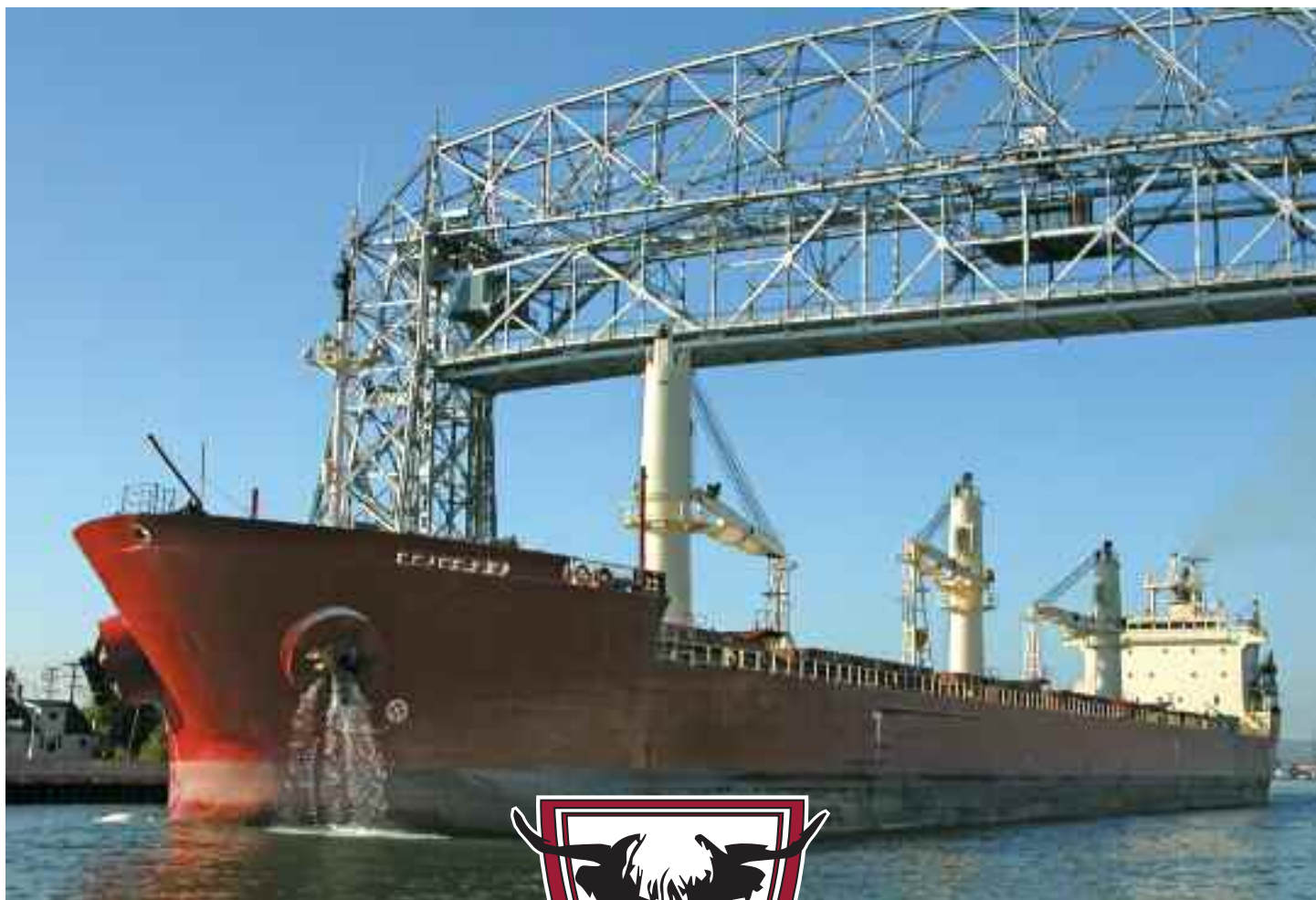




THE HIGHLAND *HoofBeat*

Experience Duluth, Minnesota in June!



June 12-14, 2014

Duluth, Minnesota

63RD ANNUAL **American Highland Cattle Association** **CONVENTION**

**Your 2014 AHCA National Convention will be held in
Beautiful Duluth, Minnesota!**

It boasts a great city atmosphere, but also has the feel that you are not too far from the country. The North Central Region is giving it their all to bring you a convention to remember with a great mix of practical education sessions, unique farm tours, and a multitude of tourist activities. The lineup for the juniors will keep them talking about their trip for the rest of the summer!

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.

2014 State of the Association

President's Message – Mark Schulz, President

I am happy to report that the North Central Highland Cattle Association (NCHCA) is alive and well. We held our annual meeting in Black River Falls, Wis., last month where we heard committee and event reports, which made me very proud to be part of this great organization.

