



VOLUME 40

APRIL 2016

ISSUE 2



THE HIGHLAND *HoofBeat*

NCHCA 2015 Elected Officers and Board of Directors

Ben Schmidtke
President (15-17)
608-348-4047
info@creachannngleann.com

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Vice President (15-17)
320-745-2444
lsfjfarm@brainerd.net

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FTAcs@tds.net

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

ACHA Director:
Dave Larson (14-16)
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2015 Board of Directors:
Josh Krenz (14-16)
763-260-1001
info@windlandflats.com

Jan Larson (15-17)
262-539-3257
FTAcs@tds.net

Dan Webster (15-17)
715-239-6665
lynxrivercc@centurytel.net

President's Message

– *Ben Schmidtke, President*

As far as the calendar is concerned, Spring has arrived. The Spring calving season is in full swing, with new arrivals showing up on an almost daily basis. It's always entertaining watching the calves try their legs out. The NCHCA annual meeting is behind us now. We had a very good turnout and got a chance to meet several new members. The business portion of the meeting went smoothly and there was plenty of time to meet folks and share experiences. The educational sessions were excellent and provided some very useful information. Thanks to all who organized this year's event and to those who took the time to attend. You made it a great success.

On a sad note, the NCHCA lost a very good friend, Adrian "EZ" Braun in February. Many of us got to know him as the ring steward at the NCHCA shows over the years. EZ was an avid Highland breeder and produced excellent cattle. Many of you will find "EZ Acres" someone in the pedigrees of your animals. That's due to the hard work of EZ Braun. He will be missed.

Have a safe Spring and a great calving season.

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.



SCHÖN BODEN FARMS

SUMMER PICNIC

NORTH CENTRAL HIGHLAND CATTLE ASSOCIATION

JULY 9, 2016

EVENTS START AROUND NOON, FOOD AROUND 1PM

(WELCOME TO COME FOR THE WHOLE WEEKEND. CAMPING AVAILABLE.)

SCHÖN BODEN FARMS

2342 10TH AVENUE, OSCEOLA, WI 54020

Please come and join us for our summer picnic at our 286 acre family farm. We will be doing farm tours, displaying new equipment and providing lunch on Saturday. You are welcome to come and visit with other highland breeders at any time throughout the day.

Camping available for anyone who wants to stay one or two nights. Horseback riding trails are available for anyone who wants to bring their horse to ride the trails or to see the farm on horseback. Pens will be provided upon request.

PLEASE RSVP BY JULY 1ST:

Roger or Cindy Weideman @ 715-294-2249 or rweidema@centurytel.net

Four T Acres will be hosting a Farm Picnic on Sunday, August 21, 2016



Your Hosts:

**The Gruenerts
Four T Acres**

**8670 Fishman Road
Burlington, WI 53105**

**Please direct all inquiries and RSVP's to
Jean Gruenert at 262-539-2725 or to
greenearth.jean@gmail.com
by July 23rd, 2016.**

Please come join Four T Acres on August 21st as we host one of this years NCHCA Picnics! This will be just a casual get together, for some fun, good food, a pasture tour, and lots of “cow” talk. All members, new and established are welcome!

Since we will also be hosting the NCHCA Junior cow camp here that weekend, the picnic will be Sunday at 10:00 a.m. and lunch will be served at noon. If you would like to bring a dish to pass that would be great! Please feel free to come and stay the night Saturday night also. We have plenty of room for camping, campers, and for those of us who prefer cushy accommodations, plenty of hotels nearby.

We are ALL looking forward to seeing you!!

Attention all NCHCA Juniors, all AHCA Juniors (and adults) get ready for:

A.C.T.

(Advanced Cow Training) Camp

**Held at Four T Acres, August 19-20th, 2016
in Burlington, Wisconsin**

Outdoor camping (Hotel's available nearby)

Dinner, dessert, and breakfast by the fire

Cattle handling demonstration

Obstacle Course Training

And lots of other activities!

Bring a calf, or we can supply one for you!

Food, Fun and Learning for everyone!

Open to ages 8 and up!

South East Wisconsin
8968 Fishman Road, Burlington, WI 53105

262-539-3257

Watch for more information...but put it on your calendar *TODAY!*

**North Central Highland Cattle Junior Association
NASCO'S GOLD CIRCLE REWARD PROGRAM**

GROUP CODE: 9810011

The NCHCA Juniors program earns rebates when members purchase from:

Nasco Farm & Ranch

Nasco Showing & Grooming

Use the code above when you check out and the junior program will earn and accumulate 5% of net purchases in a special account. The funds are paid to each organization annually at year-end.

