



VOLUME 31

JANUARY 2014

ISSUE 1



THE HIGHLAND *HoofBeat*

2013 Elected Officers and Board of Directors

Mark Schulz
President (13-14)
507-582-1073
info@flatlandfarm.com

Ben Schmidtke
Vice President (13-14)
608-348-4047
info@creachanngleann.com

Jamie Schulz
Secretary
507-582-1073
info@flatlandfarm.com

Billy Johnston
Treasurer
651-457-4449
dalriada@comcast.net

AHCA Director:
Dave Larson (11-13)
262-539-3257
FTAcs@tds.net

2013 Board of Directors
Jan Larson (13-15)
262-539-3257
FTAcs@tds.net

Jim Anderson (13-15)
715-483-9283
janderson043@centurytel.net

Josh Krenz (13-14)
262-617-4232
info@windlandflats.com

Being Good Stewards

President's Message – Mark Schulz, President

I had a chance to read an article from a MN Land Stewardship Project newsletter the other day. Jamie and I have been members of this organization for a while, not what you would call active members by any means, but believe in the program and support it financially. The article I read was about stewardship and what makes a good steward. This got me thinking....

We as cattle people talk a lot about being good stewards of our animals. We try to provide them with the best housing, pastures, vet care, nutrition, etc. that our budgets allow and sometimes more than our budgets allow. We are members of associations like NCHCA that provide great articles in newsletters and events where members can share ideas that work and don't work. We then take these ideas and apply them to our cattle for the best possible outcome as stewards of our cattle. We do a great job of being good stewards to our animals!

Next on the list is being a good steward of our land. As animal producers I think we sometimes take less time looking at this factor. How do we graze our animals? Do we allow for regeneration of the land? Do we understand the living parts of

the soil our animals are pastured on? You say you don't graze your animals or raise your own feed, but purchase all your feed. Are the people you buy feed from good stewards of their land? This ultimately affects you and your cattle that are eating their crops. What types of chemicals are they using that eventually go into your animals? Are they farming sustainably so your kids will be able to buy feed from them to feed the next generation? Don't get me wrong, sometimes economics forces us to purchase or do things we would prefer not to do, but do you at least consider these things when buying feed, purchasing insect control items, determining what seed to plant, determining what veterinary maintenance items to use, etc. Even though these considerations and decisions by themselves may be small points, I think they go a long way when each of us takes an active look at our farm and how we manage it. Being a good steward to our land can be even more important than our animals.

Finally being good stewards of our youth is of great importance and probably not something you think about when someone mentions stewardship. I think we have a very active junior

Continued on pg 2

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.

Being Good Stewards – President's Message continued from front page

program in the North Central and yes, we have great programs like 4-H and FFA and these are well supported by our members. These organizations have made attempts to involve those kids that would not normally be involved in agriculture, but they can only do so much. This is where you come in. Maybe your children are grown so you have become less active in associations, county fairs, promotional events, etc. Look beyond your immediate family as there are a whole lot more kids out there eagerly waiting to spend time with your animals, work on your land, experiencing the things you learned as kids and you taught your kids. Jamie and I have had the opportunity to work with two wonderful young girls over the past six years. They live in the city, but are country girls at heart. These girls have grown so much in their knowledge of animal handling, husbandry, being competitive - but also being good sports, showing respect to other livestock producers that have different ways of doing things, and the list can go on. This has been an opportunity to awaken in them what can be termed, "the farmer gene", which may have otherwise lain dormant.

Not only do I feel these experiences will help them weather the ups and downs in their lives, but these relationships have helped me also. Most days we go through the motions of our chores in a steady routine. Having the girls at the farm has forced me to explain why I do what I do, and has sometimes then caused me to question my own methods and look for something better. The rewards for Jamie and I have been countless! Don't forget to be good stewards of our youth!

I hope with the winter season upon us that you have a chance to take a minute to reflect on how you can be a better steward of your animals, your land and the youth around you. If each of us make even the smallest strides to be good stewards in these areas we will be preserving and promoting what is near and dear to us – the future of agriculture.

