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THE HIGHLAND *HoofBeat*

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President's Message

– *Ben Schmidtke, President*

Summer has arrived!

I am writing this on the day of the summer solstice. The last couple of weeks have been warm and here in our neck of the woods there has been plenty of rain. The pastures are looking good, and the hay looks good too, we just need to find a dry window wide enough to get it dry. We're rapidly approaching the first of the summer farm picnics at Schön Boden Farm on July 9th. If you can't make that one there is still another opportunity on August 21st at Four T Acres. These events provide an excellent chance to enjoy good food, meet new friends and ask questions about those little things that you're wondering about managing your group of cattle. Everybody's style is a little different, and it's always interesting to see how other folks do things. We also have Wisconsin Farm Technology days coming up as well as the Wisconsin and Minnesota State Fairs. The NCHCA has a presence in all of these events, and their display has come to be expected by the people who attend them. I would encourage you to try to make it to one of these events and show your support for the "Grand Olde Breed".

Enjoy your 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.

2016 Minnesota Junior Spring Classic

The 2016 Minnesota Junior Spring Classic was held Friday, May 6 through Sunday May 8 at the Mower County Fairgrounds in Austin, MN. The University of Minnesota Block and Bridle Club Show Committee put on an excellent show again this year! The Scottish Highland Cattle were represented well with approximately 19 animals & 18 exhibitors. Participants began arriving Friday. Saturday at noon the juniors were invited to participate in boot camp which included a fitting demonstration and a talk on cattle nutrition. The showmanship classes were held Saturday evening. More than half of the Juniors with highlands participated.



The main show was held Sunday. Beginning at 8am, exhibitors showed Dairy Steers, Market Heifers, Market Steers & breeding heifers in alphabetic order by individual breed. The highland classes were mixed in with the other classes which was different than it had been in previous years.



Our juniors represented the highland breed well with high quality animals, who were fitted and shown well. It was exciting to see everyone put their best foot forward, enjoy showing, help each other and get to know one another!



Mark your calendars! This show generally the first weekend in May; We would love to have your juniors and cattle join us next year!!! A big Thank you to NCHCA, Sue Dyke and Mark Schulz for your contributions which allowed the highlands to participate in the Minnesota Junior Spring Classic again this year!



2016 COW CAMP

You aren't likely to find yourself being soaked by a showmanship judge armed with a squirt gun anywhere except Cow Camp. This year's MWHCA Cow Camp was held at Maple Hill Highlands, and brought together 14 juniors and 12 animals from Wisconsin, Michigan, Missouri, and Minnesota.

At Cow Camp this year we had the opportunity to learn about reproduction from Dr. Todd Miller, a local vet. As cow camp kicked off we got to watch an embryo transfer. Later in the week, Dr. Miller came back to artificially inseminate three cows and teach us how to AI. He explained it step by step, and then we were given the chance to try it ourselves on a reproductive tract that was saved from a cow that had been butchered.

Dr. Bowman, a professor of parasitology at Cornell University



came and taught us how to look at manure samples for signs of a worm infection and how to identify worm eggs under the microscope. Each junior had the chance to check their animal's sample and then we went through and discussed the findings and what factors affected the concentration of worm eggs in the sample such as environment and time since deworming.



We were honored to have Ginny Miller come to Michigan to teach us as well. She discussed parts of the animal and how to read medication labels with us and then lead a showmanship session. During the showmanship session, she had us pair up and switch off pretending to be the calf while she taught us how to switch hands on a halter when

stopping, and how to walk our animals into place. While participating in mock showmanship classes later that day, we switched animals and were asked to identify parts and estimate weights. We all learned a lot about how to present our animals in the best way possible, even though many of us ended the class in water soaked clothes as a result of being



sprayed with a squirt gun if we made a mistake while showing.

Additionally, we had the privilege to learn about animal chiropractic and acupuncture from Dr. Ashley Miller. She explained why the practices are useful on large animals such as horses and cattle, and then demonstrated by making adjustments on a highland cow to free up movement in her neck, and then followed it with some acupuncture in the lion area.

When we weren't busy learning in educational sessions, we were busy learning how to pan for gold and make lead ropes, walking calves through an obstacle course, playing Pictionary, having water fights, swimming, and having campfires. We had an amazing time at cow camp making new friends and

meeting new people, and came out of the experience with closer bonds with our animals and tons of new knowledge. Thank you to Chris and Dawn Manthei for hosting the 6th annual Cow Camp. We are already looking forward to next year!