- ***We have a solid base of members in our association.***
- ***We are promoting the breed to people rooted in agriculture and those that want to learn more about it.***
- ***We have a sound financial account.***
- ***We have a thriving Junior program that I am going to say is the best regional junior association in the country.***
- ***We have some great combination networking and social events in our summer farm picnics/tours.***
- ***We have some great communication tools with respect to our NCHCA Hoobeat and website/social media.***

These are all great things, and I appreciate the time and effort our members put into taking an active role in these events for the good of NCHCA and the breed we love.

2014 AHCA National Convention—Hosted by the North Central Highland Cattle Association

In this publication of the Hoofbeat, you are going to see the main focus is on the 2014 AHCA National Convention as NCHCA will be hosting this event June 12-14 in Duluth, Minn. We hope that you will join us for this great event, which will have something for everyone in your family. We have created a number of options to allow you to tailor your experience to what you would like in a convention. We also have a Junior program that will keep them entertained and educated. Here are just a few of the general opportunities you will have (see other articles in this issue for details):

- ***Education***
- ***Tourist Activities***
- ***Networking and Social Time***
- ***Farm Tours***
- ***Innovative Feeding Strategies***

We have been planning this event for over a year, and continue to refine the program. You will be getting your registration information in the mail in the near future, and I sincerely hope that you will attend, as this is an event for everyone. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.



Schedule at a Glance

*** *Duluth, Minnesota* ***

THURSDAY, JUNE 12

- **12:00 PM- 3:00 PM** – Registration and Trade Show
- Workshops – AHCA Performance Program, Cattle Management Software, Highland beef research project update, and local food movement.
- **7:00 PM- 10:00 PM** – Dinner and General Membership Meeting
- **10:00 PM** – “After hours” social get together at Tycoon’s.

FRIDAY, JUNE 13

- **7:00 AM – 8:00 AM** – Breakfast
- Brewery Tour at Fitger’s Brewhouse Brewery & Discuss Feeding Spent Grain
- Lunch in Beautiful Downtown Duluth
- Tour a Local 100% Grass Fed Operation that Uses Diverse Grasses and Rotational Management **OR** North Shore scenic tour.
- Meet the Rancher Social Mixer
- **6:00 PM – 8:00 PM** Beer and Beef Tasting (pre-registration required) – **OR** dinner on your own and Duluth Experience Tourist Activities
- **8:00 PM** Scottish Dancing and Bag Pipe Ceremony

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2013

- **8:00 AM – 9:30 AM** On your own tour of Duluth.
- Tour a Ranch that Feeds Spent Grains.
- Discussion with USDA/NRCS rep about rotational grazing and cost share programs.
- Blessing of the Cattle – Bagpipes
- Ranch Lunch
- Educational Sessions: Low Stress Animal Handling, Non-Traditional Animal Nutrition & More
- **6:00 PM – 8:00 PM** – Banquet, Awards and Auction

2014 AHCA National Convention Call for Sponsors

Please urge your farm product/service providers to consider becoming a sponsor. Examples: feed supplier, equipment sales, and medical supplies.

Sponsorship Levels:

★ **GOLD — \$500 AND UP**

- Logo on Convention Banner
- Trade show space
- Banner display at outdoor event
- Mention at Meetings and Banquet
- Advertising in the quarterly Hoofbeat
- Brochures in Welcome Bag

★ **SILVER — \$250 TO \$499**

- Logo on Convention Program
- Mention at Meetings and Banquet
- Banner displayed
- Brochures in Welcome Bag

★ **BRONZE — \$100 TO \$249**

- Logo on Convention Program
- Mention at Meetings
- Brochures in Welcome Bag

AHCA Convention Sponsorships must be sent by May 1, 2014 to:

Jean Gruenert
8670 Fishman Road, Burlington, WI 53105
262-539-2725 | greenearth.jean@gmail.com

2014 AHCA National Convention Breeder's Map

Reach potential customers from across the country by having your farm listed on the breeder's map. This will be included in the welcome bag to be handed out at registration. You can have your farm/ranch located on the map with your farm business card information for only \$25.

AHCA Convention Breeder's Map Entries must be sent by May 1, 2014 to:

Cindy Weideman
2342 10th Ave., Osceola, WI. 54020
715-294-2249 | rweidema@centurytel.net

2014 AHCA National Convention Farm Trade Show Spaces

If you would like to sell craft items or promote your Farm or Ranch at the National Convention, there is a limited number of trade show space available for \$25.

Be sure to reserve your spot in the trade show when you register for the convention.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Sharon Lewis

Gordon & Heather Poss

Jake & Lindsay Grass

Heather Bailey

Harvey & Beth Meske

Marshall & Cheryl Wirz

Events 2014

~~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 550+ 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.

For more information about these events check the NCHCA website or contact:
Jan Larson at FTAcres@tds.net





For More Information Contact:

Sue Dyke
Junior Committee Chair
(402) 586-2631
almostafarmne@gmail.com

Jan Larson
Junior Committee Secretary
262-539-3257
FTAcs@tds.net

Find us on
 Facebook
www.facebook.com/NCHCAJuniors

Follow us on


www.twitter.com/NCHCAJuniors



The NCHCA Jr Association provides opportunities for youth who are interested in Highland Cattle to be involved with Scottish Highland cattle. There are educational offerings, networking opportunities (i.e. facebook and twitter, meeting activities), and other experiences offered along with NCHCA activities.