Mark Schulz cell: 507-481-7367
E-mail: mark@flatlandfarm.com

Highland Events 2014

JANUARY 21-25

National Western Stock Show will be Tuesday, January 21- Saturday, January 25.

FEBRUARY 15-16

NCHCA 2014 Annual Meeting Black River Falls, WI on February 15 and 16. Registration will start at noon and education sessions and committee reports to follow by 1 pm. The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, morning.

APRIL 11-13

Minnesota Junior Spring Classic – April 11-13, 2014 in Austin, MN. This is a multibreed junior cattle show with over 200 juniors showing 350+ head of cattle.

JUNE 12-14

The **2014 AHCA National Convention** will be hosted by our very own region on June 12-14, 2014 in Duluth, MN. I would encourage you all to attend! We are always looking for volunteers to help out with different pieces of this event.

More events will be listed in the next edition of the *Hoofbeat* as dates are solidified.

Please contact Mark Schulz
mark@flatlandfarm.com or 507-481-7367
to get the Highland or general cattle events in your area listed. The members of our association have expressed interest in knowing about events in all areas of the region. Thanks!

*** We Need Your Help! ***

The 2014 AHCA National Convention will be held June 12-14 in Duluth, MN and hosted by our regional association. The convention committee has been working on the plans for this event since last February.

Committee Members: Mark Schulz, Anne Proctor, Ben Schmidtke, Mary Schmidtke, Billy Johnston, Dave Larson, Janet Larson, Don Vaughn, Sean Vaughn, Sue Dyke, Kate Zander, Larry Sassen, Cindy Sassen, Rob Strom, Tim Nelson, Roger Weideman, Cindy Weideman, and Jean Gruenert

Sub committees:

Auction: Mary Schmidtke, Janet Larson, Cindy Sassen

Registration & Tradeshow: Jean Gruenert,
Cindy Weideman

Education & Tours: Anne Proctor, Sean Vaughn

Juniors: Sue Dyke, Kate Zander

Promotion: Mark Schulz, Tim Nelson, Sean Vaughn

It is not too late to get involved in planning this event! If you see a subcommittee you would like to be on contact one of the members and they will be more than happy to involve you. If you are not a planner, but would like to help out during the event, please let one of the members know and we will find something to fit your talents!

Contact Mark Schulz, 507-481-7367 or
mark@flatlandfarm.com

Upcoming Elections! *Submitted by Mark Schulz*

We are going to need to fill the following positions in the leadership of the North Central Highland Cattle Association and we are looking for you! At our annual meeting in Black River Falls, WI this winter we will be filling a few positions on the board of directors.

1) The North Central Regional Director on the ACHA Board of Directors (currently held by Dave Larson of Four T Acres):

This position is a three year term and requires two face-to-face meetings each year with one being at the National Western Stock Show, in Denver in January and one at the ACHA National Convention (location depends on the hosting region for the convention). In addition, there are 3 conference calls during the year that usually fall around the 2nd week of the month at about 6 pm central time. Each director is required to be on at least one subcommittee at the national level and those sub committees meet no more than once per month by phone. This position is the liaison between our North Central Region and ACHA. This position is in place to bring information to the North Central Board of Directors and take information back to AHCA from our region. We ask that this director sit in on the monthly NCHCA Board of Directors calls as a means of keeping the flow of information open. Dave said in the last three years he has met some great people, made some good friends, saw new places, and learned a lot that he would not have, had he not been in this position. I would add to this, that you do not need to have any level of Highland cattle experience or have a certain number of cattle, you only need to be willing to commit to the above requirements. If elected to this position you would not be eligible to hold a position on the NCHCA board of directors. I am sure Dave Larson would be happy to answer any questions you may have about the position and can be contacted at 262-539-3257 or ftacres@tds.net.