Thank you for your support!



WE TIRED ACRES

Ken & Joan Rose
22789 Kettle Rd, Wilton, WI 54670-6077



Scottish Highland Cattle Arabian Horses
Voice: 608-435-6405
Email: kenrose@rosesarabians.com
www.wetiredacres.com

SCHÖN BODEN FARMS



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

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HIGHLAND CATTLE

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Quality Highland Beef
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Little Falls, MN 56345

Phone: 320-745-2444
lsfjfarm@brainerd.net

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.jean@gmail.com

www.fourt acres.com

The Larsons

David and Janet
8968 Fishman Road
Burlington, WI 53105
262-539-3257

ftacres@tds.net

WALNUT BLUFFS FARM

SHARON LEWIS

39841-176th Street

Canton, MN 55922

507-743-0201

walnutbluffsfarm@acegroup.cc



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



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



Mark & Jamie Schulz

18709 690th Ave.

Elkton, MN 55933

(507) 582-1073

info@flatlandfarm.com

www.flatlandfarm.com



1771-261st Avenue NW
Isanti, MN 55040

763-444-6552

stewarthighlands.com

BEEF HEALTH**Don't Forget About the Bulls**

Bethany Lovaas, DVM

University of Minnesota Beef Team

As the breeding season approaches, generally everyone is thinking about getting cows and heifers in shape for the breeding season. A nice, tight breeding season results in a nice tight calving season, which generally is the most economical for producers. However, the cow is only half of the equation. Don't forget about the bulls!!

BULL BREEDING SOUNDNESS EXAMS

One of the most important, and often under-utilized tools available to beef producers is the bull breeding soundness exam (BSE). A BSE will allow the technician/veterinarian to assess the fertility of a bull based on scrotal circumference, sperm motility, and sperm morphology. The minimum benchmarks that a bull must reach for each of these parameters are:

- Sperm motility: 30%
- Normal sperm morphology: 70%
- Scrotal circumference: 30cm (15 mo. of age) to 34 cm (24 mo. of age)

A breeding soundness exam also allows for the opportunity for a thorough examination of most of the bull's reproductive tract, and can identify causes of infertility (corkscrew penis, persistent frenulum, etc.) that may have gone unnoticed until late in the breeding season.

FEET AND LEGS

When selecting herd bulls, emphasis is placed on growth performance, EPD's, and soundness. These are all good criteria, and no one should try to use a lame or unsound bull for breeding. However, there is nothing wrong with putting a bull on the table for a good foot trim, if he needs it, a month before the start of the breeding season. A bull has to put on a lot of miles, and mount a lot of cows in any given breeding season, and even sound bulls can develop foot problems. If he's going to hit the ground running, he should have the best set of wheels he can get.

VACCINATION/DEWORMING

If bulls are housed separately from the cows for most of the year, they are often forgotten and do not receive the same herd health protocol. The herd bulls should be on the same vaccination/deworming schedule as the cows are. Since vaccination schedules vary as much as production systems do, there is no "correct" schedule that everyone should stick with. So, if in doubt, vaccinate and/or deworm your bulls about 2 weeks before they go out to pasture. This will allow for enough time for the vaccine and dewormer to take effect before the bull is exposed to the cows. It also is a good idea to deworm the cowherd before they go out onto the pasture. This will clean out the cows' systems and limit the parasite burden on the pasture during the spring and early summer.

BODY CONDITION

When a bull is out on pasture breeding many cows, his mind is only on one thing, and it's not feed. In the peak of the breeding season, some bulls will breed 6-8 cows a day, and will hardly eat. Therefore, it is very important to make sure a bull goes out on pasture in good condition, so that he has plenty to lose by the time the breeding season is over. Bulls should be in a similar body condition score to replacements heifers, ideally, from 5 to 6.5.

BULL: COW RATIO

There is a lot of variation in producer opinions about how many cows a bull can service during the breeding season. Instead of trying to memorize numbers, try this little rule of thumb: one bull can service as many cows as he is months old, up to fifty months.

For example:

- A 15-month-old bull can service 15 cows
- A 24-month-old bull can service 24 cows
- A 50-month-old bull can service 50 cows

After 50 cows, you are starting to really push the limits of what even an older, more experienced bull can accomplish in a 60 day breeding season. If you have much more than 50 cows/bull, and are still attempting to stick to a 60-day breeding season, you may want to add to your bull arsenal, or explore other options to maximize your present bull power.

