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ISSUE 1



THE HIGHLAND *HoofBeat*

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President's Message

– *Mark Schulz, President*

This will be my last President's message as Ben Schmidtke will take over in February as your NCHCA President. I leave you in good hands as Ben is well in tune with current issues and areas for improvement at both the regional and national levels of our Associations. In February we will be electing a Vice President and will need to fill two NCHCA directors' positions. I know we will fill these positions with some fine folks that are ready to hit the ground running with fresh ideas that will continue to improve our association. With a strong association such as ours it is very easy to sit back and say we really have nothing to improve on or change. However, like most things in life we need to be thinking of the future and what curve balls may come our way and plan as best we can for those issues.

Much of our focus over the last two years has been preparing for the AHCA National Convention and a great event it was! This event showcased the strength and teamwork of the North Central Region and also helped our already strong financial status. Now is the time to refocus our efforts at the regional level through promoting active membership, improving our website and social media efforts, education of members, marketing ideas for both breeding stock and beef, and continuing to be a part of breed promotion where we get the most bang for the buck.

Thank you for trusting me to lead our Association over the last two years and thank you for your guidance and support!

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.*

NCHCA 2015 Annual Meeting & Dues Notice

Hello Everyone!

In case you haven't seen it yet, enclosed in this Hoofbeat is a registration form for our Annual Meeting which is coming up in February. I want to take a moment to extend an invitation to everyone in our membership to join us. We are going to be shaking things up a bit this year with a whole new venue and a different program format. We are lucky to have Dr. Gary Onan of UW-River Falls coming in to speak to us on topics relating to carcass grading, evaluation, cuts of beef, and retail pricing once your animals have been processed. It should be interesting! You will notice the meeting date has changed as well. **We will be meeting February 21st and 22nd, 2015 at the Clarion Hotel Campus Area in Eau Claire.** To join us you just need to fill out the registration form and return it to me, with your check, before **January 20th, 2015.** Call the Clarion Hotel at 715-835-2211 and ask for the NCHCA group rate of \$79.95 per night. The address is listed to the right. I have a block of 25 rooms set aside with the option of more if needed. Let's see if we can fill 'em up!

The juniors are going to be hosting a live auction that weekend as well and are asking each farm to bring an unwrapped item, if possible, that can be donated. Use your imagination! It can be anything from cattle supplies, books, unique items to gag gifts, or food, and each one will go to help support the NCHCA Junior program.

Keep in mind, February is time to renew our dues as well. They run February to February. If you need a form, let me know and I can email you one or, better yet, join us at the annual meeting and we can renew them right there!

Your NCHCA board is also looking for volunteers to serve as directors. Our region is one of the most active and cohesive groups in AHCHA. It doesn't take a lot of money or experience, but it does take a passion for Highlands, a genuine desire to help the breed grow and prosper, and a willingness to help out some really good people. Give yourself the chance to experience more of what the NCHCA is all about and what it has to offer. Feel free to call or email any current board member if you are interested.

Thank you for your time, and I am certainly looking forward to seeing you all in February.

Jan

Jan Larson
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**NCHCA 2015 Annual Meeting Hotel:
Clarion Hotel Campus Area
2703 Craig Road
Eau Claire, WI 54701
715-835-2211**

Upcoming Events 2015

■ ACHA National Show & Sale

January 20 -25, 2015 in Denver, Colo., Denver Stock Show

For more information go to, www.highlandcattleusa.org

■ Call for NCHCA Board Nominations

Are you passionate about Highland Cattle?

We need your help for the NCHCA Board.

- Vice-President (2-year term and becomes President in 2017)
- Board of Directors (2 positions, 2-year term)

Send your nominations to mark@flatlandfarm.com by Feb 1, 2015.

■ Summer Farm Picnic Tours

- Every year, we take the time to get together as an association in the summer months to see old friends, meet new members, network and enjoy the sights and sounds of a few select member's folds.
- Nominate your farm for a **Summer Tour by Feb 22, 2015.** Email Ben at info@creachangleann.com

■ NCHCA 2016 Calendars

We need all pictures for the **2016 North Central Highland Calendar submitted by March 1, 2015.** Selections will be made by e-mail voting. Not only are pictures needed, but any farm that would like to advertise in the calendar should send their business card and \$25.