Any youth can be involved. They do not have to own cattle and parents do not need to be members of NCHCA. Membership is free! Youth 21 and under are welcome.

NCHCA Junior News

The NCHCA was well represented at the National Western Stock Show this past January! Division winners were shown by Nicholas Proctor, Paige Proctor and Calley Nelson with Calley's heifer being named the Reserve Junior Champion Heifer. In Showmanship, Paige Proctor and Reilly McConnell were selected as the Grand and Reserve Champion Junior showmen. Bailey McConnel was the Champion Intermediate Showman and Reserve Supreme Champion Showman. Calley Nelson was the Reserve Senior Showman.

In addition to doing a great job in the show ring, the juniors were great ambassadors for the breed! The NCHCA Juniors had fun at the annual meeting with a trip to the tubing hill, fun in the pool and some education thrown in there as well. The Junior Committee has been busy finalizing details for the members who attend the Annual Convention in June. They will have several days to explore the Duluth area, visit Highland breeders and make new friends. Look for complete details in the registration packets that will come out later in the spring.

Several members of the NCHCA Junior group will be going to Austin, MN, in April to participate in the Minnesota Junior Spring Classic which is a cattle show clinic followed by a show. There are usually about 350 head of cattle of all different breeds and these juniors represent the Highland breed very well! There are several who are planning to attend "Cow Camp" sponsored by the Midwest region in July. The event is a weekend-long clinic in which the kids work with their animals and get pointers from more experienced mentors. There are hands on educational opportunities and lots of fun activities, too! If you know a member who would like to attend, have him/her contact someone on the Junior Committee.

On a National level, there are two awards that Juniors can be nominated for or apply for. The Highland Allegiance Award is given to a junior who goes above and beyond to represent the Highland breed to the public. If you know of a deserving Junior, please nominate him or her for this prestigious national award; nominations are due on May 1.

The AHCA Heifer Program was initiated as a program to encourage and promote youth members who have the interest and enthusiasm for the Highland breed. The focus of the program is to award the recipient a heifer to begin their breeding program or enhance their current herd. Applications for the heifer are due on June 1st. More information and application forms for both programs are posted on the AHCA webpage under Junior News.



Submitted by Ben Schmidtke

Bryant Hammig is the owner of Argyll Farm, located at Argyle, Wisconsin. The spelling of the farm name was intentional. It is the Scottish spelling for Argyle. Located in the Southwest portion of Wisconsin, Argyle is an area known as the "Driftless Region" because it has never been covered over by a glacier. This left the area with very picturesque valleys, and very suitable for Highland cattle. The farm consists of 100 acres, 60 of which are tillable crop ground, and the rest woods and pasture for Bryant's fold of Highlands.

Bryant grew up in Kansas and in those days was interested in raising bison. However, it became apparent that bison are difficult animals to handle and contain and the fences necessary are substantial. He grew up in a family that was involved in several aspects of beef production. A few years ago he began researching beef breeds to see what he might

want to raise. He was interested in grass fed beef, and found that the Scottish breeds like Galloways and Highlands were most efficient for that type of production. Of those breeds, the Highlands seemed to be the hardiest.

With Wisconsin winters being what they are, Bryant felt that they were the best choice. The quality of the beef, ease of calving, and the beauty of the animals were all contributors to the decision to raise Highlands. Another consideration was that fact that they are a heritage breed, meaning the genetics haven't been altered by the introduction of another breed through the years.

With his mind made up, Bryant began looking for local breeders, and found Dave and Jan Larson of 4T Acres. After visiting their farm, he purchased his first three cows in 2012. They in turn put him in touch with Cobblestone Farm, where he purchased four more cows. The cows were bred when Bryant purchased them. The first year they produced four calves, three of which were bull calves.

AT A GLANCE...

FARM – ARGYLL FARM

LOCATION – ARGYLE, WI

OWNER – BRYANT HAMMIG

FARM SIZE – 100 ACRES

HERD SIZE – SEVEN COWS

The current plans are to eventually grow the herd to twenty-four animals. Bryant would like to put in 5 – 7 acres of flax, and finish steers on flax seed. Eventually, he would like to try to provide beef on an occasional basis to restaurants in the Chicago area where they would have a note in the menu about Highland beef. His hopes are to promote the breed through

this type of exposure. Bryant's intention is to maintain a healthy organic pasture and to keep his herd size at a level that allows the cattle to have plenty of individual space. He doesn't want to overstock the land. He wants to raise his cattle in a compassionate and sustainable manner. In short, he wants to make sure he has Happy Cows.



Dream This!