YOUNG BULLS VS. OLDER BULLS

If a producer has more than one bull, often one bull is older than the other. This helps minimize fighting between the bulls, but the older bull is the smarter, dominant bull, and will get more cows bred. One technique to get

around this problem is by rotating your bulls through the cowherd. Start by putting the young bull out with the cows by himself for a couple weeks, then switch the bulls, and send the older bull out with the cows for a couple weeks. This will ensure that the cows are being exposed to the young bull, and will also help him maintain his weight more effectively.

Bull rotation also can be a very effective means of stretching your bull power if you need to. By giving each bull 2 weeks on and 2 weeks off, you are giving each a much needed rest, and an opportunity to go out fairly fresh multiple times during the breeding season. This system does create questions about which bull sired which calves. So if you register your calves or report data on your herd, this may not be a good option for you.

FERTILITY ASSOCIATED ANTIGEN

Some bulls are inherently more fertile than others. This is due in part to a protein called Fertility Associated Antigen (FAA). The FAA protein is found on the sperm cells of some bulls and results in a higher percentage of sperm capacitation, and therefore a higher rate of fertilization. Studies show that bulls that are FAA positive are about 17% more fertile, and get more cows bred in a 60 day breeding season. There currently is a chute-side test available from ReproTec, Inc. Tucson, AZ that can test for FAA. It takes about 20 minutes per bull and can easily be incorporated into the routine bull breeding soundness exam.

Whether they are used as the primary breeding source, or are used for clean up after an AI program, healthy herd bulls are a big part of a successful breeding program. By ensuring that your bulls are in tip-top condition before turnout, you can make great strides in the efficiency and economy of your cowherd.

Annual NCHCA Junior Meeting

On February 19th-21st, a few members of the NCHCA juniors gathered during the annual meetings for the region in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. In attendance were Tucker Larson, of Four T Acres, Nick and Paige Proctor of Windemere Farm, and Brandon Volstad of Cheesehead Highlands. On Feb. 20th, the juniors and John Proctor went 5 minutes down the road to Action City. Inside, a loud, bustling environment welcomed newcomers with flashing lights and loud noises. Amongst some of the attractions available to us were the bumper cars, indoor racing, rock climbing, laser tag, and batting cages, along with a Dairy Queen break in the middle. Following our adventures at Action City, we returned to the hotel for swimming, pizza by the pool, and the auction to benefit the juniors. Sunday wrapped up the trip with 2 informative seminars about financial management of a fold and cattle nutrition. All in all, it was a fun weekend for all, especially for the juniors, and we are looking forwards to the 2017 meeting!

Minnesota Junior Spring Classic

The Minnesota Junior Spring Classic will be held at the Mower County Fair Grounds, Friday through Sunday, May 6-8, 2016.

Registration can be done online or at the show.
<http://www.mnjrspringclassic.com>

This high quality event is sponsored and run by the University of MN Block and Bridle Club.

The schedule is as follows:

Friday, May 6

3:00 pm - Barns open

5:00 - 7:00 pm - Check-in/registration

Saturday May 7

7:30 -10:00 am - Check-in/registration

8:00 - 10:00 am - Weigh-in

12:00 - 4:00 pm - Bootcamp

(Stock Show U Fitting Demonstration
and Purina Nutrition)

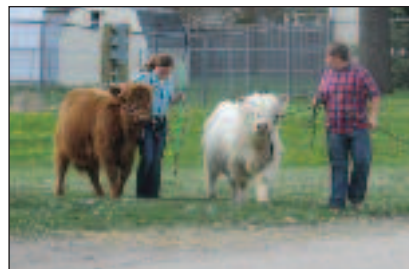
4:30 pm - Showmanship

(One ring - junior, intermediate and senior)

Sunday, May 8

8:30 am - Junior Show

(One ring: Market Steers, Market Heifers,
Breeding Beef)



Classified / Want Ads



Registered Heifers For Sale

**For more information
contact:**

Dan Stewart
612-221-3190

Ads from members may be submitted for a dime a word or \$5.00 for a business card per issue. Remember it does not have to be just cattle. It can be head gates, corral panels or any other equipment you wish to sell or purchase.

For Advertising
Send ads to dalriada@comcast.net

Checks payable to **MCHCA**

Send to: Billy Johnston
2353 105th St E
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

Creachann Gleann



Registered Highland Cattle

Ben and Mary Schmidtke
7200 Platte Rd
Platteville, WI 53818

Phone: (608) 348-4047
Email: info@creachanngleann.com
Web: <http://creachanngleann.com>

July Hoofbeat Newsletter

The deadline for our next issue will be June 25, 2016.

