



# THE HIGHLAND *HoofBeat*

## **NCHCA 2020 Elected Officers and Board of Directors**

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president@nchca.org

Melinda Cowell  
Vice President (21-23)  
507-213-0235  
we5cowells@gmail.com

Anne Proctor  
Secretary  
715-600-4200  
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Josh Krenz  
Treasurer  
763-260-1001  
treasurer@nchca.org

**AHCA Board:**  
Mark Schulz (20-22)  
507-481-7367  
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**NCHCA Directors**  
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Kevin Opperman (20-22)  
414-659-2676  
HighlandSpringFarm@gmail.com

Jonathan Carlson (21-23)  
218-843-5172  
britt.slusar@park.edu

## **President's Message**

– *Jan Larson, President*

Here it is, Summer already! The days are getting hotter and longer, and once again making hay is the project for most farmers. Time sure has a way of flying by. What a difference a year makes! The upside of all those shenanigans from last year, is that there is an even greater appreciation for homegrown, farm raised beef, which is right up Highland breeders' alleys. Hopefully everyone has had the opportunity to take advantage of the renewed interest.

How about that March NCHCA Sale! Congratulations to the sale committee on an amazing line up and even more amazing sale prices! As we go to print I'm looking at the results from the June NCHCA Sale and am equally impressed. Congratulations to the committee, and to all sellers and buyers for an exchange of some might impressive highland stock.

North Central activities are beginning to pick back up. Congratulations to those who showed and won honors at the Minnesota Junior Spring Classic in April, and to those who attended the NEHCA Multi-breed show. I was happy to see pictures of our young people attending, showing off, working hard doing what they love to do, and representing our breed so very well. These kids are the future of farming, veterinary, animal nutrition, soil science, and all agricultural fields in general. I, for one, am happy to see the future in such good hands.

*Continued on page 2*

**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.*

# Register Now!

- Meet Other Breeders In-Person
- Highland Farm Tours & Speakers
- Bright Walls Attraction
- Beautiful Fall Colors & More

## 70th Annual AHCA Gathering

in conjunction with MWHCA Fall Color Select Heifer Sale

October 8-9, 2021  
Kalamazoo, MI

Also Featuring: **SACRED COW** Movie Event  
**Diana Rodgers, RD**

Real Food Dietitian, Sustainability Advocate

Registration Deadline September 8th  
[www.highlandcattleusa.org](http://www.highlandcattleusa.org)



## President's Message

continued from page 1

I'm at Farm Tech Days now with new breeders who have brought their cattle to Eau Claire for the NCHCA exhibit this year. This is also the first chance for me to visit Farm Tech as well, and I am looking forward to seeing some old friends again, as well as learning about what's new in agriculture. I'm also hoping to come home with some ideas that we as a board can use to help members promote their animals as well as our breed. More to come on that ...

Wishing all our membership plenty of rain to make the fields and pastures grow, plenty of dry days to make hay, and happy healthy calves growing and running around. Don't forget to get out and get pictures for the next NCHCA calendar. It's a great way to promote your farm and the Highland animals in our region.

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy summer, and if you are feeling comfortable and safe, hope our paths cross again soon.

*Jan Larson*

NCHCA President

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# Highland Production Sale by NCHCA June 2021

The North Central Highland Cattle Association held its sixth sale and its second of two sales planned for 2021 on June 19, 2021. Here is a summary of the sale.

**Average Cow/Calf: \$8,290**

**Average Bred Female: \$6,250**

**Average Open Female: \$4,939**

**Average Female: \$6,166**

**Average Bull: \$2,657**

High Selling Cow/Calf: \$10,250 - Lot 2 LEA Leigh - Double D Cattle Company & Lot 3 Davina of Highland Heritage - Windemere Farm (tied)

**High Selling Bred Female: \$7,750 - Lot 7 - Windemere Envy - Literra**

**High Selling Open Female: \$6,850 - Lot 11 LSK Sadie - Cedar Ridge Farm**

**High Selling Bull: \$4,650 - Lot 22 - Snowland Heikki - Snowland Livestock**

**High Selling Semen: \$240/Straw - Lot 30 WL Genesis - Windland Flats**

The quality and demand for Highland Cattle drove record prices in many categories. Thank you to all of the consignors for consigning the great quality of animals. A special thank you to all of the bidders. The NCHCA gives all buyers, who are not current NCHCA members, a free year of membership. We welcome all the new members to NCHCA and congratulate them on their purchase.