...a warm summer breeze envelopes you as you wonder at the view from your hotel balcony. You are only steps away from the shore of 'the lake they call Gitche Gumee'. Lake Superior. Vast, crystal clear, mysterious and compelling in its majesty. You gulp it all in. You have just spent the day in the company of other Highland enthusiasts and had tremendous fun doing it.

**Well, this dream could be real if you attend
the AHCA 2014 National Convention!**



About a year ago the **North Central Highland Cattle Association (NCHCA)** voted to host the 63rd Convention – but with a caveat. We only wanted to do it if we could put on a **BLOCKBUSTER!** We wanted attendees to remember their visit for a very long time. Since that decision was made to host, a committee of about 15 NCHCA members have been conducting monthly teleconferences to make it happen.

**IF YOU COME TO DULUTH...
YOU WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED!**

Our agenda is at the fine tuning stage and will soon be announced. For now let's preview some of what you can look forward to.

Firstly, we have reserved a wonderful hotel, The Inn on Lake Superior. It has the feel of a Great Lakes ship, with the bow being picture windows with magnificent lake views.

The back lawn leads you to the Boardwalk, the walking and biking path (bikes provided by the hotel), the Scenic Railway, and of course the rugged shoreline. Step out the front door and you are on Canal Street, the hub of the busy heart of Duluth. Walk (or take a horse and carriage ride) to several restaurants, or to the Aerial Lift Bridge as it raises and lowers for the harbor passage of the huge lake freighters. You may want to visit the Maritime Museum or climb aboard and explore a real Great Lakes retired ship. Maybe find your sea legs and take a Vista Fleet harbor tour or, if you are really adventurous, try sea kayaking (kayaks for hire right on the hotel lawn area).

Scenic Highway 61 winds along the shoreline cliffs and leads to such destinations as the awesome cascading Gooseberry Falls, or the imposing historic Split Rock Lighthouse, where you can climb to the top for the view.



DULUTH...
Minnesota's gem at
the head of the lake.

Some call it
San Francisco
of the North.

Watch for a finalized schedule and registration information coming spring 2014!

American Highland Cattle Association – www.highlandcattleusa.org

North Central Highland Cattle Association – www.nchca.org

Of course your visit is not all about the attractions of the area. You will also learn much about our chosen Highland breed. We are working on some great farm visits and educational sessions. Each has a story to tell and you are sure to take things home with you to apply on your own farm. Here is the proposed educational lineup that you won't want to miss!!!

➤ **Grass Fed Beef Operation.** Want to see how a cattleman with over 20 years' experience "discovered" Highlands and made a profitable switch? We will visit Grass Meadows North, one of two farms owned by Jake and Lindsay Grass. Here we will learn how 60+ Highland cows are bred to polled Angus bulls and the calves are fed to mature weight exclusively on summer grasses and winter forage. These finished cattle, raised following strict protocol, are sold to Thousand Hills Cattle Company, a supplier of 100% grass fed beef to major retailers such as Target stores. *"The Highland cow is efficient and affordable, making her an ideal mother. She is a much cheaper factory than a polled cow to raise a feeder calf".*
— Jake Grass

➤ **Spent Grain.** Did you ever think about combining beer and cattle? You will visit and learn about a brewery that not only thought about it, they built a Highland cattle finishing operation around the use of spent grain from the beer brewing process!

➤ **Cattle Handling.** Spend some time in the pasture and cattle handling facilities learning how to work **WITH** cattle. You'll go home with a better understanding of how cattle perceive their environment and how to make cattle handling a low stress event for them and you.

➤ **Rotational Grazing.** We all know that grass is an important part of the cow's diet, but do you know how to optimize your grass production? Learn how to get started with rotational grazing and what programs may be available to fund your endeavor.

➤ **Cattle Nutrition.** Meet a cow named Stinky and learn about nutrition. You may have had nutrition sessions before, but

never like this one! We will look into and explore the rumen of a fistulated cow. You feed cattle every day; having the opportunity to explore the rumen of a fistulated cow is often a once in a lifetime experience.

➤ **Animal Selection.** Develop a critical eye and find out what to look for when selecting your next breeding animal. Learn about what traits make a great bull or brood cow and what data to collect to help you make better breeding decisions.

All of this education deserves some play time too! **SO** in addition to the attractions previously mentioned add:

- **GREAT FOOD**
- **BAGPIPES**
- **SCOTTISH DANCING**
- **BEER AND BEEF TASTING** (with a special beer brewed and named just for the Convention and beef from the brewery grain fed steers)
- **PLUS MUCH MORE!**

This is of course a Family Event and our JUNIORS have an agenda designed just for them. They can look forward to:

- **A CITY TOUR**
- **GREAT LAKES AQUARIUM**
- **LAKE SUPERIOR MARITIME VISITOR CENTER**
- **GRANDMA'S CABOOSE**
- **TOUR OF U.S. STEEL FLEET VESSEL**
- **SPIRIT MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE PARK**
- **FARM VISITS**

THEY ARE SURE TO HAVE A BLAST!

