

# **The Hoofbeat Committee 2025**

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Hoofbeat 2025, told a story of the activity of members and the future of the highland breed.

We covered things like....

## **Breed Integrity & Standards**

A central thread throughout this year was the importance of protecting Highland breed integrity. We covered things like accurate registration, sound breeding decisions, and adherence to established standards. As the breed continues to grow in popularity, the association's role as a steady guidepost—ensuring credibility, consistency, and trust...has never been more important.

## **Education & Knowledge Sharing**

Member education remains a cornerstone of the association's mission. We highlighted ongoing efforts to provide practical knowledge on animal health, breeding practices, herd management, and show preparation. There is a clear desire for peer-to-peer learning, real experiences from real farms so that both new and seasoned members can benefit from shared wisdom.

## **Shows, Events & Community**

Coverage of shows, annual meetings, and regional events underscores the value of gathering in person. These events are more than competitions; they are where mentorship happens, relationships are built, and the culture of the Highland community is reinforced.

## **And lastly....the Hoofbeat was The Voice of the Membership**

The Hoofbeat is strongest when it reflects the diversity and experience of its members. The publication is not just a newsletter—it is a record of who we are, what we value, and how we steward the breed together.

## **Call to Action: Your Story Matters**

As we look ahead, we are actively seeking articles, photos, and content submissions from member farms for future issues of Hoofbeat. If you've got Highlands, you've got stories—and odds are, at least one of them is worth sharing.

Did a cow surprise you (in a good way)? Did calving season humble you? Did you finally figure out a system that works... or one that absolutely didn't? Farm profiles, breeding wins, hard-earned lessons, junior highlights, and thoughtful opinions are all welcome. If it made you laugh, sigh, or say "well, that figures," it probably belongs in The Hoofbeat.

So...If you've ever caught yourself thinking, "Someone should really write about this," congratulations—you've just volunteered. Don't worry, it doesn't have to be fancy or Pulitzer-worthy. Clear sentences, real experiences, and a little honesty go a long way.

So sharpen a pencil, fire up the keyboard, or dictate it from the tractor seat. Submit your content, share your story, and help keep The Hoofbeat as authentic, informative, and entertaining as the people (and cattle) behind it—steady as the North Star.