As we plan for 2022, the Sale Committee welcomes your comments and suggestions. Please reach out to any member of the Sale Committee to express your input.

## ***The NCHCA Highland Production Sale Committee***

Josh Krenz (Chair)

Heather Bailey

Rich & Jean Grunert

Randi Johnson

Kevin Oppermann

Anne Proctor



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## Get to Know your Board Member

Kevin Oppermann owns Highland Spring Farm, LLC located in the Town of Dunn, just south of Madison, WI. In addition to serving on the board of NCHCA, Kevin also was elected president of AHCA this past January. He first got involved in highland cattle after purchasing two cow/calf pairs in 2010. Eleven years later, his goal of raising one animal for the family and another to sell to pay for everything got completely out of control.

Despite growing up as a city kid in Brookfield, WI, Kevin's foray into farming began by helping his grandparents on their farm in Fitchburg. To earn money for college after high school graduation, Kevin took over his grandparent's sweet corn business, selling sweet corn directly at the farm as well as at the Fitchburg Farmers' Market (a market founded by his grandfather). Kevin learned invaluable lessons about agriculture from his grandparents and his passion for farming grew; he even wrote his senior capstone project for college centered on saving the family farm by diversifying and selling directly to consumers.

After graduating from Luther College in 2006, Kevin returned to the Madison area and spent seven years in the healthcare IT industry working at Epic. It was during this time that Kevin realized his true vocation: agriculture. In 2012, he and his wife Keely purchased the land in the Town of Dunn that became Highland Spring Farm; Kevin has been farming this land full time since 2013. They have three children, Liam (5 years old), Odin (3 years old), and Ainsley (1 year old), and are expecting baby four in November.

Running between 150-200 animals, Highland Spring Farm direct markets 70+ head of Scottish Highland beef via multiple marketing channels. Their beef can be found at several Madison area restaurants and corporate kitchens. Highland Spring Farm can also be found at the Westside Community Market on Saturday mornings. Throughout the year, customers can purchase beef directly off the farm. Their new farm store is open Wednesday evenings in the summer and Saturdays in the winter. Bulk beef packages are available as well. Featuring over 60 different cuts of beef, Highland Spring Farm has found ways to maximize profit out of every steer.

Helping others get started and grow their highland beef business is a passion of Kevin's so please reach out if you have any questions. Visit [HighlandSpringFarm.com](http://HighlandSpringFarm.com) for more information on the farm.

Presented by the American and Midwest Highland Cattle Associations

# SACRED COW

Presentation and movie at the historic Michigan Theatre, Jackson, MI

**Author Diana Rodgers, RD**  
*Real Food Dietitian, Sustainability Advocate*

Diana's presentation and movie are **FREE**. She is nationally known and recognized. The topics will be on meat based nutrition, particularly beef, and sustainable agriculture. She addresses and debunks many myths about beef.

<https://www.sacredcow.info/helpful-resources>



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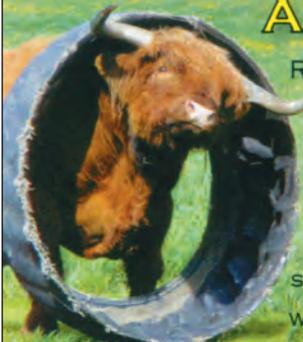
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*Scottish Highland Cattle*

# Shoot *the Bull*

**DATE CHANGE:**  
**9/24/2021**

## **SAVE THE DATE**

**SEPTEMBER 24, 2021**

**4:00PM – 5:00PM**  
DRAWING AT 5 PM  
MUST BE PRESENT

**WORLD BEEF EXPO**  
**TRADE SHOW AREA**



\$250 cash award to the breed with the most raffle tickets.  
Desserts & beverages available for all who attend, compliments of  
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Scottish Highland Cattle

The Gruenerts  
Jean, Rich and Randy  
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262-539-2725  
greearth.jean@gmail.com



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## Greetings from Beautiful Cool Southern Minnesota!

The NCHCA show committee is pleased to open entries for the 2021 North Central Highland Cattle Association Regional Show in Austin Minnesota, to be held Saturday Sept 18, 2021. Find more information and sign up at [nchca.org](http://nchca.org). Entries are open until September 1st.

