office as I did not want to re-enter the data if I did everything wrong the first time! They were an immense help and assured me they were there to answer questions I had along the way. I was to enter data for each year as a batch. I was ready to go. [\(Here is the link to ACHA to walk you thru the steps\)](#)



So, one day last November while sitting at an Air BnB for a revival of the yearly retreat we used to do to take care of things we can't seem to make the time to do while at home surrounded by farm projects, I entered all the data we had. It took a while to enter 17 years' worth of data - so what was the pay-off?

The 2025 list of Impact Dams included four new cows owned by our farm, 3 of which were born on our farm, and 1 Impact Sire also born on the farm. We also gave EZ Acres Kyle an assist to become an Impact Sire, as he had his 4 Impact Dams with one of our new Impact Dams that was sired by him.

What does this do for us? It tells people that our cows produce calves on a consistent basis. Potential buyers can look at the registration and see that asterisk and know they have been productive, even if not all those calves were registered. It is something you can use to market your calves out of those cows, and you can be proud of the effort you have made as a breeder to either purchase or breed productive Highlands.

It is not hard to enter the data! You only need calving dates for Impact Dam eligibility. To be eligible for Elite Impact Dam status, you will need those weaning weights. All of this can be done once you log into your farm account on the AHCA site. There is no fee to enter this data. Something you can take care of once a year that can benefit your farm. Give it a try!

We will be doing this on a yearly basis from now on, which means it will be a lot less work - and will be waiting for that list of new Impact Dams and Sires each spring.

Mark and Jamie Schulz have had Highlands since 2007 and reside in southern Minnesota. We had great breeder mentors when we first started who quickly got us involved in the NCHCA as well as AHCA and try to give back to other breeders to help them be the best stewards of the breed that they can be.



The Recipe Corner

Highland Beef Peppered Steak



2 sliced steaks soaked in soy sauce overnight or if you're pressed for time I just cook them in it. Fry them in a little olive oil. Add 2 sliced peppers (I like the green ones) and a sliced onion. Cook until they the veggies are tender. Thicken with cornstarch/water mixture. Add slices of tomatoes just before serving. Serve over cooked rice.

President's message continued

Please take 5 minutes to respond to the survey questions so we can continue to focus on how The North Central Highland Cattle Association can best support you and your highland farming needs and interests.

There are several upcoming opportunities for the membership to take advantage of, to continue learning from our shared experiences. [Wisconsin Farm Technology Days is August 5th - 7th](#) in Bear Creek WI. NCHCA and some highlands will be featured in the beef tent with a booth and volunteers speaking with the public. Thanks to the enduring efforts of Kerry Nissen of Kerry N Cattle Co, highlands will make their debut at the first ever highland show held at the [Iowa State Fair August 14th - 17th](#). Once again Mark and Jaimie Schulz will be taking Flatland Farm, LLC highlands to the Minnesota State Fair, featured in the Moo Booth from August 21st through September 1st. Our very own [NCHCA Annual Show/Sale combo is taking place September 12th and 13th in Austin Mn.](#) If you really want to travel, attend the [5th International Highland Cattle Gathering - Return to the Highlands in Oben, Scotland October 6-14.](#) Whichever events you choose to attend, we look forward to seeing you and learning from your experiences. Together we will keep the tradition of the grand ole breed alive and continue to grow with purpose.

