NCHCA

Vol. 65 1st Edition

March 2024

## —TheHighland— HOOFBEAT

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

#### The Recipe Corner

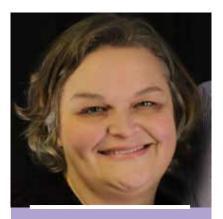
It will nourish your body but it isn't food, see <u>page 8</u> for a recipe your skin, body and hair will love.

#### The Big Show

NCHCA members made us proud at NWSS this year, see page 4 for results

#### Scholarship Opportunity

Did you know we have a Producer Education Scholarship for our NCHCA members? See page 11 for details.



Melinda Cowell
President

Melinda and her husband Shawn own Beyond Hope Farm in Ellendale, MN. Where Melinda is a farm, home, kid and dog manager, and educator.

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There are so many exciting things happening in our North Central Region this upcoming year!

Our annual meeting, held February 3, 2024 in Northwood Iowa was a great success! Around 50 members gathered to review 2023 and network. I personally find the exchange of ideas so inspiring. It reignites the joy we find in raising cattle and improves our methods and systems greatly! Thank you to each one who planned and executed the event, attended both in person and online, donated items for the junior auction and purchased items as well. Your time and generosity is unmatched!

Our guest speaker Jared Luhman brought excellent information regarding increasing profitability in our farming systems. A great asset for all of us, no matter the size of our operations! His expertise was much appreciated!

(Continued on page 11)



## NO COST TO

OPPORTUNITIES
TO MEET OTHER
PEOPLE YOUR
AGE THAT LOVE
THIS BREED OF
CATTLE.

#### The Juniors

Roving reporter Julianne had a chance to have a chat with Lauren Cowell, NCHCA Junior President.

Here are some highlights of their conversation.

#### How many NCHCA Juniors are there?

Right now, we have around 30 active Juniors.

#### Is there an age limit to be considered a Junior?

There is no minimum age limit, but you can't be older than 21 as of January 1st to be considered a Junior.

#### Is being a NCHCA Junior all about showing cattle?

Absolutely not. Being a NCHCA Junior is about having fun and making friends. There are learning opportunities such as how to show and promote an animal, but also how to work together, communicate and present effectively. It is also about developing leadership skills like speaking, managing conflict, meeting deadlines, and being responsive. It is something that can set your resume or college/job application apart from the rest of the herd!

#### Tell me about your annual activities.

Our big annual activity is our regional show in September. It's a blast! We always have a Friday night activity; this year we tie-dyed t-shirts. We also had a showmanship demonstration. Then, of course, we get to show cattle! Every year we have a sweatshirt design contest. All Juniors can get a free sweatshirt if they participate in our "tell me about you and your cow" activity. We have a \$500 scholarship and NCHCA Juniors who are seniors in high school or already graduated are eligible. A simple letter of

#### Article Author Bio

Julianne Motis and Jason Paulson own and operate Midway Meadows Farm in Esko, MN, producing grass fed beef since 2010. application and two (2) letters of recommendation is all that it takes to apply. Finally, we award a NCHCA Junior of Year annually as well. The winner gets to take home a humongous traveling trophy (for a year) and gets to keep a custom belt buckle. Any adult can nominate a deserving Junior for this honor.

#### What else do you want to share about being a NCHCA Junior?

It's FREE to join and you don't even have to own a cow. If a young person is interested in the Scottish Highland breed we can connect them with a breeder to potentially show a cow.

#### What do you like about being a NCHCA Junior?

It's been great to watch others grow in their knowledge and confidence. There are many opportunities to mentor and be mentored as a Junior. Our NCHCA is the most active Junior group in the nation. I like knowing our group is growing the next generation of leaders of the breed.

#### If someone is interested in joining, how can they learn more?

Our NCHCA Juniors Facebook group or the <u>NCHCA</u> website. Better yet, give me a call or send me an email at <u>highlandcattlefold@gmail.com!</u> I'm always happy to talk about our NCHCA Juniors group.