We are thrilled to once again gather breeders from across the United States to showcase some of the finest Highland Cattle the US has to offer. It has been so exciting to watch as our Grand Old Breed surged in popularity over the past year, and is finding its place in new and fascinating ways.

Our goal this year is to create a place to not only exhibit and display our beautiful cattle, but to offer education, information and growth for old and new breeders alike! We often tell visitors to our farm that Highland breeders are some of the best breeders out there. We firmly believe this and are grateful for those who have gone before us to make this breed what it is!

As you register and plan to attend the show, please be aware that the weekend of the show is fairly busy in Austin and hotels may fill quickly. It is best to get your room booked as quickly as possible. Hotel blocks are listed on the website along with pricing. There are camping sites available at the fairgrounds for \$35 per night with bathroom and a shower facility available.

A change from last year, we will return to having concessions and offer Highland burger meals and cowboy beans along with a few other snacks, meal items and drinks on show day. Windland Flats has generously donated the beef again this year for which we are grateful.

Exhibitors wishing to show cattle, we are looking forward to having you! Please be aware that each animal must be registered with the American Highland Cattle Association (only market animals may show unregistered). Unfortunately, the registration and DNA typing processes are moving a little more slowly than normal, please be sure to get your registrations in as quickly as possible. AHCA will not

allow pending animals to be shown in ROE point shows, and we will follow their guidelines.

If you have questions please do not hesitate to call or email, we are willing to answer any questions you might have and help if we can!

Following the show, we would invite all to join the exhibitors and

their families at the awards banquet to be held at the Austin American Legion. Catering and a full bar will be offered to those who attend. We are looking forward to trying this new venue. Please note tickets must be purchased by the deadline (September 1st) in order to have enough meals for everyone. An order link has been added to the website to expedite this purchase.

We will have our annual fundraising auction at the banquet and cannot wait to see what creative ways our exhibitors and spectators will find to support the show! Please consider bringing a basket to donate and support the auction.

Finally, the show committee will keep our eyes and ears on the current health situation here in Minnesota and across the US as we continue to plan. We will make adjustments as needed to keep our exhibitors friends and families as healthy as possible.

We are looking forward to a successful show! We cannot wait to fill the barns with this incredible breed and our fellow breeders!

***Best wishes for a successful season!***



2020 Grand Champion Bull - Symbiosis Sir Titan



2020 Grand Champion Female-CZH Goose

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## The 2022 Calendars are here!

Calendars are ready and they are awesome. Another great job of putting together fine examples of the breed and featuring member farms.

This year, we had great support from our members both in submitting photos for the calendar, and helping select featured photos by voting online. Thanks to all members that helped with this effort.

### ***Congratulations to the farms with featured photos:***

- Back to the Roots, Bruce & Samantha Schmitz, Watkins, MN
- Bluestone Ranch, Jennie Anderson, Sawyer, ND
- Climbing Stump Farm, Mark, Randi & Joe Johnson, Harris, MN
- Creachann Gleann Farm, Ben & Mary Schmidtke, Platteville, WI
- Elm Hollow Farm, Nancy Geller, Treadway, TN
- Eventide Ranch, Clint & Abby Gardebrecht, Oconto Falls, WI
- Flatland Farm LLC, Mark & Jamie Schulz, Elkton, MN
- Four T Acres LLC, Jean, Rich & Randy Gruenert, Burlington, WI
- Glory Oaks Farm, Kyle & Katie Baker, Northwood, IA
- Hidden Ridge Highland Cattle, Dennis Breneman & Maureen Mott, Loganville, WI
- Highland Acres, Steven & Kimberly Crook, Crab Orchard, NE
- Highlands in the Hollow, Diane Clark, Waverly, TN
- Larson's Headacrez, Nathan, David & Jan Larson, Burlington, WI
- Little House and Farm, Anthony & Michelle Letourneau, Hinckley, MN
- Rosewood Ranch, Ken & Julie Schaar, Deer River, MN
- Schön Boden Farms, Cynthia Weideman, Osceola, WI
- Stepping Stone Acres, Rich & Paula Walker, Rolla, MO

**Support our Association by purchasing calendars. They can be purchased at the NCHCA website, [nchca.org](http://nchca.org), or at NCHCA events.**

**These make great gifts!**



## Springfield Area Highland Games – New Berlin, IL



On Saturday, May 15th, HideAway Farm participated in the Springfield Area Highland Games in New Berlin, IL. As this was the first weekend of mask restriction being lifted in Illinois, the mood of the event was bright and hopeful as the attendees found an outdoor event a refreshing return to pre-COVID days. A smaller event than we're accustomed to (typically we exhibit at the Chicago Scots Highland Games in Itasca, IL which can bring in crowds up to 15,000), this event brought in approximately 750 attendees. Though smaller in the number of attendees, the crowd was ready to interact and enthusiastically supportive of our animals.



