

Candidates for Board Officers and Directors 2021-2023

President

Janet Larson

Larson's Headacrez

My family currently owns two AHCA registered cows and are a part of Larson's Headacrez Highland Cattle. We have all been involved with Highlands for approximately 18 years, and have been members of NCHCA for all of those years. During that time, I have served and worked with many awesome NCHCA members on various committees such as the Junior Committee, and the NCHCA Sale Committee. I have also worked on different projects such as the AHCA National Convention in Duluth, as well as the AHCA Annual Gathering in East Troy and Burlington, Wi. Several years ago the membership saw fit to vote me onto the board as director, then Secretary, and Vice President. I have to be honest, I have a deep love for the Highland cattle breed and I also immensely enjoy the people and projects involved with this association so, as such, would be extremely honored to continue that work, and to serve our members as President of NCHCA.

Vice President

Melinda Cowell

Beyond Hope Farm

I was raised in small town Southern Minnesota. After High School, I moved to Des Moines , Iowa where I met my husband Shawn. After completing our college degrees and the birth of our oldest daughter, we moved back to southern Minnesota. Our other three children Ethan, Lauren and Shaelyn were born in Minnesota in the city of Owatonna.

Seven years ago, we began showing cattle at the NCHCA regional show and caught the 'highland bug'.

We kept our cattle at my parents' farm for 4 years. In 2019, we bought our own farm (Beyond Hope Farm MN) and have been raising cattle near Ellendale, Minnesota. I have served on the Junior Committee for several years. I have also served as Show Manager for the NCHCA regional show for two years.

We love the Highland breed and take great joy in producing and raising the best cattle we can. I believe through mentoring and networking with other Highland breeders we can create a sustainable future for the Highland breed. It would be my pleasure to serve the North Central Highland Cattle Association Vice President for this term.

Board of Director (Two Positions)

Katie Baker Glory Oaks Farm

Katie grew up on her family farm in North Central Iowa, where her family raised a herd of 25 commercial red angus cows. She was an active 4-H member and showed cattle and horses at her county fair. She was awarded the top Senior Showmanship honor by her 8th grade year, raised many top 10 rate of gain animals and a Champion Cow-Calf.

Katie and her husband Kyle lived in Texas for 9 years and moved back to Iowa in 2018 with two goals in mind. First, to raise their kids (Harper - 5, Tate - 3) closer to family. Second, to purchase an acreage where they could start their own cattle operation. After much research and consideration, they decided they did not want to join the local club calf conglomerate and dove head-first into the Highland world. They started Glory Oaks Farm and had their first calves born on the farm in 2020.

Professionally, Katie has a background in Marketing, Hospitality, and is currently a Customer Success Operations Manager for Workiva, a software company. She also serves as a board member on the Worth County Fair Board.

Jonathan R. Carlson Last Chance Ranch

I started raising commercial cows in the early 90's, and during that time also raised Holstein heifers for the local dairy barn till 2003. In 2012 after researching many breeds I decided on Highlands, naming the ranch Last Chance because this was probably the last chance at starting my dream. The ranch started out with three Scottish Highlands purchased near Cannon Falls, MN. The ranch now has over 100 highlands, which includes bulls, feeder steers, heifers, cows, and calves. The ranch is located in Northern Minnesota approximately 20 miles from the Canadian border. Our highlands are raised for both breeding stock and beef. I have been a member of AHCA and NCHCA since 2012, I enjoy the friendship and camaraderie of both associations.

Fran Wilkinson Buck Creek Farm

My husband Cal and I are retired from our jobs. He in 2012 and myself in 2014. He worked at Viking Cue in Madison for 37 years. I was worked in the IT department at FABCO Equipment, the Caterpillar dealer for Wisconsin and the Michigan UP for 43 years.

In 2000 we bought my family farm from my parents and started Buck Creek Farm. It's 156 acres. We raise corn, beans and hay and our Highlands. We had four head of the last of my dad's cattle, a bull and 3 cows. In 2015 we bought our first five head of Highland cattle with our two sons and daughter-in-law from Cobblestone farm. We liked the look of them and the temperament. We now have 12 registered Highlands and 7 unregistered, along with 11 cross-bred.

We have been a member of North Central Highland Cattle Association for five years. We learn something every year at the meetings and enjoy meeting and discussing what other farms are doing and how they handle cattle care and marketing.

I will do my best to help anyway I can to promote the bred. Thank you.