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ISSUE 3



THE HIGHLAND *HoofBeat*

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President's Message

– *Ben Schmidke, President*

It's been a busy spring around here, with calves arriving on a regular basis. Only a couple more due, and we can kick back and wait for the fall calves. It seems that Spring can't make up it's mind whether to stay or not. We can hit the 80's one day, not get out of the 40's the next. Well, that's weather in this region for you! As spring winds down and summer takes hold, scheduled events continue to take place, and new ones get added to the schedule. Our juniors did a good job of representing the Highland breed at the Minnesota Junior Spring Classic again this year. The reports that came back from it were very positive. Farm picnics are being scheduled, as are other events. You can find more about these events inside this issue, as well as on the NCHCA web site. They are great opportunities to visit with other Highland enthusiasts and to introduce folks who are new to the breed to these majestic animals. I hope to see some of you folks out there.

Have a great summer!

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.

Boulder Meadows Highlands will be hosting a Farm Picnic on Saturday, July 25th, 2015



Friday night camping space available. Potluck for noon meal. We will be touring the farm and discussing rotational grazing and the water system for the rotational grazing.

Your Hosts:

Larry and Cindy Sasson
Boulder Meadows Highlands
20374 - 223rd Street
Little Falls, MN 56345

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

Please RSVP by July 11, 2015

Creachann Gleann Farm will be hosting a Farm Picnic on Saturday, September 12, 2015



Your Hosts:

Ben and Mary Schmidtke
Creachann Gleann Farm
7200 Platte Road
Platteville, WI 53818

Email: info@creachanngleann.com
www.creachanngleann.com
Phone: 608.348.4047

Please RSVP by August 22, 2015

Hoofbeat Article – Flies, Mosquitos and Ticks

by Daniel Webster

The month of June is when spring ends and summer begin. Where better to experience June than in the country, living on the land.

It would be nicer if it wasn't for the flies, mosquitos and ticks.

I was always concerned about keeping the flies down around the cattle and have been using fly parasites from a company in Texas for several years. They are called Kurth flies from the Kunafin Company. They seem to work fairly well.

I never gave much thought to ticks. I talked to a veterinarian one time and he said lyme disease would not affect cattle. I was out the other day checking the cattle as usual and noticed that a couple had a large amount of ticks on them.

If you have ever been bitten by a tick you know how irritating it can be.

Imagine having a couple of hundred attached even if you are a rugged highland cow. So I did a little research on the internet, the old fall back for modern times and this is what I came up with -The University of Arkansas, Division of Ag., extension service.

Ticks are not insects

- They belong to the class Arachnida along with spiders, scorpions, daddy long legs and mites.
- They are most closely related to mites.

- All adult members of their class have eight legs, which distinguishes them from insects which have six legs. Heavy infestation of ticks on cattle result in a loss of condition, failure to gain properly and a severe degree of anemia.
- Tick bites are irritating and cause the infested animal to rub and scratch, resulting in a scabby skin condition, sometimes followed by secondary infection.
- Ticks frequently use wild animal hosts to maintain tremendous populations and our cattle if we let them.
- Ticks produced in wildlife can reinfest treated cattle and they continually pose a problem for cattle producers.
- Ticks are also capable of transmitting diseases such as anaplasmosis to cattle.

Here are some things I found on the web that could be beneficial to use on cattle...

- Abamectin – ear tag
- Amitraz – emulsifiable concentrate spray

Here is what I use – Permethrin dusting powder, and pour on for backrubbers as well as in a dust bag. It also seems to help with face flies.

It might be beneficial to do a little research and come up with your own plan of action for pest control this summer.

Here's wishing everyone the best. Happy Highlanding!



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Scottish Highland Cattle are being raised on a Sustainable Pasture Rotation Program

By Eric Beuning

Originally printed in the Morrison County Record on 3/14/2015

When Larry and Cindy Sassen purchased the Boulder Meadows farm in 1977 they weren't entirely sure what they wanted to raise. In 1979 they decided to raise dairy cows. "We chose Jersey cows simply because the stalls in the barn were too small for Holstein," said Cindy Sassen.

In 1997 they decided to switch from dairy cows to raising cattle. At first they started breeding their Jersey cows with Red Angus cattle. "In 2006 Larry wanted to switch to pure bred cattle," said Cindy.



Larry and Cindy Sassen brushing out a Scottish Highland Cow. Photo by: Eric Beuning

"Originally Larry was interested in a couple of other breeds," said Cindy. "Then I saw a Highland down at the State Fair and I just fell in love with them!"

"Later on we were looking at some alternative breeds at a regional show in Farmington," said Larry. "That's when we found some people that were dispersing their herd of Highlands. So rather than split them up we decided to buy the eighteen they had remaining."

There are a few notable differences between Highland and other types of cattle like Angus. "Highlands don't fatten up in winter, they grow a thicker, shaggier coat to help keep warm. As a result their meat is leaner," explained Larry.

Highland cattle are also slower growing, taking around 30 months before they are ready to market.