- **Photos e-mailed to:** lsfjfarm@brainerd.net
- **Business card and ad payments mailed to:**
Larry and Cindy Sassen
Boulder Meadows Highland Farm
20374 223rd St.
Little Falls, MN 56345

- **Make checks payable to NCHCA.**

■ Minnesota Junior Spring Classic

May 2-3, 2015 at the Mower County Fairgrounds in Austin, MN



For More Information Contact:

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Jan Larson
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www.twitter.com/NCHCAJuniors

Ask Stinky

Hi, I'm Stinky. How's that for an intro?! Actually, my real name is Pimushe Carambana Roja which means Red Icicle in Spanish. My breeder, Mr. Zea, named me that because I was born in northern Minnesota during a spring snowstorm and, when he found me, I had icicles all over me. Plus, I was supposed to be moving to the country of Chile when I got older so he gave me a Spanish name - to help me fit in there, I think.

I'm 12 years old now and I am the boss cow at Windemere Farm. What?! Windemere Farm is not in Chile! Yeah, I had a little problem with bloating after I was weaned and didn't get to go with my herd mates to live in Chile, so now I live in Central Wisconsin where I'm very popular. People stop on the road to look at me. Lots of people who don't even know anything about cows know my name because they've stopped to ask who I am. I was even featured in TheBagpipe back in 2003. Yeah, I'm kinda famous!

I know - you probably have people stop and ask about your Highlands, too, since not many people know what we are and you might be wondering what makes me stand out from the rest of the cows. Well, if you see my right side, I just look like a fantastically beautiful cow. But, if you see me from the left side, you'll see my special hole. Yeah, I've got a hole in me!

It's called a rumen fistula and it's an opening into my rumen. Like all cows, I have 4 stomachs and the rumen is the first and biggest stomach. My hole isn't just a big opening - that would be gross and mess up my digestion! I've got a cannula which is a rubber thing with a plug that keeps my feed in and the air out. If you come visit me (and bring treats), I'll let you take out the plug and see what it looks like inside my rumen. It's really interesting in there! You might want to hold your nose, though. My friends and I don't notice understand what the big deal is, but people seem to think my rumen smells bad. That's why people call me Stinky.

Paige is one of my special friends and she asked if I would help her with the junior part of The Hoofbeat. I said, youbetcha! I love to say that because it's my calf's name, too. I'm looking forward to getting questions from all of you. If there's anything you ever wondered about cows, just ask! I'm a pretty smart cow, but if I don't know the answer, I'll ask some of my friends. Send your questions to Paige (Paige@TheProctors.com) and she'll put my answers in the next newsletter.



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 and welcome.

2014 Year End Committee/Event Reports

★ 2014 North Central Regional Show ★

By Mark Schulz, Flatland Farm, LLC, Elkton, MN

Our fall regional show was back in Austin, MN this year and well attended for the third year in a row. We had 19 exhibitors showing 39 Heifers, 5 cow/calf pairs, 14 bulls, and 3 market animals in the open show under the Scottish judge Tom Tomson. The juniors boasted 21 showpersons' – with great success in their breed show of 19 heifers and 3 market animals, showmanship classes and costume class. The Judge for the Jr. Show was Ryan Strobel of Pemberton, MN. This year was the second year that a junior of the Year was selected and awarded a traveling trophy and a trophy belt buckle to keep. This year's recipient was Nate Larson of Four T Acres in Burlington, WI. Reilly McConnell was awarded a heifer as part of the AHCAj Heifer Program. This is a great event to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. What better atmosphere than with some great looking highlands. As tradition dictates the open show was started with a few tunes from Craig Mann, a piper out of Rochester, MN.

We are planning to have this show back in Austin this year. By the time you read this letter we will have submitted a letter to the National show committee to be exempt from the rule that is to take effect in the 2015 show season where we will be required to show with two other breeds at our show. We are confident we will be able to secure this exemption.

★ 2014 AHCA National Convention in Duluth, MN ★

By Mark Schulz, Flatland Farm, LLC, Elkton, MN

In the last Hoofbeat Anne Proctor wrote a great article summarizing the 2014 AHCA National Convention in Duluth, MN so I will keep this brief. I would like to commend the committee for an extremely organized event down to the smallest details. Committee members spent long hours on the phone, sending e-mails and other correspondence

in the planning of this event over the course of 18 months. I would also like to thank those of you that were not on the committee but were willing to lend a hand to get things put in place or move people from one place to another during the event. We had a great turn out of approximately 125 people for the three day event including a great group of junior members. The committee's goal was to have a mix of social and educational events and this was accomplished! Attendees commented on the details that made their stay in Duluth one to remember and also talked of visiting the area on their own in the future since there was so much to see in Duluth. As I told the committee in our wrap up meeting, it had been about seven years since we had hosted the event, it will probably not be that long again before we are asked to host so be prepared!