On display representing HideAway Farm was our senior bull Skye High Capone, Thistle Hill Plantation Alyssa, and HideAway Farm's Ruth. Ruth was the newest member to HWF at the time, ten days old and the first of 12 potential births for 2021 (God willing, from ten registered highlands and two

registered Hereford/highland crosses). Capone and Alyssa are veterans at being displayed at Scottish highland games and represented the highland coo community beautifully. The crowd was impressed by Capone's size, their hair, their horns, their gentle nature, of course their beauty, and everyone loves a baby highland (much ooh'ing and ahh'ing over her).

Terry devotes a fair amount of time in creating information boards so that attendees can read about the breed as well as about our own animals and it's encouraging to see how many people study them and ingest the information. Great questions were presented from young and old alike, as well as a sharing of stories from those who had traveled to Scotland and had seen coos while hiking or driving through the countryside.

As children are typically attracted to animals, we bring "cow treats" for the children (and adults) to feed the animals, and hand stamps in the shape of a highland so that everyone gets to "take home" a cow. Along with this, we offer for sale highland cow stuffed animals, Scottish oat cakes, and a variety of beef seasonings (though we all know that highland beef is delicious without any seasoning). We always find the attendees gracious, considerate, and frequently we are thanked for bringing our animals.

It's a labor of love and we feel that we get more out of it than we give. Though the animals are relaxed and content throughout the day, this is one time they actually line up to get back in the trailer, ready to go home to familiar pastures. As things open up more across our state we hope to add more of these events to our calendar and continue our unofficial "ambassadorship".





## 2021 Minnesota State Fair!

Hello Everyone! The Minnesota State Fair is back in full swing this year, August 26 through Labor Day. This event is also known as The Great Minnesota Get Together! Our Association has had a Highland Cattle display at this event since 1980. We have been stabled in the Moo Booth (education area) for the last eight years where we educate fairgoers on all things cattle, but really “WOW” them with the Grande Old Breed. The cattle in the barn are switched out every four days to allow the barn to be cleaned – we take this opportunity to run home and switch out cow/calf pairs so they are only there for four days. In 2019 more than 2.1 million people walked through the entrance gates over the 12 days of the fair.

I am always appreciative of the folks that come and help out at the display over the 12 days! I am asking for Association member volunteers for this year. If you let me know in the next week I will be able to get you fair entrance tickets. We only ask that you spend four hours answering fairgoer questions – it is really easy! The booth is open from about 7 am to 7 pm so any time is great. The only time we will not need anyone is Sunday, August 29th after 4 pm and Thursday, September 2nd, after 4 pm. If you are willing to help out please contact me by calling or texting 507-481-7367 by August 4th.

Thank you,

*Mark Schultz*



## NASCO's Gold Circle Reward Program

Support NCHCA Juniors when you purchase from NASCO. The Juniors earn rebates of 5% of net purchases when members purchase from:

- Nasco Farm & Ranch
- Nasco Showing & Grooming

Use the **group code 9810011** when you make purchases.

*Thank you for your support!*



# Heat stress in cattle: Recognizing the signs and tips to keep your cattle cool

Kable Thurlow, and Kevin Gould, Michigan State University Extension - July 5, 2018

Given the current high temperatures, cattle could be under heat stress. It's important to know the signs so producers can manage and reduce livestock heat stress.

Hot summer temperatures, currently climbing near the triple digits, combined with high dew points can cause significant heat stress to cattle. Heat stress is magnified when high temperatures continue into the night. The combination of high day and nighttime temperatures prevents cattle from properly cooling.