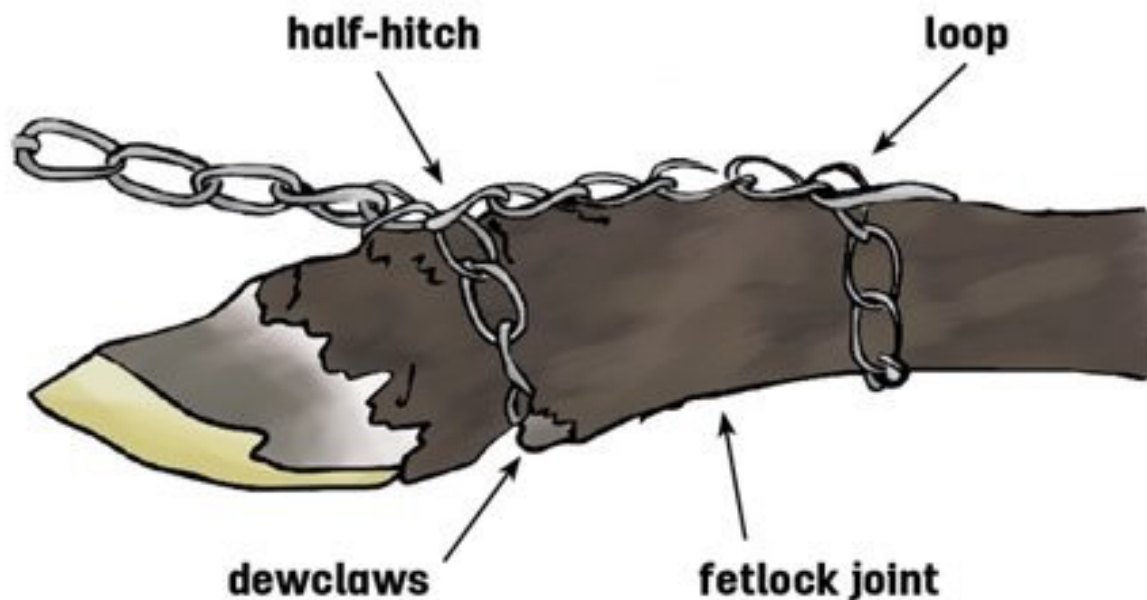
SUMMER PICNIC CONTINUED

Dr. Nord offered his recommended list of tools and techniques to be successful, He proceeded to walk us thru very practical manipulations to assist the calving process. To start the doctor suggests that as you reach inside, feel for the calf's legs and joints. pay attention to how the legs bend in order to determine which legs your dealing with. Front legs bend forward at the knee and fetlock; back legs bend opposite. This is especially crucial in abnormal presentations.

If only one front leg is presented, gently push the calf back a bit and bring the missing leg forward. Work slowly to avoid tearing the birth canal.

Use OB chains (Dr. Nord suggests a 60" chain) or straps around the fetlock and pastern to provide traction—loop high and low to distribute pressure evenly. See figure 1.

FIGURE 1 Place a loop above and a half-hitch below the fetlock joint, with the connecting chain on the top of the leg



Breech: Backwards and Tricky

A breech birth—where the calf's hindquarters are entering first without the hind legs extended—is one of the more difficult presentations. If you feel a tail and butt with no legs, that's your clue.

Continued on page 11

North Central  Highland Cattle Assoc.

FALL SHOW

In Austin

highland show + live auction + food trucks with highland beef

SAT 13TH SEPT | STARTS 9AM | FREE ADMISSION

The annual North Central Highland Cattle Association regional highland show in Austin showcases the nation's premier scottish highland cattle.



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JUNIOR SHOW STARTS 9AM FRIDAY SEPT 12



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SUMMER PICNIC CONTINUED



To correct a breech:

1. Gently push the calf forward into the uterus.
2. Locate one hind leg and carefully bring it into the birth canal, straightening it as you go.
3. Do the same with the second leg—this can take time and feel like wrestling an oiled log in the dark.
4. Once both legs are out and extended, proceed with delivery.

Never apply traction on a breech calf until both hind legs are fully extended. Otherwise, you risk uterine rupture or a broken pelvis. And if the calf feels oversized or immobile, stop and call your vet—better to ask for help than gamble with the cow's life.

Stop and call the vet if:

- * You can't reposition the legs
- * The calf feels too large
- * The cow shows signs of exhaustion or distress

The Takeaway?

Stay calm. Work clean. Know your anatomy. Use the right tools—and know when to call in the pros.

North Central Highland Cattle Assoc.

FALL SHOW

In Austin

SAT 13TH SEPT | 6PM AWARDS BANQUET



HORMEL HISTORIC HOME

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A historic place to celebrate a historic breed. Built in 1871 this museum preserves the Hormel family history and legacy.



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FEAST IN STYLE

Feast on a unique blend of history and hospitality. A full crowd pleaser buffet featuring roast beef and ham or fun chicken strips for kid ticket holders. Followed by dessert



CASH BAR COCKTAIL HOUR

SCOTCH? YES...AND MUCH MORE.

After a successful show and sale you may want to unwind with your favorite drink in hand and enjoy some conversation and laughter with your fellow showmen.

208 4TH AVE. NW // AUSTIN, MN 55912

CELEBRATION & AWARDS

Come say congratulations to the 2025 North Central Awards winners and distinguished leaders.

This is your chance to get that great Highland swag at the silent auction.