★ Minnesota Junior Spring Classic ★

By Mark Schulz, Flatland Farm, LLC, Elkton, MN

What would have been the 7th Annual Minnesota Junior Spring Classic did not take place this year. With the harsh winter and the show slated for the second week in April the water pipes were still frozen. Without water it is difficult to host almost 400 head of cattle, 250+ juniors, plus parents and spectators so the show was canceled.

I am happy to report the show will take place this coming spring at the Mower County Fairgrounds in Austin, MN, May 1-3. This is a great place for juniors to get their cattle out early in the spring and work out the jitters before the upcoming 4-H and Highland Regional shows. We look forward to seeing our juniors compete against many other juniors and breeds. I ask our adult members to come and show your support for our very active North Central Juniors!

2014 Year End Committee/Event Reports



★ NCHCA Junior Committee Report ★

By Sue Dyke, Almosta Farm, Magnet, NE

The NCHCA Junior Committee consisted of Anne Proctor, Dave & Jan Larson, Sue Dyke with Nate & Tucker Larson being our Jr. Representatives. We had a very busy 2014 with our main goal to make sure the Juniors that attended the 2014 National Highland Cattle Convention held in Duluth, MN had a great and educational time. Friday was a day in Duluth touring an aquarium, a retired cargo ship, watched a few ships coming and going, and an Adventure Park. On Saturday, the Juniors started the day meeting "Stinky the Cow" and got to look, see and feel what was going on inside a cow's rumen as she had a permanent rumen cannula. Anne Proctor gave a terrific session with many questions presented to her from the kids. We then went on to tour Mach Ranch that has 200 head of Angus that raises and cares for them much like the Highland breeders do. They had lunch at Buck's Crossing (Highland breeder) and a farm tour afterwards.

In September we had our fall show held in Austin, MN. We feel this is our venue to showcase the Juniors and their cattle. We had 21 Juniors attending with 3 of them being new to the show ring and region. Everyone had a great time and did a great job. Friday night was our Mentoring session in the show ring. The more experienced Juniors helped the younger ones in the show ring. It was fun to watch the confidence grow in the less experienced as the evening went on. At the banquet on Saturday night, the Committee presented for the 2nd year the Traveling Trophy and a buckle to the 2014 NCHCA Junior of the Year; Nate Larson. As a committee we feel that we are so blessed to have so many great Juniors and decided to recognize a special Junior each year.

We are always excited to hear from the Juniors and their families on what they would like to do, after all, it is your association.

Juniors also attended the WI Beef Expo, various county & state fairs in their areas. With the National Western just around the corner held in Denver, CO; NCHCA Juniors will be well represented.

Our goals for 2015 is to continue to serve the Juniors and the families that support them with fun and educational activities. The MN Junior Spring Classic is back on the calendar for May, plans are starting to be made for a Cow Camp and of course; the fall show.

Aug. 21-Labor Day, Sept. 1, 2014

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

By Jamie Schulz, Flatland Farm, LLC, Elkton, MN

NCHCA was represented at the MN State Fair for all 12 days again this year as the Spotlight Beef Breed in the Moo Booth. It was a record year for attendance – 1.8 million people over the 12 days, and a record setting day on Saturday (9/30) of 252,000 people. Now, we all know not everyone went through the barn or the Moo booth. But many did! We had a full crew of people coming to help throughout the week – which was vital to the success of this display. Thank you to everyone who came and spent a few hours or even a day. Mark Schulz was there all 12 days, and the ability to get away for a few hours was definitely needed to survive.

As anyone who has had a display knows, you answer the same questions over and over. There were lots of inquiries about the meat, about the temperament, about their brush clearing

abilities, about their susceptibility to predators, and about the market for breeding animals. We ran out of all our brochures over the week. We also had other media opportunities thanks to Doris, the manager of the Moo Booth. The cow/calf pair were on the radio show Garage Logic with Joe Soucheray and they also had a spot on KSMP TV during the morning show. These were for fun – but people showed up to see the cattle they "saw on TV".

Plans for 2015 are still in the works, but the details will be shared as they are known. Thanks to all the members who helped in 2014 (and some of their family members, too!): Mark and Jamie Schulz, John Rieman, Cindy and Roger Weideman, Larry and Cindy Sassen, Josh Krenz, Billy Johnston, Amelia Janquart, Rowan Janquart, Bailey and Reilly McConnell, Bob and Sally Nelson, and Dan Stewart.