2) Director on the North Central Highland Cattle Association Board (currently held by Josh Krenz):

This position is a two year term with monthly conference calls to keep the business of the association moving along. Most business is conducted during the meeting, but projects and information gathering may be assigned as needed between meetings. Again, I would stress that you do not need to have any level of Highland cattle experience or have a certain number of cattle; you only need to be willing to commit to and be enthusiastic about moving our association forward. Josh or any of the other directors listed in the Hoofbeat would be happy to answer your questions.

3) Secretary (Currently held by Jamie Schulz):

This position is a one year term and the only required meeting at this time is to be present at the North Central Annual Meeting. The position is responsible for membership record keeping and sending out e-mail blasts and other correspondence as directed by the North Central Board. **It has recently been determined that this position DOES NOT need to be held by a Minnesota member.** Any member of the NCHCA is eligible for this position! Jamie would be happy to talk with you about specifics of the position at 507-481-7368 or info@flatlandfarm.com.

4) Treasurer (Currently held by Billy Johnston):

This position is a one year term and the only required meeting at this time is to be present at the North Central Annual Meeting. The accounting books must be presented at this time for auditing. This position may be held by any NCHCA member. Billy will be happy to answer any questions about this position at 651-457-4449 or dalriada@comcast.net.

I would strongly urge you to take the next step as a member of our organization and provide your input and leadership in the upcoming year! Please contact me or any one of the board members if you are interested in running for office/position! **507-481-7367 or mark@flatlandfarm.com**



Windemere Farm
Registered Highland Cattle

John & Anne Proctor
3960 County Road HO
Junction City, WI 54443

715-457-6748
www.WindemereHighlands.com
WindemereFarm@TheProctors.com



Maple Ridge Farm
Registered Highland Cattle

Jon & Lora Sandholm
8780 County Road 15
Minnetrista, MN 55359
Phone: 952-472-1688
E-mail: Maple.Ridge.Farm@frontiernet.net



If you can't measure; you can't manage. This is true in every business, but it is especially true in how Grass Enterprises, owned by Jake and Lindsay Grass, manages their 100-plus cow herd, along with their two daughters, Madeline and Kaylee. The herd includes about two-thirds Highland cows with the remaining are either Angus or Gelbvieh cows. Grass Enterprises includes two farms, Grass Meadows North near Iron, MN, and Grass Meadows South near Pine City, MN.

Jake has over 20 years of cattle experience, but only started raising Highlands in 2010 after touring Thousand Hills Cattle Company, a grass-fed operation in Cannon Falls, MN, where he first saw Highland and Angus crossbred cattle. *"After seeing the half-Highland and half-Angus grassfed cattle in person, I knew it could work,"* says Jake Grass. *"The Highland cow is a much cheaper factory than a polled cow to raise a feeder calf."* Jake did more than trust his keen eye for cattle, but he also set out to prove the concept of using Highland mother cows, bred to polled-Angus bulls, as an efficient way to raise beef. Grass Enterprises tracks metrics to help them manage their farm,

including weaning weight, finished weight and forage tonnage fed.

"When feeding hay in the winter, the Highlands consume 0.5% less feed per pound of body weight than the polled cows," says Grass, who keeps records on each animal. *"That percentage, combined with a lower overall mature weight equates to about two-thirds the hay requirements for our Highland cows as compared to our polled cows."*

As Grass Enterprises manages their feed costs and optimizes their cattle production, they are able to maximize profitability and provide a very good beef product to their customers. The purebred Highlands are sold privately and to Windland Flats (WindlandFlats.com) in Princeton, Minn., who sell packaged Highland beef to consumers. The crossbred cattle are primarily sold to Thousand Hills Cattle Company (ThousandHillsCattleCo.com) in Cannon Falls, Minn., who sell to major grocers like Target.