#### JUNIOR ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP

President - Lauren Cowell

Vice President - Olivia Moore

Secretary/Treasurer - Clarisa Palmer

Hoofbeat Reporter - Autumn Schaar





Photo Credit: Black Hills Highlands

## American Highland Cattle Assoc. National Show NCHCA MEMBERS SHINE

I had the honor of speaking to Michael Parish, NCHCA member and co-owner of Finola Katie 32nd URock. She was named ACHA's 2024 Grand Champion Female and Roll of Excellence Heifer of the Year.

Micheal explained that Finola Katie is truly a once in a lifetime female. I asked if he was surprised when she was named Grand Champion Female. He said, "I was, and I wasn't. Katie competed in seven shows, and she won six grand champions and one reserve. I knew she was something special. She really dominated. One judge called her a unicorn and could not find anything wrong with her."

Turns out Finola Katie has a special backstory. Michael's wife Katie Parish, made the decisions when it came to pairings and tried for an offspring with Finola Gael 31st URock and Gusgurlach of Windrush. She was finally successful; a heifer was born in June 2021. Unexpectedly, Katie Parish passed away. After a few months passed and needing to name and register this calf, Katie was always on top paperwork and organized, he discovered a note that she had already named her, Katie. Yes, his beloved wife named her dream heifer after herself.



Michael said that he owes a special debt of gratitude to Heither Bailey who was instrumental

in supporting Finola Katie's success. Michael said, "The whole highland community is fantastic. Many folks were rooting for us. It wasn't for me; this win is really a celebration of my wife Katie's dream. This heifer was born in 2021 where the official registration letter was "K", her exhibitor number at NWSS was 4013, my wife's lucky number was 13. The coincidences and magic kept coming. It was a little overwhelming at times, but we managed to get to the top."

As an expression of thanks, at the awards ceremony, Michael made Heather Bailey his co-owner of Finola Katie.

The highland cattle community is amazing

## Congratulations to NORTH CENTRAL WINNERS

#### NWSS OPEN SHOW

#### Grand Champion Female Finola Katie 32nd URock(AI,PV,D)

Owner U Rock Ranch

#### Reserve Grand Champion Female Trafalgar Lennon

Owner Arrow Hill Cattle Co.

#### Grand Champion Cow/Calf Ledyard's Tiffany Talia (D)

Owner Mid-Lakes Highlands

#### Reserve Grand Champion Cow/Calf Trafalgar Charlotte 14

Owner Trafalgar Square Farm

#### Grand Champion Bull Howling Springs Barron the Bull (D)

Owner Howling Springs Farm

#### Reserve Grand Champion Bull Trafalgar Killan(D)

Owner Star Lake Cattle Company

#### WSS JUNIOR SHOW

Jr. Grand Champion Female MP's Rey (PV,D)

Owner Jody Mead

#### Jr. Reserve Grand Champion Female STR Adrenaline

Owner Ashlyn Morelli

#### PREMIER BREEDER:

Four Starr Highlands

#### PREMIER EXHIBITOR

Mid-Lakes Highlands

#### ROLLOF EXCELLENCE

Heifer of the Year: Finola Katie 32nd U Rock, U Rock Ranch

Cow/Calf of the Year: Ledyards Clara, Mid-Lakes Highlands

#### Bull of the Year:

Howling Springs Barron the Bull, Howling Springs Farm



The Heifer of the Year Championship Show team for U Rock Rach in Denver at the National Western Stock Show.

#### Board Member Spotlight - Maureen Matt

Hello, for those of you who do not know me, I am Maureen Matt and I am an operating partner at Hidden Ridge Highland Cattle. I do not come from an agriculture background, born and raised in the city of Milwaukee, WI. I was not part of 4H and FFA. My love of the outdoors and a fondness for all animals has been a constant, since a very young age. I grew up asking for a dog and playing outside as much as possible.

I was first introduced to Highland cattle by my great Aunt and Uncle, Jean and Richard Gruenert. I loved their furry look and docile temperament. Years later, when my boyfriend Dennis Beneman, mentioned wanting to have beef cattle, I made the comment, "if I ever have cattle I would want Highlands." The next thing I knew we were attending annual meetings for the N.C.H.C.A., and registering for an account on CowMatch.com. Hidden Ridge Highland Cattle was started when we purchased two heifers and a cow/calf pair off of the June 2020 production sale and five bred cows and a bull from Four T Acres arrived at the end of June 2020.