2014 Year End Committee/Event Reports

★ Hoofbeat Committee Update ★

By Josh Krenz, Windland Flats, Princeton, MN

After the 2013 NCHCA membership survey, we tried to add in additional articles that members asked for including, the highlighting of several member farms. We also tried to include some beef cattle-raising articles, including articles featuring nutrition. The Hoofbeat also served as a very valuable tool in the promotion of the ACHA Annual Meeting this past June in Duluth and included all of the registration and contact information. The NCHCA Board also used the Hoofbeat as a marketing tool this year and approved the sending of the Hoofbeat to ACHA members who are not NCHCA members for the spring edition. As a result, we had several new members join NCHCA.

In 2015, we need volunteers to submit articles on the following topics:

- * **Member Spotlight** * **Animal Health** * **Cattle Handling**
- * **Financial and Marketing Topics** * **Other Ideas are also welcome**



We would also like to continue to share show, event and Junior information through the Hoofbeat in 2015. The NCHCA board has also approved putting past issues of the Hoofbeat on the NCHCA website to promote the association.

A special thanks goes to Dan Stewart and his staff at TJ Associates. Dan and his team go above and beyond the call of duty (and our small little budget) to produce one of the best association newsletters for the size of our membership. If you enjoy the Hoofbeat, please email Dan at dans@tjassociates.net to show your appreciation.



By Billy Johnston, Dalriada Farm
Inver Grove Heights, MN

NCHCA did not participate in the Fair in 2014 for the first time in many years. The organizers decided to change both the date and location.

The date went from May to July. The Fair has experienced poor weather in several past years. Cold, blustery winds, rain, and even snow has affected attendance, so I believe this is what prompted the date change. The location was moved from the Dakota County Fairgrounds to the football and baseball fields of a school. I was told that it was hoped the new venue, being in a bigger town and closer to the Twin Cities, would draw larger crowds. I believe the high cost of the Fairgrounds was another factor.

These changes presented some problems for exhibiting cattle or having a small show as we have done the last couple of years. Firstly, space was limited and initially the organizers were unsure if they could even accommodate us. After a site visit it was determined there was a smallish area we could use. However there was no shade, water or electricity! In fact there was none of these anywhere on the entire site. There were no panels available for pens or a show ring. Also if it rained (which it did!) we would not be able to drive with trailers across the football field to our spot. The electrical inspector had some stipulations on the use of generators and proper grounding that made it sound like an extra setup day would be required if we wanted electricity. So...ultimately we decided not to participate.

I did attend the event (no cattle) just to see how things would turn out. There was a fairly good crowd of visitors despite rain for part of the day. There seemed to be enough room for everything although there were far fewer vendors. This was perhaps because of the lack of utilities. The organizers that I spoke to were generally pleased with attendance though and thought that for the first time at a new location it went well. They also wanted us to return with the cattle next year. We shall have to wait and see...

2014 Year End Committee/Event Reports

★ 2014 AHCA National Sale Report ★

By Heather Bailey, Cobblestone Farm, East Troy, WI

The 2014 AHCA National Highland Sale was a huge success this year. We are already planning for the 2015 Sale! The lots were of excellent quality and the proof was in the prices that they brought. After the sale the barn was full of excitement and the plans for next year's sale began. It is an exciting time to be a highland breeder!

This year the 2014 sale produced a grand total of \$84,475.00, with 9 females averaging \$3,516.00 and 9 bulls averaging \$3,474.00 this is a 145% increase in sale totals over last year with 5 less lots.

As we progress forward we also feel that some changes are needed to ensure the prosperity of all those that participate in the sale. We will be working closely with AHCA and encourage all feedback and suggestions. We value this input and it gives us great guidance for what we need to accomplish to make the next sale more fruitful than the following year.

Please feel free to contact either Heather Bailey at tamarlinnorth@aol.com or Collin Demuth at collindemuth@hotmail.com. If you prefer to call please contact Heather at 262-689-7013.

It's a great time to start planning for the next year's Sale as calves begin to hit the ground and your yearlings take bloom.

Happy Calving and may spring arrive soon!!



By Heather Bailey, Cobblestone Farm, East Troy, WI

World Beef Expo had a good turn out of farms to exhibit and show highland cattle. Farms in attendance were: Symbiosis Ranch, Four T Acres, Headacres, Snowland Livestock, We Tired Acres, Creachann Gleann, Windemere Farm, and Cobblestone Farms. A total of 25 animals were exhibited.