Maybe, if you have never attended, you feel that Conventions are designed for those with larger farms or folds, or with years of experience, or with deep pockets. Not so. Our Convention is for every single member, young or old. So please mark your calendar **AND...**

...follow the dream to Duluth, Minnesota!



For more information please contact:

Mark Schulz – President, North Central Highland Cattle Association
507-481-7367 | mark@flatlandfarm.com

Membership Reminder from Jan

Hello Everyone,

Just wanted to take a moment and remind you, that if you haven't yet renewed your membership in NCHCA for 2014 it's still not too late! Your board has been working hard and we are planning on having a lot of fun this year! I don't want you to miss out on the latest activities, informative materials, and developments that are coming up! To renew, all you need to do is fill out your check and the form that was with your annual meeting information last January. If you need a new form feel free to call or email me at the information listed below and I will be happy to get it to you. Happy calving!

Jan

Janet Larson, NCHCA Secretary
8968 Fishman Road, Burlington, WI 53105
262-539-3257 | FTAcres@tds.net

Highland Cattle Study Summary Remarks

DR. BRYON WIEGAND, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Meat Science, University of Missouri

As we have just hit the 100 head mark in the Highland Beef Quality Study, several points are becoming clearer. One is not surprised to find that the variation in meat traits that are closely associated with diet (mainly fat profile) are quite variable across regions, farms, and genetics. To date, a few producers have contributed greatly to the sample size, thus influencing the fat profile, fat content, and cooking loss parameters with their particular system. As the data set grows, individual producers will have less impact on the overall picture of the breed. At the conclusion of the study individual producers will be able to benchmark against the average and compare data by region, finishing system, and carcass aging time to determine where their beef lies on the spectrum.

To date, the most intriguing trend that rises to the top is the tenderness of Highland Beef. There are very few, if any "tough" samples in the entire data set. These results seem true regardless of production system.

Tenderness traits are moderately heritable and tend to track with cattle of certain genetic origin, with *Bos taurus* (temperate climate) cattle having a greater propensity for tender meat compared with *Bos indicus* (tropical climate or zebu) cattle. There is also evidence in the literature that aging time postmortem can greatly contribute to tenderness, especially past nine days in the cooler for dry aged intact carcass beef. We also find a positive relationship between increased marbling and increased tenderness. The Highland Beef that we have tested seems to buck this last trend in that the fat percentage in most samples are low compared to the industry indicating less marbling, but still producing a tender product. This could prove to be a unique marketing tool as we go forward.

It has taken us quite a while to eclipse 100 samples for the data set, but the pace has increased dramatically in recent months. Like any system, it takes a long time for people to learn the process, buy into the effort, and then ultimately participate. It is

important to continue to send samples! Keep in mind that while the preference is for state or federal inspected samples so they can be part of the sensory panel, it is not a requirement for the other tests. All samples are encouraged. Even one sample from one producer is better than none. We have the up to date raw data thus far. Caution should be taken in "extrapolating" data with a preliminary set, but the trends are becoming clearer and individual producers can pull their data out and at least use it as benchmarking for marketing purposes. As always, I am willing to discuss data on a case by case, producer by producer basis.

The best way to reach me is via email wiegandb@missouri.edu. Please email me your phone number and the best time to reach you, as well as the animal IDs for your samples so that I can be better prepared for the discussion. My office phone is 573-882-3176 but I am not always in the office. I look forward to hearing from you and discussing your personal sample submissions.

Annual Meeting - February 15, 2014

Submitted by Jan Larson

The NCHCA Annual meeting weekend began on Feb 15, 2014. Registration opened up at noon

and we were given a very interesting presentation from Jim Livingston on using molasses to improve feed quality and efficiency. This session was followed up by our "Beef Tips" from some of our members. It was kind of a fun learning session where experience and suggestions from everyone was the key. Following this we heard about the National Sale where \$84,475 was raised selling Highland animals at the National Western Stock Show out in Denver, Co., the Minnesota Scottish Fair and Games, the Minnesota State Fair, Wisconsin Farm Tech Days, the Wisconsin State Fair and World Beef Expo. We received reports from our NCHCA Junior Committee. We also heard from the AHCA Jr. Rep about the ACHCA Futurity, Allegiance Award, and the National Junior Heifer Programs. We discussed the summer farm tours put on by Drunken Cows, Four T Acres, and Schön Boden farm. A presentation was then given about the possibility of having a slide show for participating NCHCA farms while on the tour busses for the 2014 Convention in Duluth. It was decided to work on a guideline for this, including cost and submission deadlines. We took a break and returned to the meeting room for dinner and an auction where the Juniors helped Billy auction off the generous items donated by all the farms in attendance. Thank you to everyone who donated both the gifts and their generous funds, and thank you to Billy for doing a wonderful job as auctioneer. Some of us then retired to the popular hotel gathering spot to discuss other important business of various topics.