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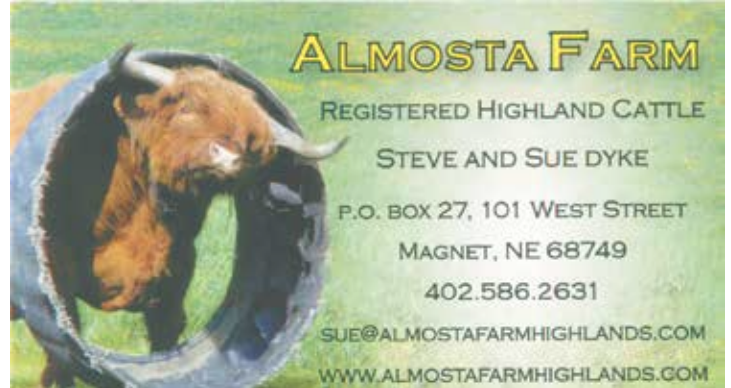
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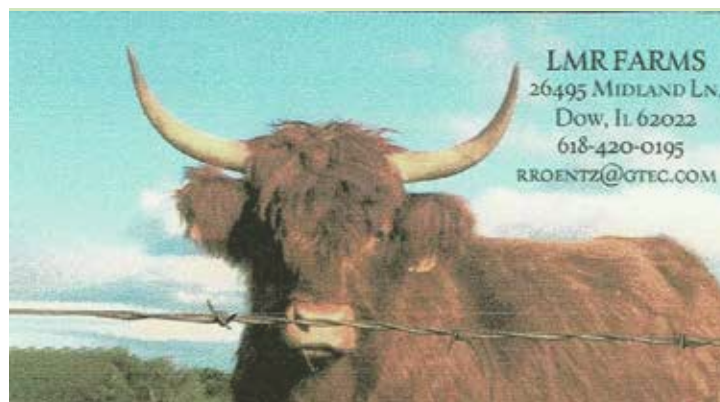
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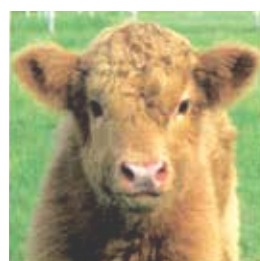
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Order your 2026 NCHCA Calendar



Why stare at a boring office wall when you could be gazing at twelve glorious months of Gorgeous Highland coos in all their hay-munchin', pasture-struttin' glory?

Our 2026 North Central Highland Cattle Association Photo Calendar features stunning shots from member farms—because nothing says “I’ve got good taste” like a Highland cow with better bangs than you.

Printed full color, heavyweight 9x12” with high-gloss UV varnish so fancy you’ll think you’re flipping through the Vogue of bovines. Only \$22.50 plus \$8.50 shipping—which is cheaper than therapy and way more photogenic.

Grab one for the barn, the house, the outhouse, and every cow-lover in your life. Supplies are limited, unlike the number of cow puns we’re willing to make.

You can order online using the link, <https://www.nchca.org/calendar.html> or scan the QR code

Thank you to everyone who participated by submitting and voting on photos and to our calendar committee.

Calendars are created with photos submitted by NCHCA member farms and selected by a vote of the membership.

The 2026 calendar features photos from:

Tabletop Acres, LLC, Chris, Tina, Charli and Jordan Broderick, Oconto, WI
Hidden Ridge Highland Cattle, Dennis Breneman and Maureen Matt, Loganville, WI
Little Creek Highlands, Becky Adams and Jr Fedie, Osseo & Gilmanton, WI
Point Pleasant Cattle Company, Kimber and Seth King, Tonica, IL
JND Livestock, Jesse and Nichole Denver, Grand Rapids, MN
Glory Oaks Farm, Kyle and Katie Baker, Northwood, IA
Midway Meadows Farm, Julianne Motis and Jason Paulson, Esko, MN
Larson’s Headacrez, Jan, Nathan, and Emily Larson, Burlington, WI
Rosewood Ranch, Ken and Julie Schaar, Deer River, MN
Sugar Springs Farm, Elizabeth Townsend and Daniel Shirley, Verona, WI
Climbing Stump Farm, Mark, Randi and Joe Johnson, Harris, MN
Little House and Farm, Michelle and Tony LeTourneau, Hinckley, MN
Stone Fields Farm, Carl and Marcy Lancaster, Claysville, PA
Muddy Acres, Max Schwanke and Mady Dostal, Rice Lake, WI
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Crocus Hill Cattle Co, Hope and Galen and Bonnie Scheresky, Max, ND
BLS Livestock, Beretta Semmler, Jacobson, MN

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The North Central Highland Cattle Association (NCHCA) was formed in 1982 to promote Scottish Highland Cattle, form a marketing unit for breeders, and to provide a local organization closer to home. The organization has done this and provides opportunities for youth and families to have fun with their Highland cattle. Our association provides networking and educational opportunities for its members, has an active junior program for youth, and provides a local voice to the national organization, the American Highland Cattle Association.

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