It amazes me what I have learned and how much has changed in just 3.5 years! Our farm has expanded into beef sales including suppling a local restaurant who will only use our highland beef. We sold our first registered animal, HDN Leo, in the summer of 2023 to Porter Creek Highlands. And our fold is now nearing 40 head of cattle, all purebred, AHCA registered highland cattle.

I had no idea that when I became a member of the NCHCA I would be so involved. I joined the calendar committee because I liked taking pictures of my highlands. I volunteered at the annual NCHCA show in 2022 helping with concessions. You may have seen me flipping burgers this past September! I became the calendar committee chair in the fall of 2022, and was elected to the Board of Directors in 2022. In the summer of 2023 I traveled with Dennis to the 75th Anniversary gathering and helped represent NCHCA by setting up a booth and sharing information about the awesome association with fellow breeders. In early 2023 I

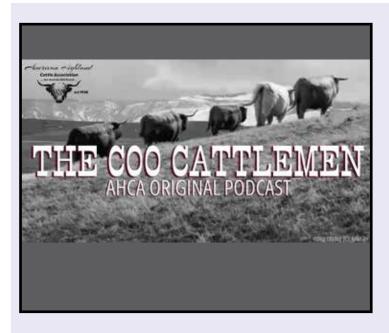
took on administrative duties for the NCHCA Facebook page and group which has made me a part of both the website committee and sale committee. In addition to committee participation, for the past three years, Dennis and I, along with other NCHCA members, have represented NCHCA at Wisconsin Farm Technology days. Wisconsin Farm Technology Days 2024 will be our first year as the beef tent coordinators. It has truly been an eye opening experience to be a part of it all and I look forward to what the future will bring.





Maureen and Dennis with Scottish breeder Angus Mackay at the AHCA 75th gathering this past summer.

### Highland Cattle Media



The American Highland Cattle Association is proud to announce our very own podcast, The Coo Cattlemen. Production is set to begin at the National Show in Denver with a tentative release date of February 4, 2024. Our hosts will be discussing topics such as Highland genetics, heifer development, breed history and a wide variety of other topics concerning the breed with various breeders and other industry professionals. You can view The Coo Cattlemen podcast on Spotify and the AHCA YouTube channel. (Links in The Coo Cattlemen highlights or AHCA website)

NCHCA member and AHCA president, Josh Krenz will be the guest episode 1 available February 4, 2024

Give it a listen here: <a href="https://open.spotify.com/episode/loHXWL-J2p5wSsbadfOhx6v?si=eNvfza1BRU2KpTHqalpDJA">https://open.spotify.com/episode/loHXWL-J2p5wSsbadfOhx6v?si=eNvfza1BRU2KpTHqalpDJA</a>



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## The Recipe Corner Recipe submitted by Michelle LeTourneau Little House and Farm

## Whipped Tallow Body Butter

Tallow is 100% beef fat and good for just about everything!

Nourish and moisturize your skin. Condition your hair. Soothe chapped lips. Fry your food. Make candles. You name it. Did you know that animal oils and our skin cells have the same cell structure? Which makes them ideal for healing and nourishing our skin, and they are a huge step up from plant-based oils. Since our skin is the biggest organ of our body it makes sense that we need to be careful what we put on it. It readily absorbs anything and everything you apply on it . So we need to be very careful about what ingredients are in our lotions.

#### WHY TALLOW?

Tallow is one of those little nuggets of gold that ancestrally was sacred. These days we have demonized saturated fats and everyone seems to be afraid of them. But we could learn a few lessons from the old timers, because these animal fats are one of the best things for us to not only eat, but to use on our skin. Many of the nutrients in grass fed tallow help to promote youthful skin by providing substances that our skin naturally loses as we age.