Please submit all articles and photos using the contact information below. **Preferred formats are:** Articles – Microsoft Word, Photos/images – PDF format, Tables/graphs – Microsoft Excel. We need original electronic artwork.

TJ Associates Attn: Dan Stewart

6441-140th Court NW | Ramsey, MN 55303

T- 763-323-8717 | F- 763-323-8704 |

dans@tjassociates.net

Please call if you have any questions. Hoofbeat articles can be submitted from now up until the deadline date.



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

Call for Articles!

The articles should be directly related to the following topics: **nutrition, animal husbandry, animal health, calving, breeding and marketing or sales.** If you have an article you would like to share, please submit to:

Josh – info@windlandflats.com

Ben – info@creachanngleann.com

Dan – dans@tjassociates.net

Preferred formats are: Articles – Microsoft Word, Photos/images – PDF format, Tables/graphs – Microsoft Excel.

LYNX RIVER REGISTERED HIGHLAND CATTLE

Dan & Mary Webster
21904 County Hwy Z
Cornell, WI. 54732
715-234-6665

lynxrivercc@centurytel.net

2016 Annual Meeting Minutes

Call to order – Proof of quorum, Introductions made
Proof and Notice of meeting – Online Notice and email sent out 1/12/16. Written notice in September/January Hoofbeat

Action of minutes

- Copies of the minutes passed out
- Motion to accept: Mark Schulz moved to accept the minutes, Cindy Sassen seconded
- Minutes approved as read

Officer Reports

Secretary Report-Jan Larson

- Currently 78 members
- 20 of those are sponsored memberships
- 36 Junior Members

Treasurer Report-Billy Johnston

- Billy read and reviewed the Treasurer's report.
- Some discussion ensued regarding changing to a fiscal year report and showing PayPal
- Expenses separate from purchases
- Mark Schulz will give Billy receipts for NCHCA Show Promotion to submit to AHCA for advertising
- Roger and Cindy Weideman will submit receipts from 2015 Farm Tech Days as well
- Billy stressed one person should be in charge of calendar distribution, checks etc. It's difficult for the Treasurer to keep track of the expenses and income from the calendar when many people submit payments and expenses at different times throughout the year.
- Josh Krenz volunteered to audit the books

Motion made by Josh Krenz to change Treasurer's Report to Fiscal year reporting, January 1 to December 31st and to separate Paypal Expenses from payments made online. Seconded by Mark Schulz; Motion passed

- Cindy Sassen suggested to give remaining cookbooks to new juniors
- Dave Eckwright suggested putting cookbooks on website for sale

Committee Reports

- AHCA Director Report – given by David Larson, NCHCA Regional Director
- Anne Proctor added that it's time for AHCA members to nominate for Director At Large for AHCA and suggested

that members think about who may be willing, and who they could nominate, then email Ginnah Moses or Jan with suggestions

Show Committee

NCHCA – Mark Schulz gave the report and passed out Income/ Expense

Statement from the 2015 NCHCA show.

- Tentative date for NCHCA 2016 Show will be Saturday, Oct. 1st, 2016
- World Beef Expo- Ben Schmidtke talked about Highland exposure and the 2015 Show. There was also discussion about showing commercial Highland cross Animals. Non-agricultural people get to learn about where their food comes from in this type of venue. This year's World Beef Expo will be Sept. 22, 2016 through Sunday, Sept. 25th, 2016
- Junior Committee – Sue Dyke submitted a report which was read by Anne Proctor

Website Committee – Dave Eckwright stated that Hoofbeat issues could now be viewed online

Hoofbeat Committee – Josh Krenz has copies of last 5 Hoofbeats for anyone who is interested.

- Editions of the Hoofbeat will now be online to view electronically. Josh put out a "call for articles" on any topic related to handling, nutrition, health of the animals.
- Wisconsin Cattleman's Report – Roger Weideman
- Some discussion was made regarding the Country of Origin Labeling and whether or not cattlemen would be in support of it
- Large discussion regarding wolves being removed from endangered species list also ensued
- Wis. Farm Tech Days Report – Roger Weideman stated that this is a good opportunity to spread the word about different breeds of cattle and educate people on farming. The next Farm Tech Days will be July 19-20-21, 2016 in Walworth County at 2:30 pm the membership took a break to resume at 4:00 pm

Unfinished Business

- Picnics – Ben Schmidtke asked for volunteers
- Schon Boden/Weideman farm volunteered

Elections - Director

Nominations for director: Randi Johnson – nominated by Josh Krenz – 2nd Billy Johnston

Nominations: Jamie Schulz – nominated by Billy Johnston – 2nd Roger Weideman

Votes tallied: Randi Johnson voted in as Director.