It is a great venue as World Beef Expo handles all show details. Exhibitors are allowed the freedom to just enjoy the venue and the camaraderie of fellow cattle breeders. Thursday evening was a joint hosted appetizers and wine/root beer tasting by Creachann Gleann and Cobblestone Farm. It gave exhibitors the opportunity to sit down and talk to one another smack dab in the center of the barn aisle. WBE also hosted a meal for all exhibitors that evening. Friday night after the show we were all invited to celebrate David Larson's birthday. Pizza, cake and good laughs were had by all.

Paige Proctor took advantage of both the Sweepstakes and the Showmanship in the Junior division. Paige was in the top 5 for the overall Sweepstakes and won the Animal Health Division. Paige did a tremendous job in the ring during showmanship.

The World Beef Expo has a very hard working board and committee members who are continually trying to improve the venue. I was contacted the following week to express my ideas/concerns for future highland shows. The WBE board would actually like to have a "Heritage Breed" show for 2015. This would level the playing field for all Heritage Breeds, and we would be able to participate in the Supreme Drive of Heritage Breeds. They are very excited to have the highlands in attendance next year and would welcome any feedback from exhibitors.

2014 Year End Committee/Event Reports

★ *Wisconsin Farm Technology Days* ★

By Cindy Weideman, Schön Boden Farms, Osceola, WI

Wisconsin Farm Technology Days was held this year near Stevens Point Wisconsin on August 12-14. There was some rain on the day before, during setup, but thankfully we had no heavy weather during the event. The cattle were furnished this year by John and Anne Proctor of Windemere Farm and the booth was manned by Jean and Rich Gruenert, John, Anne and Paige Proctor, and Roger and Cindy Weideman. Attendance at the event was good with a lot of traffic through the Beef Tent. Of special interest on Wednesday was our guest speaker Orion Samuelson, the voice of American agriculture on radio and TV. In 2015 the event is to take place August 15-17 near Sun Prairie Wisconsin, with Highland Cattle planning to be in attendance.



★ *Website Committee Report* ★

By Ben Schmidtke, Creachann Gleann, Platteville, WI

The web site was in “maintenance” mode for most of the year, with updates performed as they were requested. This fall the site was transitioned to a new hosting service at a considerable savings over the previous service.

The major challenge for the web site has been getting people to submit content to be posted. This site exists, in part, as a service to members and the various entities that make up the NCHCA. There are pages available for members to profile their farms, and to advertise their animals and or services provided by the farm. Committees can have information about their activities posted. There is space for announcing up-coming events or presenting what has taken place at past events. We would like to encourage everyone to use this service. If you have items that you would like to have added to the NCHCA web site, I would encourage you to contact Dave Eckwright at david@moonshineridge.us.

★ *2014 Waukesha Highland Games* ★

By Jean Gruenert, Four T Acres, Burlington, WI

The Waukesha Highland games are held on Labor Day weekend at the Waukesha County Fair grounds.

FUN! ENTERTAINING! Did I mention a blast...

We arrived with the camper and the cattle early on Saturday AM and got all ready to meet and greet. AND we did meet people from all over the world and country, and important ones at that. Clan Chieftains, contestants for the dance, games, pipe bands and well as individual pipers.

The head grounds man that set up the games turned out to be a fellow that Rich knew from his work days. Old home week and it turns out. He has attended several clan meetings all around the world, seems he is some sort of head clansman himself. He has met and dined with the Prince of Wales, Prince Charles on several occasions.

It was a great 2 days filled with costumes, great new foods, interesting crafts, huge game area (that we were not really able to see as we were at the other side of the grounds), wonderful pipes, loads of interesting people and the music in the beer tent that went both day until 10:30 Saturday night.

On Sunday evening when our caravan of 3 vehicles left we had the whole group waving good bye and thanking us for coming with hopes to see us next year and we certainly hope so. We were told that they had so much interest in the cattle that they are trying to see if they can relocate us closer to the main action, which would be great, but we aren't complaining it was a ball.

2014 Year End Committee/Event Reports

★ 2014 Wisconsin State Fair★

By Jean Gruenert, Four T Acres, Burlington, WI

Wisconsin State Fair in Milwaukee for us is a 3 day event as it is during the barn turn over period. We are located in the Lower Cattle barn which also houses the Moo Barn. We arrive early and have to be set up by 9 which with the fair furnishing bedding and panels it is an easy setup. People start to arrive before we usually are ready as they are the staff and other people from fair that have seen us come in.