Sunday rolled around and at 8:30 in the morning we started the business meeting with reports from the Secretary,

Treasurer and the AHCA Director. Elections were next, and Josh Krenz was voted in for a full term as a NCHCA Director and David Larson was elected for his 2nd term as AHCA Director. Appointed offices were then handled and Billy Johnston will remain on as our Treasurer and Jan Larson will take over as Secretary. Your NCHCA Board then reported on our membership and the other things addressed throughout the year, such as our finances and breed promotion. They then had a short report on the membership survey that all NCHCA members received in 2013. Committee reports were then resumed and we heard about the NCHCA Show last fall, World Beef Expo, the upcoming York, Nebraska show, and the Minnesota Beef Expo where the Minnesota Beef President asked about having Highlands participate in 2014. The last report was given on the Highland Cattle Foundation's study and the findings from Dr. Wiegand, which sound very promising for the breed. It was also brought to our attention that the HCF has scholarships available for juniors preparing for post high school education. We then moved on to New Business and funding requests were granted for the MJSC, Wis. Cattleman's Assoc., Wis. Farm Tech Days, and the Minn. State Fair. We talked about some possibilities for 2014 Summer Farm Tours and we will see who the new volunteer/volunteers might be. The St. Croix Valley Bull Test Sale was mentioned with an open house and educational sessions and the actual sale. If you are interested in this, Kate Zander is your go-to-girl.

All in all it was a very fun and interesting weekend with 21 adults attending and 4 juniors. We are already looking forward to the meeting next year and hoping many more farms can join us.

NCHCA Annual Meeting (a Junior's Perspective)

Submitted by Tucker Larson

The annual NCHCA meeting was pretty fun, but there was only four juniors in attendance. Despite the lack of people, I think the juniors had a good time. On Saturday we went snow tubing for a while – which is always a good time. After that we went swimming in the hotel's pool and we played with the football there too. I feel the auction went well, with some good and interesting items going, I even came away with a batch of my mom's famous caramel corn. I would like to thank everyone that was on the junior committee for setting up the snow tubing and everyone that purchased items at the auction for the juniors.

With that being said I would like to encourage more juniors to come to the annual meeting next year and the AHCA meeting in Duluth this June.



Secretary: The annual meeting of the North Central Highland Cattle Association was called to order February 16, 2014 at 8:30 am by the president at the Best Western Arrowhead Lodge Black River Falls, WI. The secretary was present. The minutes of the 2013 meeting were approved as read. Proof of Notice - notices were sent out to the membership in the January edition of the Hoofbeat. All notices received by 1/15/14.

Annual Meeting Minutes *Submitted by Jamie Schulz*

Officers Reports

Treasurer's Report - Billy Johnston

Balance of \$10,930.75

Junior balance of \$1174.43 included in above total

Annual Audit completed by Cindy Weideman

Report stands approved as presented

AHCA Director's Report - Dave Larson

Discussed 2013 Convention attendance, National sale results, AHCA Policies updates, Financials, Bagpipe, Website, new membership types under consideration

Report stands approved as presented

Elections

NCHCA Director 2014 - 2016 - Josh Krenz was elected

AHCA Director 2014-2017 - Dave Larson was elected

Appointments

NCHCA Treasurer - Billy Johnston

NCHCA Secretary - Jan Larson

NCHCA Board Report - Mark Schulz & Ben Schmidtke

Membership - how to keep and increase activity of members

Financials - we have sufficient funds to continue our activities

Breed Promotion - many farms are active throughout the year, including our juniors

Membership survey - most join to learn about highlands and networking opportunities, Hoofbeat is an important part of that

Committee Reports (from Saturday & Sunday)

NCHCA Junior Committee - Sue Dyke

37 junior members

Quarterly newsletter being sent to juniors

2014 upcoming activities: MJSC, Cow Camp, NCHCA show, Junior of the Year Award, 2014 Denver show, 2014 AHCA Convention

National Sale Update - Anne Proctor for Heather Bailey

\$84,475 raised

Currently revising rules for sale, comments due March 31, 2014

Minnesota Junior Spring Classic - Mark Schulz

April 11-12, 2014 in Austin

Requested \$500 for the breed show to be voted on later

MN Scottish Fair & Scottish Games - Billy Johnston

2013 - 10 head of cattle, fun show, display

2014 - July 12th

MN State Fair - Mark Schulz

2013 - was located in Moo Booth, there for 12 days

Promotion - Fox TV, Jay Suchere Show, Twin Cities Live

WI Farm Technology Days - Cindy Weideman

8/12-8/14 2014 in Portage County

WI State Fair - Jean Gruenert

3 days, letter thanking them for attending, expect to be asked back for 2014

Calendars - Larry Sassen

8-2014 calendars left, 21 of 23 ads sold for 2013 calendar, \$600 profit

2015 - 16 ads sold of the 24 possible, In print by May 15th so available at the AHCA convention

AHCA Junior Report - Kate Zander

Futurity - potential \$1000 back for junior that purchase a heifer at the National Sale

Alligance award - nominations due May 1st

National Heifer Program - looking for heifer donations

NCHCA Summer Farm Tours

2013 - Drunken Cows, Four T Acres, Schon Boden Farm

2014 - ??