- Vitamins A, B12, D, E, and K. These specific vitamins are amazing for skin health. Also, this combination of nutritious vitamins are ONLY found together in animal products. Yet another pro for an animal-based life.
- •Omega 3 and omega 6 fatty acids are found in an almost perfect 1:1 ratio in tallow. These fatty acids maintain the structure and barrier function of skin. They are also helpful for anti inflammatory and immune responses in skin. These are important for healing different conditions including eczema and rosacea.

• Stearic acid and oleic acid are more fatty acids that are super important. These are anti inflammatory, softening, moisturizing, and regenerative. They are found in our sebum and the outer layer of our skin. Stearic acid helps to improve the flexibility of skin, it repairs it as well as improving the barrier function. Oleic acid helps various essential nutrients penetrate deeply into skin.

Plus, it is one of those sustainable fats that you can harvest yourself from your own animals. You don't have to outsource something that is shipped halfway across the world, its just right in your own back pasture. If you are butchering your own animals and not making your own skin care products, lotions and soaps I think you are missing out on a very valuable by-product from your farm that you should use.

## How to make Tallow Body Butter

#### **INGREDIENTS:**

- •1 pint of tallow (I render the beef fat at home by gently heating to the melting point)
- •1/4 cup organic coconut oil (ocompletely optional! Or maybe you prefer to use 3-4 tablespoons of jojoba oil, castor oil or olive oil)
- •1 tbsp vitamin E oil
- •20-30 drops of essential oil (note: Exclude the essential oils(EO) and use this for a sun-tanning lotion. The tallow and vitamin E oil help you get a deeper tan while also protecting your skin from the sun. But leaving out the two essential oils is important because EOs can be photosensitive and can burn you badly depending on the type.)

#### DIRECTIONS:

Measure out the tallow and coconut oil into a pan and gently melt them. You want to do this because they aren't at just the right temperature and texture to whip before this step. You have to melt them and then let them cool again to the right temp, so it's just soft enough to push your finger into easily before you start whipping.

Pour into your mixer bowl once it's all melted, this will make it much easier when you get to the whipping step. Let the oils cool until they get cloudy. You can put it in the refrigerator to speed up the process.

Once it gets to the right consistency add the vitamin E oil and essential oils. You do this after it's cooled so that those oils don't get damaged by heating.

Whip it up until it's fluffy. This can take a while. Be patient. This is so fun to watch! It will look like buttercream frosting when it's ready.

Store in an air-tight glass jar and out of direct sunlight. It's better to store it in a place that doesn't get too hot because if it melts a little it'll loose it's fluffiness. Apply as often as you want!



Photo Credit:Michelle LeTourneau



## MARCH 23, 2024 FROZEN GENETICS SALE

FEATURING ELITE HIGHLAND SEMEN AND
TOP QUALITY HIGHLAND EMBRYOS
SALE LOTS

START ENDING AT 1:00 P.M. CST ON MARCH 23, 2024
BID ONLINE BEFORE THE SALE DATE WITH PROXI-BIDDING

The NCHCA sale committee is excited to announce that we will be conducting TWO Highland cattle sales in 2024. The first sale will be the Frozen Genetics Sale on March 23, 2024. This sale will feature Highland semen and embryos from top NCHCA-member farms. This will be an online only sale. The second sale is the Females of Fall Sale and will be held in conjunction with the NCHCA Show in Austin, MN., on September 20, 2024.

As the breed has continued to progress and more people are interested in purchasing high quality semen and embryos earlier in the year, we felt a March semen and embryo sale would better suit the needs of NCHCA members. In addition, the committee, with feedback from NCHCA members, decided it was time to return to our pre-Covid, in-person cattle sale tradition. For 2024, we chose to hold the NCHCA cattle sale in conjunction with the NCHCA Show. Two great events, one great location. When there are a bunch of NCHCA members together, you know you are in for a good time with the best of the breed!

The fall sale will require all sale animals to be halter-broken. Fear not, the spring edition of the HoofBeat will include tips for halter training. Animals do not have to participate in the show to be in the sale. Mark your calendars, you won't want to miss either of these events!