Jake and Lindsay Grass with Daughters Madeline and Kaylee

Grass says his goal is to continue to sell grassfed beef by creating cattle that finish on forage only. In order to do this, he plans to continue to cross his Highland cows with polled-bulls. *"The Highland Cow is efficient and affordable, making it an ideal mother"* says Grass. And to prove their point, Grass Enterprises will continue to measure and manage their herd, accordingly.

Happy Holidays Everyone!

Everything is making our schedules so busy this year, late spring, extra rain in early summer, draught and slow drying crops this fall.

I sure hope everyone has been busy with their cameras this past year, with the national convention this June. We need all pictures for the 2015 North Central Highland calendar submitted by January 15, 2014 so selection can be made and voted on at the annual meeting in Black River Falls in February.

Not only are pictures needed, but everyone looking to get their Business Card in front of those attending the AHCA Annual Convention in 2014 should be sending in their business cards and \$25 for each ad they wish to have in the calendar and fold location on the back page map.

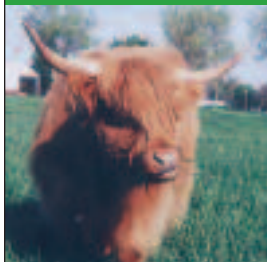
- **Photos need to be e-mailed to:**
lsfjfarm@brainerd.net
- **Business card and ad payments should be mailed to:**
Larry and Cindy Sassen
Boulder Meadows Highland Farm
20374 223rd St.
Little Falls, MN 56345
- **Make checks payable to NCHCA.**

Thank you!
Larry Sassen for NCHCA



BMH Yuma's Charlie is hoping to be on the calendar along with many others.

ALMOSTA FARM



REGISTERED HIGHLAND CATTLE
STEVE AND SUE DYKE

P.O. BOX 27, 101 WEST STREET
MAGNET, NE 68749
402.586.2631

SUE@ALMOSTAFARMHIGHLANDS.COM
WWW.ALMOSTAFARMHIGHLANDS.COM

FOUR T ACRES

Scottish Highland Cattle

The Gruenerts

Jean, Rich and Randy
8670 Fishman Road
Burlington, WI 53105
262-539-2725
greeneearth@wi.rr.com

www.fourtacres.com

The Larsons

David and Janet
8968 Fishman Road
Burlington, WI 53105
262-539-3257
fracres@tds.net

SCHÖN BODEN FARMS



ROGER & CINDY WEIDEMAN
2342 - 10TH AVENUE
OSCEOLA, WI 54020
(715) 294-2249
rweidemo@centurytel.net

BREEDERS OF QUALITY
HIGHLAND CATTLE

Bull Thistle Farm

Charles & Karen Kerr

W4451 River Road, Hwy A
Watertown, Wisconsin 53094
(920) 261-9174

E-mail: KarenHolly1946@gmail.com



Cobblestone Farm

Reg. Highland cattle and beef sales

Heather Bailey
Manager

N9281 Nature Rd
Farm-W3456 Little Prairie Rd
East Troy, WI 53120

Cell: 262-689-7013
Farm: 262-594-2542
tamarlinn@att.com
cobblestonefarmhighlandcattle.com

Boulder Meadows Highlands



Larry & Cindy Sassen
Breeders

Quality Highland (Kyloes) Beef
Registered Highland Cattle
Rotational Grazed Grass Fed

20374-223rd Street
Little Falls, MN 56345

Phone 320-360-3817
lsfarm@brainerd.net

DRUNKEN COWS

LOCAL BREWERY GRAIN FINISHED CATTLE

*FITGER'S BREWHOUSE GRASS-FED SCOTTISH
HIGHLAND CATTLE FINISHED WITH OUR
BREWERY GRAIN FROM DULUTH, MINNESOTA*

P: 218.279.2739 E: INFO@FITGERSBREWHOUSE.COM



1771-261st Avenue NW
Isanti, MN 55040

763-444-6552
stewarthighlands.com



DALRIADA FARM

Registered Scottish Highland Cattle

BILLY, BARBARA & EMILY JOHNSTON

2353 105th Street East
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077
651-457-4449
dalriada@comcast.net



NCHCA Auction Committee Update *Submitted by Mary Schmidtke*

WANTED!!!