Annual Meeting Minutes *(cont.)*

Hoofbeat - Mark Schulz

Costs will stay the same as they were in 2013

Website - John Proctor

Cost for the year was \$150, brought in \$300 in advertising receipts

Roger Weideman made a motion that the Board can decide on future software purchases for website management, seconded, motion passed

Shows

NCHCA Regional Show - Mark Schulz

Was in the black for 2013

2014 show will be September 20, 2014 in Austin, MN

World Beef Expo - Ben Schmidtke

Joan Rose made a motion that the World Beef Expo be added as an AHCA sanctioned show, seconded, motion passed

Ben Schmidtke is the breed representative

John Proctor requested a formal response from the AHCA show committee be requested to the concerns that were raised by NCHCA last spring.

MN Beef Expo - Larry Sassen

Request has been made by president of MN Beef Expo that Highland participate, this is a junior only show

Beef cook-off in 2014 throughout the state, have Highland beef at some?

AHCA Highland Cattle Foundation

Beef Study - now open to all same-as processed beef. Send in your samples

Scholarships available for 2014 - get your applications in

New Business

Funding Requests

MJSC - Sue Dyke made a motion that \$300 come from the Junior funds to sponsor the MJSC, seconded, motion passed

WI Cattlemen's Association - Ken Rose moved that we renew our membership (\$75), seconded, motion passed

WI Farm Tech Days - Ken Rose moved that we pay the entry fees required to participate in Farm Tech Days (currently unknown), seconded, motion passed

MN State Fair - Ken Rose moved that we fund the MN State Fair, seconded, motion passed

Jamie Schulz moved that we pay \$100 to Dan Stewart for the copies and other items he made for the annual meeting, seconded, motion passed

Summer Farm Tours

Windemere Farms would be willing to host, Sharon Lewis interested, yet to be determined

St. Croix Valley Bull Test Sake - Kate Zander

Promotion opportunities for the association, contact Kate for more information

Highland Cattle Handling 101 - Ben Schmidtke

Print in Hoofbeat over time

2014 National Convention

Mark Schulz made a motion to spend up to \$3000 in the NCHCA general funds if necessary to cover costs of the 2014 convention, seconded, motion passed

Motion to adjourn made by Ben Schmidtke, seconded, motion carried

Minutes submitted by Jamie Schulz 2/23/14

Approved by Mark Schulz 2/23/14

Attendees

1. Mark & Jamie Schulz
2. Roger & Cindy Weideman
3. Kate Zander
4. Joan & Ken Rose
5. Billy Johnston
6. Richard & Jean Gruenert
7. David & Jan Larson
8. Ben & Mary Schmidtke
9. Larry & Cindy Sassen
10. Anne & John Proctor
11. Sue Dyke
12. Sharon Lewis



July 1997

AH/Beef/25



CALF SCOURS SIMPLIFIED

Clell V. Bagley, DVM, Extension Veterinarian
Utah State University, Logan UT 84322-5600



**Animal Health
Fact Sheet**

Virtually stacks of material have been written about calf scours and yet it remains as one of the major problems for beef calves. Enough is now known that we should be able to prevent or at least control the great majority of scours outbreak problems. Let's apply and use what we know.

Calf scours is a complex disease; that is, it is caused by a variety of infectious agents and conditions, not just one single agent. In fact, almost any disease agent which attacks a calf during the first three weeks of life will result in some level of scours (diarrhea). The reason is because the gut is still so immature during that period and is the weakest point of the calf's system. That is a significant point to remember as you consider prevention, treatment or diagnosis. It may be important to pursue a diagnosis through laboratory work of culture, etc.; the cause could be a single agent, such as salmonella. But if a variety of agents are present, the diagnosis is not very significant and you had better concentrate on control and prevention rather than a specific diagnosis. In this latter type of outbreak, the lab can eventually identify almost all of the common causes of scours as being present in the herd.

TREATMENT

The immediate and most important treatment for all scouring newborn calves is the same, regardless of cause. They must receive fluids, electrolytes and energy. The fluid is essential in order to allow the body organs such as the kidneys, liver, etc. to continue to function. However, the fluid cannot be absorbed from the gut unless it contains electrolytes (salts) in the proper proportions. And, that absorption process also requires lots of energy. If you can keep the calf hydrated, its own body defenses will usually be able to control the infectious agents involved. The exception to this occurs when there is an immune deficiency (lack of absorption of antibodies from colostrum).

There are a variety of fluid and electrolyte formulas available and most will work to some extent. Consult with your veterinarian about his choice and why. If the products are not working, re-evaluate with him again. Some formulas also contain a gel substance which helps to add bulk and may absorb some toxins (poisons) from the gut. Most calves with scours tend to be acidotic (their system is too acid). It will help these calves to receive electrolytes that are alkaline (basic) in nature for 24–36 hours. After that they should be changed to non-alkaline electrolytes. Examples of alkaline electrolytes include Life-Guard, Revive, and Biolyte. If being used with or near milk feeding, an acetate form should be used. If this is not a problem then bicarbonate or lactate can be used. Examples of non-alkaline electrolytes that can be used include Resorb, IonAid, and Calf-lyte. The use of systemic antibiotics by injection may also be of benefit if a bacterial infection has become generalized in the calf's body.