A.C.T. (Advanced Cow Training) Camp Held at Four T Acres, August 19-20th, 2016 in Burlington, Wisconsin

Outdoor camping provided (Hotel's available nearby)

Dinner, dessert, and breakfast by the fire

Cattle handling and showmanship demonstration for adults and kids

Obstacle Course Training, Local Processor Tour

Bring a calf, or we can supply one for you!

Food, Fun and Learning for Everyone!

Open to ages 8 and up! Adults Included!

South East Wisconsin

Four T Acres, 8968 Fishman Road, Burlington, WI 53105

262-539-3257

FTAcres@yahoo.com

RSVP as soon as you can to reserve your spot.

Go to www.nhca.org and look for the ACT camp page, fill out all forms and submit via email, or regular mail to the above address.

Monetary donations appreciated. Dog, cats, and other animals will be in residence.

Looking forward to seeing you!

Flies, Mosquitoes and Ticks

Hoofbeat article by Daniel Webster

The month of June is when spring ends and summer begins. Where better to experience June than in the country, living on the land. It would be nicer if it wasn't for the flies, mosquitoes 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 few ticks on them. If you have ever been bitten by a tick you know how irritating it can be. Imagine having several ticks 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 Highlandling!

Schön Boden Farms Summer Picnic July 2016



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65th Annual General Membership Meeting & Gathering “Marketing Highland Cattle & Beef”



JUNE 2016 – LEHIGHTON, PA

On June 16, 2016 your AHCA board met in Lehigh, Pennsylvania to discuss issues pertaining to all AHCA members. The highlights of the meeting are covered as follows:

- One of the changes being made was that the QHB Committee and the Beef Marketing Committees be joined together to be a stand-alone committee. They will now be one committee called the Highland Beef Marketing Committee. The committee is specifically designated to promote highland beef and the process of marketing highland beef to consumers. Their job will be to provide effective ideas and marketing techniques to help beef producers sell their product to consumers.
- A large amount of discussion was centered on the 2017 budget. The budget was approved despite the projected \$12,000 short fall. Revenue such as dues, and registrations have been up slightly but some expenses have been slowly but steadily on the rise. New projects have been added to the expenses making for the projected short fall. For details, please feel free to email, call, or talk to me. Discussion then ensued about the fact that the budget needs to be balanced and AHCA is open to ideas to help that process. If anyone has any ideas please contact any member of the AHCA board of directors.
- One of AHCA’s new projects will be to work on creating an online semen and embryo catalog which will be available to everyone. This will benefit many breeders in both the buyer and seller markets. The catalog will make it easier to find breeders who have semen or embryos available for sale by having them all listed in one area, allowing for a bigger genetic diversification in herds.

Ideas are still being tossed around for the 2017 AHCA Convention. The board is in the process of “thinking outside the box” and are looking at new areas and new ideas for locations and venues. Keep an eye out for future announcements...it promises to be very interesting!

Your new AHCA president is Laura McDowell-May of Seawind Meadows, and the new Vice President is Dwight Eisenhauer of Bull Run Farm. Your new At-Large Directors are John Ligo of LiTerra Farm, Nick Self of Rockhouse Run Farm, and **Sue Dyke of Almosta Farm**. We would like to thank them all for their service to our breed.

Jacquelyn Becker-Chotkowski was inducted into the Highland Hall of Fame, **Mark Schulz was honored as Member of the Year**, Annalee May won the AHCA Junior Allegiance Award, and **our own Paige Proctor won the AHCAj Cattleman Award Essay Contest**. Congratulations to each of them for their hard work and dedication.



Mark Schulz was honored as Member of the Year



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.

For Advertising Send ads to: dalriada@comcast.net

Checks payable to: NCHCA

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

North Central Highland Cattle Junior Association



NASCO'S GOLD CIRCLE REWARD PROGRAM

GROUP CODE: 9810011

The NCHCA Juniors program earns rebates when members purchase from:

- Nasco Farm & Ranch**
- Nasco Showing & Grooming**

Use the code above when you check out and the junior program will earn and accumulate 5% of net purchases in a special account. The funds are paid to each organization annually at year-end.

Thank you for your support!

October Hoofbeat Newsletter

The deadline for our next issue will be **September 25, 2016**.

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

T- 763-323-8717 | F- 763-323-8704 | dans@tjassociates.net

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

Creachann Gleann



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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 2016

- **August 4-14**
Wisconsin State Fair
- **August 19-20**
A.C.T. Advanced Cow Training Camp
- **August 21**
* **Four T Acres Farm Picnic** *
- **August 25 – September 5**
Minnesota State Fair
- **September 22-25**
World Beef Expo
- **October 1st**
NCHCA Regional 2016 Show