Fund raising is soooo important! It is the life blood for all our youth activities and we know where we are going if we do not have our youth involved in farming. It supplements our shows and in some cases makes things that would not have happen, happen. So I am calling on you! The 2014 National Convention will be here in no time. I have heard the convention committee bounce around ideas that will make the Duluth convention the best ever. The schedule has been tentatively set and you will be hearing more about this convention, in this beautiful land, soon.



Now, it's time for **YOU! YOU!** Highland Cattle lovers, supporters and owners, to jump in and be participants. We need **ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT** by donating items for the Banquet Auction Fund Raiser. Let your creative spirit flow and see what creative ideas you can come up with. Some something "special" ideas could be items of a Highland theme, like Art projects. This could include large and small items like paintings, books, china plates, belt buckles to coffee mugs. It can include needed livestock supplies. If you don't have something "cowie". You can donate anyway, gift certificates and services always welcome, we will auction it off. I have heard rumors of a Highland Quilt in the works and a Highland flag being made for the auction, oooh I'm interested. Yes, I am already thinking I could use a great Highland cattle flag flying high from my deck, Just to say, **THIS LAND BELONGS TO THIS CLAN OF HIGHLAND COOS!** Save your money you may have to bid against me.

I need you to do a couple more things. **IT'S FOR THE COWS PEOPLE!**

1. Call us ahead of time and let us know what you're bringing. We want to be organized, we may need to have a catalog.
2. If you know any really oo-ber rich people who are not reading this, make sure you let them know. Because we don't want to miss anyone.
3. There may be a world famous really "sharp" auctioneer out there. One who would be devastated if he couldn't volunteer some time for the love of the cows, to help us out. If you know such a person, let him know, it doesn't hurt to ask!
4. **Dream Big, Really Big.** Talk about it to everyone. It's our time to shine and shine we will!

In the next issue we hope to have a follow-up article on items donated and the auction.

Phone donations to:

Mary Schmidtke

Phone: (608) 348- 4047

Email: info@creachanngleann.com

Jan Larson

Phone: (262) 539-3257

Email: FTAcres@tds.net

Cindy Sassen

Phone: (320) 745-2444

Email: lsffarm@brainerd.net



Partnering with Highland Farms in Minn. and Wisc. to market and sell grassfed Highland Beef.

Contact us to discuss how to become a partner farm.

www.WindlandFlats.com
info@windlandflats.com
(262) 617-4232

Josh Krenz
Princeton, MN

WE TIRED ACRES

Ken & Joan Rose

22789 Kettle Rd, Wilton, WI 54670-6077



Scottish Highland Cattle

Arabian Horses

Voice: 608-435-6405

Fax: 608-435-6407

Email: kenrose@rosesarabians.com

www.wetiredacres.com



Mark & Jamie Schulz

18709 690th Ave.

Elkton, MN 55933

(507) 582-1073

info@flatlandfarm.com

www.flatlandfarm.com

Pell Creek Highlands

Thomas McConnell

Bailey & Reilly

Owners

Phone: (507) 829-2558

2425 U.S. Hwy 14

Balaton MN 56115

pellcreek1875@wildblue.net

Welcome New Members

Harvey and Beth A Meske
Beloit, Wisconsin

Highland Beef Research Project *Submitted by Mark Schulz*

As a member of the Highland Cattle Foundation (HCF), I would like to take a minute to encourage all of you that are producing Highland Cattle for meat purposes to visit the ACHA website under the Highland Cattle Foundation tab and University of MO Highland Beef Research Project. For almost two years HCF has been sponsoring a study on Highland Beef, looking at the fat profile, tenderness, and a taste panel comparing Highland Beef to commercial beef. This study is being conducted to put some science and credibility behind what we all believe is true. The information gathered will potentially provide angles for marketing our Highland beef. To get a robust set of data we are shooting for 200 samples of beef. This is a three year study and to date we only have 65 of the 200 samples needed. I am asking that you take action now to get your samples into the study. **One major change that has recently happened in the study requirements is that the samples can now come from animals processed in your state or local lockers.** Previously they had to come from a federally inspected (USDA) plant. Your samples coming from a non-federally inspected plant will not qualify for the taste panel; however, will be used in the fat profile and tenderness tests. These two tests are the most beneficial to the study!