# SEPT. 20,2024 FEMALES OF FALL SALE

ACCESS TOP QUALITY HIGHLAND FEMALES
ALL CATTLE ON THIS SALE WILL BE HALTER BROKE AND READY TO HANDLE.

SALE IS BEING HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 2024 NCHCA SHOW IN AUSTIN, MINN.FRI., SEPT. 20, 2024 @ 3:00 P.M. AT THE MOWER COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS IN AUSTIN, MINN. BIDDERS CAN BID IN-PERSON, ONLINE AND VIA PHONE BIDDING.

# The Have a Scholarship for our Members?

The purpose of the Producer Education Scholarship is to enhance our members' cattle skills and share those learnings with the greater membership. To be eligible, the educational activity must be cattle related. Topics may include but are not limited to the following: Artificial Insemination, Breeding, Confirmation, Nutrition, Handling, Health and Wellness, Maintenance, Pasture Management, Marketing, Sales, Consumer Outreach, or Food Safety. NCHCA will not reimburse for conference meals, lodging, transportation, or membership fees. Receipt of attendance or participation in the approved activity is required. Scholarships can range from \$1 to \$500 per NCHCA Member Farm with no more than \$500 granted to any one farm in a 24-month period. The NCHCA Board will review and determine the final scholarship amount granted for each application.

Most importantly, all NCHCA members benefit. Anyone who receives a scholarship to learn a new skill or attend a cattle-related activity/event, must present their learnings to the general membership in the form of one of the following: 15 minute presentation at the NCHCA Annual Meeting, article in the Hoofbeat, 15 minute recorded presentation to be shared on the Association website and social media, or other agreed upon method of sharing knowledge with the greater membership. Interested?

Check out the link to learn more or apply today!

Producer Education Scholarship - North Central Highland Cattle Association (nchca.org)

#### (President's Message continued)

As we look into 2024, there are many opportunities to connect and interact with fellow breeders. From farm picnics and visits to our annual sale and show, there is something for everyone! We would love to help you as a breeder, whether veteran or brand new, get plugged into our association! You can contact any one of our board members or myself if you are interested in becoming more involved! The extensive involvement of our members is what makes our association a great success!

Wishing you all a successful year as you grow and promote the Grand Old Breed! -

- Melinda





NCHCA Junior's President Lauren Cowell conducting a fitting clinic on day 2 for members at the annual meeting in Iowa in February. Lots of great info with an emphasis that "fitting" isn't only for shows. Look for more info in future publications.



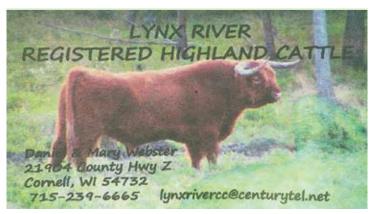
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Scottish Highland Cattle





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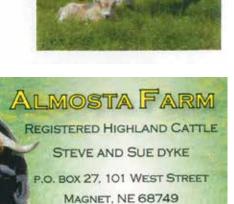
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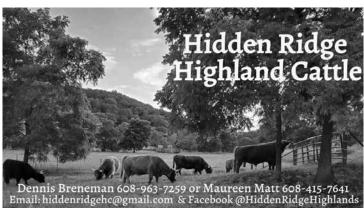
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# A poem by Julianne Motis IF MUD WAS GOLD, WE'D BE MILLIONAIRES

Hearty northerners, bemoaning the winter, that is something we know.

Survival tactics, we're experts, with the wind, cold, and snow.

This year, something different, we have a new source of complaint.

We've been blessed with mud. in quantities without restraint.

If mud was worth its weight in gold. we'd all be millionaires.

Driving shiny new tractors or skidsteers, without any cares.

Instead, we have muck on our beautiful highland cattle.

Perhaps South Central Highland folks can tell us how they battle.

The mire, the sludge, the grime, the clay.

Springtime come soon, do not delay!

In the meantime, soldier on, keep hosing off those feet.

Before long, we will all be happy, complaining about the heat.



Photo Credit: Hidden Ridge Highlands



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.

#### **Board of Directors**

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