This year we were lucky to have guests making the trek with us, the Hutsons from Oklahoma.

Here again we met lots of interesting people with possible group outing contacts.

As rules have changed for this barn and it is turned over to Ag students to run and recruit exhibitors it will be interesting to see if we will be invited back this next year, we certainly hope so.



Heather Bailey
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dalriada@comcast.net



Carcass Economics & Continuous Learning

By Josh Krenz, Windland Flats, Princeton, MN

The average retail price of beef in the United States hit a new national record average in September of this year at \$625.60 per hundred weight (cwt). This is a \$200/cwt increase over the national average just five years ago in 2009 (USDA-ERS Data as of December 10, 2014). While cattle farmers and ranchers are not receiving 100 percent of this increased value, the national farm percentage of net value in the retail channel increase from 42.5% in 2009 to 55.3% in 2014.

Highland Steer Carcass Weight	2009 Retail Average Price (\$425.80/cwt)	2009 Farmer Net Value (42.5%)	September 2014 Retail Average Price (\$625.60/cwt)	2014 Farmer Net Value (55.3%)
450 lbs.	\$1,916.10	\$814.34	\$2,815.20	\$1,556.30
	Difference	\$899.10	Difference	\$741.96
USDA-ERS Data as of December 10, 2014				

While we just looked at one point in time, September 2014, it appears the 2014 National Retail Average will still net around \$600/cwt, which is still better than the five (\$475/cwt) and ten year (\$435/cwt) average beef price. Regardless, it is a great time to be in the cattle, and especially the Highland Cattle business. It is also the time to remember that our grand ole' breed is a great producer of quality beef carcasses, and has a great role to play in the US Beef Value Chain.

In good times, it is easy to hang your cowboy hat, and pretend everything is financially great. However, the argument can be made that now is the time to invest and improve your herd carcass quality to capture high value in future years when beef prices may not be as favorable.

On February 22, 2015, at the NCHCA annual meeting in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, we will have the distinct pleasure of being joined by Dr. Gary Onan to discuss beef carcass quality and what we can do as breeders in these good times to improve value for future years. Dr. Onan is the Chairman of the Animal Science Department for the University of Wisconsin – River Falls. He holds a Ph.D. and Masters of Science from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Dr. Onan has over 30 years of experience in cattle production and teaches several meat and carcass production classes at UW-River Falls. Dr. Onan's two- hour presentation will cover:

- ♦ **Carcass Grading and What Factors Influence Consumer Acceptability**
- ♦ **Carcass Evaluation and Determining Value and Price**
- ♦ **Cuts of Beef and Various Options for Fabrication to Meet Consumer Needs.**

In addition to the hands-on presentation, we will leave at least 30 minutes for questions related to carcass evaluation and value. Please plan to attend and bring your questions related to creating high-value Highland carcass for Dr. Onan. Whether you can consider yourself a production-herd, a breeding stock-herd or a hobby-herd, carcass quality is important to all of us in maintaining and growing the value of the Highland Cattle Breed.

What: Carcass Value and Improvement

Who: Dr. Gary Onan, University of Wisconsin – River Falls, Chairperson of the Animal Science Department

When: Feb 22, 2015 at the Annual Meeting

Why: To improve Highland Carcass Quality for Consumers

Creachann Gleann

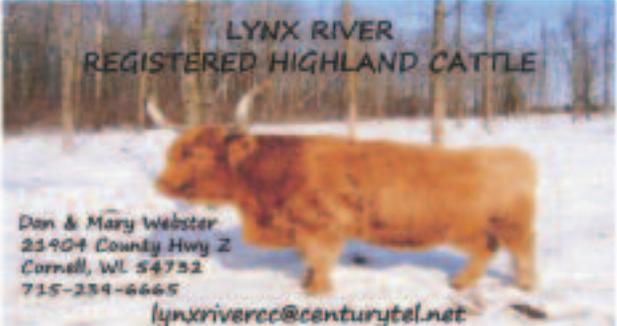


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April Hoofbeat Newsletter

The deadline for our next issue will be **March 15, 2015**. 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.

TJ Associates Attn: Dan Stewart

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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.

NCHCA 2015 Calendars are still available!

2015 North Central Highland Cattle Association Calendars may be purchased for \$20 which includes shipping and handling. **These make great gifts for family and friends and helps promote Highlands for all of us.**

Send check or money order to:

NCHCA
c/o Billy Johnston
Dalriada Highland Farm
2353 105th St E
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

**For more information or questions:
call 651-457-4449 or email: dalriada@comcast.net**