## Tips to Keep Your Cattle Cool

Here are some simple tips from Michigan State University Extension to make sure your cattle stay comfortable:

- **Avoid handling, transporting, moving, or processing cattle.** If cattle must be handled, work them in the early morning hours using low-stress handling techniques.
- **Provide additional water.** For cattle on pasture, provide additional water supply, especially if they only have access to one tank in the pastures. Provide additional tank capacity as water intake increases. Check to make sure that water sources are clean and free of contaminants, defecation in a small portable watering tank will prevent cattle from drinking. Cattle prefer water between 40 -65 degrees F, water intake decreases when water temperature exceeds 80 degrees F. Producers can help keep the water cooler by ensuring that the water lines are covered by grass in the fence rows.



*Cattle exhibiting signs of Stage 4 of heat stress (see article). Photo courtesy of ars.usda.gov*

- **Observe cattle for abnormal behavior.** Problems often occur during stressful events. Watch cattle movement, location and behavior for indications of problems. Have a backup plan ready if power or water systems fail.
- **Provide shade.** During heat stress days, shade is critical especially for dark-haired, fleshy, young and older cattle. Shade can easily be provided by allowing access to pasture with trees or providing access to open buildings. If shaded pasture acres are limited these pastures must not be grazed during the days with normal temps so that pasture forage will be there when heat stress temperatures arrive.
- **Provide adequate ventilation.** If cattle are being fed and housed in an enclosed barn or building, use fans to move air out or through the building or open sides of the barn or provide access to an outside pen or pasture with shade. Using sprinklers in this situation will potentially intensify the problem and create more humidity without proper air movement to remove it from the building.

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There are several stages of heat stress with the following indicators. When first signs of heat stress are observed, minimize the stress immediately with the tips above. Early intervention is the key to survival, especially providing intervention in the evening when cattle are trying to dissipate heat from the day.

## Signs of Heat Stress

The following are signs of heat stress, per the USDA's Agricultural Research Service:

- **Stage 1:** elevated breathing rate, restless, spend increased time standing
- **Stage 2:** elevated breathing rate, slight drooling, most animals are standing and restless
- **Stage 3:** elevated breathing rate, excessive drooling or foaming, most animals are standing and restless, animals may group together
- **Stage 4:** elevated breathing rate, open mouth breathing, possible drooling, most animals standing, animals may group together
- **Stage 5:** elevated breathing with pushing from the flanks, open mouth breathing with tongue protruding, possible drooling, most animals standing and restless
- **Stage 6:** open mouth breathing with tongue protruding, breathing is labored, and respiration rate may decrease, cattle push from flanks while breathing, head down, not necessarily drooling, individual animals may be isolated from the herd.

## Stress Categories

The chart below illustrates stress categories as defined by predicted breathing rate.

Predicted Breathing Rate	Heat Stress Category
Less than 90 breaths per minute	Normal
From 90 - 110 breaths per minute	Alert
From 110 - 130 breaths per minute	Danger
Above 130 breaths per minute	Emergency

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Beef producers also need to be aware that heat could have implications which may not be seen immediately. If you are in breeding season with your cow herd, heat stress could result in early embryonic death loss of the new fetus in the first few weeks after conception. For bulls preparing for breeding season, high temperatures could impact semen quality for several weeks, resulting in lower conception rates a month after the heat stress event. Reduced conception risk is a possible outcome and key reason producers should keep cow herds cool during times of high heat index weather.

For more management resources, including heat stress prediction maps, are available online from the [US Meat Animal Research Center](#). There is also a [Livestock Weather Hazard Guide](#) from the Noble Research Institute.

For additional cattle management resources, visit the [MSU Beef Team website](#).

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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.

## 2021 Events Calendar

### August

#### *Wisconsin State Fair*

August 5-15, 2021  
West Allis, WI

#### *Minnesota State Fair*

#### *Moo Booth*

August 26-Sept 6, 2021  
St. Paul, MN

### September

#### *NCHCA Regional Highland Cattle Show*

Sept 18, 2021  
Austin, MN

#### *World Beef Expo*

Sept 23-26, 2021  
Milwaukee, WI

### October

#### *70th Annual AHCA Gathering*

October 8-9, 2021  
Kalamazoo, MI

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**Check Out Our Website at [NCHCA.org](http://NCHCA.org) for information on:**

Member Listings • Classified Ads • Show Results • Upcoming Events **& Much more...**

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