Please visit the ACHA website today for further information or contact Mark Schulz at 507-481-7367 or mark@flatlandfarm.com for more information. **The time to act is NOW!**



Gray Owl Farms
Scottish Highland Cattle
Rush City, MN 55069
Registered Cattle for Show • Breeding • Beef
Don & Sandy Vaughn Sean & Becky Vaughn
320-358-4040 320-358-3128
www.grayowlfarms.com



LYNX RIVER
REGISTERED HIGHLAND CATTLE
Don & Mary Webster
23404 County Hwy Z
Cornell, WI 54732
715-234-6665
lynxrivercc@centurytel.net

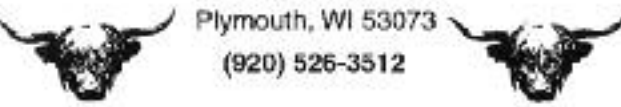


Creachann Gleann
Ben and Mary Schmitke
7200 Platte Rd
Platteville, WI 53818
Registered Highland Cattle
Phone: (608) 348-4047
Email: info@creachanngleann.com
Web: <http://creachanngleann.com>



A Little Taste of Scotland
All Natural Highland Burgers • Scottish Game Chops • Short Bread Cookies
Tom Stedola Christie Stedola
612.490.5678 612.590.6002
tasteofscotland13@gmail.com
FBI 20851-38950
"Great Tasting Food With A Scottish Flare"

Scotch Highland Cattle
Pretty Penny Farm
Gerald & Barbara Schulz
W8743 State Rd. 67
Plymouth, WI 53073
(920) 526-3512



HIGHLAND MEADOWS FARM
REGISTERED HIGHLAND CATTLE
NATURALLY RAISED BEEF
Don and Cathy Veidel
954 245th Avenue, NE
Isanti, MN 55040
(763) 464-9074
dveidel@gmail.com



6441-140th Court NW
Ramsey, MN 55303

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.

Don't forget that the 2014 calendars are available. Order yours ASAP!

2014 North Central Highland Cattle Association Calendars may be purchased for \$20 which includes shipping and handling.

Send check or money order to:
NCHCA
c/o Billy Johnston
Dalriada Highland Farm
2353 105th St E
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

For more information or questions:
call 651-457-4449 or email: dalriada@comcast.net



Think Summer!



The summer picnics have been well attended and very much enjoyed the last couple years and we are looking forward to visiting two more farms in the summer of 2014. The people who have attended have enjoyed seeing other facilities and spending an afternoon talking about Highland Cattle. Past picnics have been as diverse as the farms themselves; there are no special requirements. Attendance has ranged from about 5 people to 25 or so depending on the location and date. You set the time and date and tell people if you'd like them to bring food to share.

We'd like to have one picnic in Minnesota and one in Wisconsin. If you would be willing to host a picnic, please contact Mark Schulz by February 1 as we'd like to announce the dates and locations at the annual meeting.

April Hoofbeat Newsletter

The deadline for our next issue will be **March 15, 2014**. Please submit all articles and photos using the contact information. **Preferred formats are:** Articles – Microsoft Word, Photos/images – PDF format, Tables/graphs – Microsoft Excel. We need original electronic artwork. Please call if you have any questions. Hoofbeat articles can be submitted from now on until the deadline date.

TJ Associates Attn: Dan Stewart

6441-140th Court NW | Ramsey, MN 55303 | T- 763-323-8717 | F- 763-323-8704 | dans@tjassociates.net