New Business

- NCHCA Cattle Auction- Heather Baily submitted her report and Jan Larson read it.
- Cattle video on website would be easy per Dave Eckwright
- Larry Sassen stated sales on farms outsold those on fairgrounds/sale barn in MN
- Lacrosse, WI would be considered center of membership. If held in LaCrosse, will people outside of NCHCA members be willing to bring in animals?
- Any other shows on the weekend of Sept 10th, 2016? Unknown
- Cobblestone Farm name would possibly bring in animals from Eastern U.S. with there being possibility of rotating the sale around the state in the future
- Discussed Heartland Auction and facilities and their consignment limit is for 90 animals
- West Salem Fairgrounds discussed as possible location
- Drover Hill sale discussed – how good is attendance there? Unknown, but seen in pictures, attendance seems to be good.
- Who will benefit from sale? Do we want outside of genetics or do we want to sell within our own? What is objective?
- Health restrictions discussed.
- Josh suggested “drop points” for members that live past 200 miles where animals could be transferred to sale with trailers making the entire trip.
- Anne Proctor suggested looking into DOT regulations before setting up drop points
- Suggestion of opening up to ALL Regions and setting fee structure up to reflect that
- NCHCA members will pay one price, non-NCHCA members will pay a slightly higher fee
- How many people willing to sell animals there? Unknown
- Josh Krenz moved to hold 1st annual Highland Cattle sale at Cobblestone the second weekend in September; Anne Proctor seconded.
 - Discussion of “loan” from general fund to get show started or to set up a budget. It was decided there was lot of research to do first
 - Can we lose money on this? Yes. It’s a risk. USA is possibly going in to a “down cow” economy.
 - Heartland Sale is NOT a money maker...Gloria A. stresses it’s a membership benefit only
- Would it be more feasible to have committee view logistics, check in to costs, etc.?
- Next year, 2017, may be better to have an auction
- Josh Krenz’ motion voted down
- Dave Eckwright made a motion to have committee study feasibility for sale, report to the board their findings regarding location, date and expenses, and then set a date for some point in the future; Dave Larson seconded the motion; Motion passed.
- NCHCA Show location- Mark Schulz moved to have fall show Oct 1st in Austin, Minnesota; Jamie Schulz seconded; Motion passed.
- Farm Tech Days Sponsorship- Roger Weideman asked for approval of funding for Farm Tech Days, including Wis. Cattleman; Josh Krenz seconded; Motion passed
- Mark Schulz requested funds for MJSC – cost is \$500 for Assoc. banner to be hung in the show ring, allowing us to have a BREED Show. After donations by Flatland Farm and Almosta Farm \$300 would come from the general (not junior) fund because it’s an NCHCA banner, notNCHCAjr banner; Dave Eckwright seconded; Motion passed.
- World Beef Expo – Ben Schmidtke announced that the NCHCA display in Barn costs \$100. Joan Rose moved for \$100 be put toward the NCHCA display area for World Beef Expo; David Larson seconded; Motion passed
- Minnesota State Fair – Mark Schulz is not sure if we will be in Moo Booth yet and will check this week to find out. If the Highlands are not in moo booth, cost will be approx. \$50. Anne Proctor moved to authorize up to \$100 for MN State Fair if necessary; Billy Johnston seconded; Motion passed.
 - Mark Schulz promoted the Highland Cattle Foundation Semen Sale in February 2016
 - NCHCAjr Cookbooks – Cindy Sassen suggested putting cookbooks for sale on website and after a certain amount of time, giving them to new juniors. Billy Johnston will mail out cookbooks as sold from the website or as new juniors arrive. Josh Krenz and Billy Johnston will discuss shipping costs and Josh and Dave Eckwright will put PayPal button up on the website
- The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm – Ken Rose moved to adjourn and seconded by Mark Schulz; Motion passed.



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.



NCHCA Upcoming Events 2016

- n **July 9**
*** Schön Boden Farm Picnic ***
- n **July 19-21**
Wisconsin Farm Tech Days
- n **August 4-14**
Wisconsin State Fair
- n **August 19-20**
A.C.T. Advanced Cow Training Camp
- n **August 21**
*** Four T Acres Farm Picnic ***
- n **August 25 – September 5**
Minnesota State Fair
- n **September 22-25**
World Beef Expo
- n **October 1st (tentative)**
NCHCA Regional 2016 Show