The major problem encountered in treatment with fluids and electrolytes is that producers give too little, too late. Plan to give 2 qts., 2–4 times per day. Determine the frequency of treatment needed by the amount of dehydration present; this is evidenced by sinking of the eyes and elasticity of skin on the neck and withers. Don't mix the fluid and electrolytes with milk; that prevents curd formation and the milk is then of no benefit. If you are feeding milk, wait for 15–20 minutes before giving the fluid and electrolytes.

PREVENTION

The primary efforts during a scours outbreak should be to prevent it from affecting additional calves (break the cycle). This should be directed to three main areas:

1. *Level of Immunity*

This is related directly to colostrum. The newborn calf has no antibodies and must obtain them from the



Calf Scours Simplified (*cont.*)

colostrum by absorption of these large proteins through the immature intestine. But, the intestine changes rapidly after birth and by 12–24 hours, closes off to absorption of these antibodies.

The quality of colostrum varies greatly. It is better from older cows than from heifers and is much better from the first milking than the second. Vaccination of the dam can increase the level of immunity against specific agents, especially *E. coli*.

A blood serum test can be performed on calves of a few days old to determine their level of immunity. If it is low, then colostrum management must be improved. A herd outbreak may begin from one ill calf; the illness in that calf may be due to a lack of colostrum.

Commercial substitutes for colostrum are available and have seemed to work on the ranch.

But some controlled studies have shown only a small amount of antibody is absorbed from these products. Good quality colostrum is better.

There are specific monoclonal antibody products available for *E. coli* which help to increase the protection against that specific agent. These must be given soon after birth and the calf must also receive colostrum.

2. *Increased organisms in the environment*

Any factors which allow an increase in the number of organisms in the environment will increase the chance for calves to be exposed to and contract scours. As disease causing organisms pass through one animal and on into another, they increase in their ability to cause disease; they become much more potent for future infections. They are spread by ingestion, aerosol-inhalation, or contamination of the navel. Sanitation and ventilation become critical. The following management guides will help reduce the build-up of organisms in the environment.

- a. Breed and calve the first-calf heifers before the cows.
- b. Avoid having large numbers of females in the “close-up” area; sort by nearness to calving.
- c. Keep calving stalls clean, dry and well ventilated; clean out between cows.
- d. Treat the navel with iodine, soon after birth.
- e. Remove the dam and calf as soon as possible to a clean pasture or lot; keep pairs in small groups (10–15 maximum) for 7–14 days.
- f. Don’t use the same esophageal feeder, etc., for newborn calves that is used for treatment of ill calves. The person doing the treatment must also wash hands and clean up after treating ill calves.

3. *Reduce stress factors*

The primary stress factors for baby calves are difficult birth, lack of energy intake (starvation), wetness and wind. Calves can take severe cold weather if they can stay dry and get out of the wind. Many producers provide protection in the form of small, portable calf sheds which are placed in the grazing area. It is essential that they be moved (or cleaned out) periodically and that they have adequate ventilation. Have your veterinarian help you evaluate your operation for “stress” areas and then correct them.

Calf scours can be prevented and controlled, but we must do it through proper management. Don’t expect to find the cure or preventive in a pill, bottle, or bag.

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NCHCA 2015 Calendars are available!

2015 North Central Highland Cattle Association Calendars may be purchased for \$20 which includes shipping and handling.

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July Hoofbeat Newsletter

The deadline for our next issue will be **June 27, 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 up until the deadline date.

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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.

~~Five~~ ^{Six} Reasons Why You Should Join NCHCA in 2014

1. Member Networking & Education

- Attend NCHCA Annual Meeting
- Participate in NCHCA Regional Member Picnics

2. Receive the Hoofbeat

- Stay informed on regional events
- Read about fellow members
- See articles on caring for Highlands

3. Promote the Highland Breed

- NCHCA promotes our breed on your behalf and you can join to help promote the breed as well at these events:
 - MN State Fair
 - WI State Fair
 - WI Farm Technology Days
 - MN Scottish Festival and Highland Games

4. NCHCA Advocates for You

- NCHCA Members Elect the AHCA Representative & Regional Board Representatives, which represent you on the local and national level
- NCHCA Show Committee advocates for the Highland Breed at World Beef Expo & Our Regional Show
- NCHCA planned the Regional AHCA meeting in Duluth this Summer on your behalf

5. Support Our Juniors

- NCHCA is the sponsor organization for our regional Junior's Program
- Your membership supports on-going education of young people on cattle handling, proper care and life-lessons from raising cattle

#6 AHCA National Convention, Duluth, MN!

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