"We sell some of our meat at the Farmers Growers Market in Little Falls. We also have people call for halves and quarters, and we're still growing our niche market," said Cindy.

"With regular cattle they say that their hanging weight is about 60% of their live weight and about 60% of the hanging weight is meat," explained Larry. "There's some research that has found the hanging weight of Scottish Highlands is actually closer to 70% of their live weight!"

There is also research that has found Highlands are lower in fat and cholesterol.

"You cook Scottish Highlands a little differently than you would other beef," said Cindy. "I always tell people to think of it like venison and cook it low and slow."

The Ssassens also show their Scottish Highland Cattle each year at the State and County Fair. "Our Granddaughter Shayna and Grandson Phillip also show Highlands down in Austin Minnesota," added Cindy.

"Some people will buy our steers and feed them grain all summer, but we primarily grass feed our herd on a pasture rotation program the NRCS helped us set up," said Larry.

In 2010 the Ssassens went to the NRCS office to help them come up with a grazing program that could help them get most out of their 307 acres of pasture, using sustainable practices.

The NRCS had two professors from the University of Minnesota come out to visit Boulder Meadows. They brought along with them several students and techs from the local NRCS office. "We had a small army walking around the farm surveying the land and helping us come up with a plan," said Larry. "Then afterwards they helped us with some funding through the EQIP program."

Scottish Highland Cattle are being raised on a Sustainable Pasture Rotation Program

(continued)

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program provides financial and technical assistance to producers to help them plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns. The program focuses on opportunities for the producers to improve soil, water, plant, animal and air quality for their agricultural land.

“The program they helped us develop also does a lot to prevent soil erosion and runoff and improves wildlife habitat, while keeping our farm sustainable,” said Larry.

The rotational grazing program the NRCS helped them develop divides their 307 acres of pasture into 29 pasture units. Cattle are not allowed to graze a pasture unit for more than 6 days. This helps keep the cattle from grazing the grass below four inches high.

Grazing this way helps maintain the root system allowing a pasture to bounce back faster after the cattle have been moved on to the next pasture unit. Also taller grasses can help shade the ground which helps maintain soil moisture levels. This can be especially helpful during a drought.

“We’re actually getting around 50% more production out of our pasture units. Last spring we grazed the cattle off of 35 acres of hay in 5 pasture units. That allowed the grasses in the rest of the pasture units to really grow a head of the cattle,” said Larry.

“In the winter we turn to feeding them silage rather than grain. We’ve found that if you push grain they tend to store the fat in the digestive cavity instead of intramuscular.”

Larry was recently elected Vice President of the North Central Highland Cattle Association. He continues to serve his passion for raising Highland Cattle while growing his market presence for the breed.

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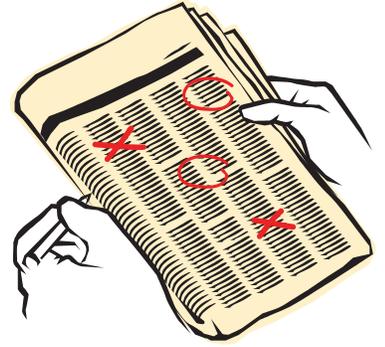
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Classified / Want Ads

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.



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Send ads to: dalriada@comcast.net

Checks payable to: NCHCA

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

October Hoofbeat Newsletter

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

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dans@tjassociates.net

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



With school out, I am sure you have your days filled with vacations and county fairs. Six juniors got a head start on the show season, dusting off their show sticks at the **2015 Minnesota Junior Spring Classic** held in Austin, Minnesota on May 2. Everyone did a great job with their animals and had fun.

We are very excited to have **Melinda Cowell** of Owatonna, Minnesota join the NCHCA Junior Committee. We are looking forward to hearing her thoughts and ideas.

We are starting to make plans for the **NCHCA Fall Show** held in Austin, Minnesota on October 3, 2015. We are going to have a fun filled family weekend. As always, if you don't have an animal contact, Sue at 402-586-2631 or sue@almostafarmhighlands.com and there will be one there for you to work with.

This will be our 3rd year to present the NCHCA Junior of the Year. We are so blessed to have so many juniors within our association that are doing some awesome things. If you know of that special junior, we want hear about them. The school activities, volunteering, whether they belong to 4-H and / or FFA, and what they do within those organizations. Of course, we want to hear all about their Highlands or the connection they have with them. Just send your nomination to Sue's e-mail address.

We also would like to hear what you have done this summer. Write to us and tell us all about your adventures.

Hope you have a great summer !!!!! – The Junior Committee



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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 Upcoming Events 2015

- **July 18**
Minnesota Scottish Fair & Highland Games
- **July 25**
✳ **Boulder Meadows Farm Picnic** ✳
- **August 6-16**
Wisconsin State Fair
- **August 25-27**
Wisconsin Farm Technology Days
- **August 27 – September 7**
Minnesota State Fair
- **September 12**
✳ **Creachann Gleann Farm Picnic** ✳
- **September 25-27**
World Beef Expo