

HIGHLANDS OF THE HEARTLAND

Fall 2009
Issue 2

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Happy Holidays to All!

By David Embury

I hope all is well with everyone. What a summer and fall we have had! We've had a lot of rain this fall, so I haven't had time to get caught up with all the farming chores that need to be done, especially fencing.

As some of you know, I do custom haying with two other partners and it started out bad this summer. We had one customer (80 acres: 15 in clover, 65 in a mix of grass/clover) call who wanted his clover cut on a Thursday, which we cut. It started raining on Friday for a week. Not good. After all was said and done (30 days later) we had 3 tractors down, 2 engine rebuilds (one with new water pump and fuel pump), we repaired the round baler's broken hydrogen lines, along with 6 big sealed bearings and three belts and we were finally able to move on. No, our wallets do not exist any more!

Ruth and I had our July 4th second annual Highland picnic. I would like to thank ALL of you for coming and spending time with us on our Highland farm, especially to Ken Bristow for his bagpiping. Everyone brought good food dishes for the potluck meal. We had a good showing—folks from Florida (who are moving to Missouri) as well as Highland enthusiasts from Illinois and Arkansas attended the picnic to see and learn about a Highland fold. We had folks looking to get into Highlands and this gave them a chance to see them on a working farm. Ruth and I talked about our two Highland folds and it was very nice having other HHCA members attend to talk about their folds. There

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was a lot of one-on-one talk about the Highland breed in all aspects from their browsing and feeding to their breed characteristics. It was a great day of fun and sharing!

I would like to thank everyone who donated to help send our regional director to the annual AHCA convention. Remember he is *our* voice to the AHCA. Check out the HHCA website, especially the classified ad section and the events page. Use your free website ad, it pays off and it is a benefit of your membership. If anyone has any comments or concerns, please call or email me as I am there to listen and help in anyway.
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Foot Rot in Cattle

By Dr. Darren Loula

Do you know what foot rot is? A closer look at foot rot...

Another problem that frequently presents itself during the summer is foot rot. I have seen numerous cases of foot rot in cattle this summer already. The disease is cause primarily by a bacterium called "Fusobacterium necrophorum" and is a significant cause of lameness in

cattle—beef and dairy alike. Mortality from the disease is generally absent but morbidity can get high with up to 25 percent of the herd affected in severe outbreaks. Foot rot can be a significant source of lost production. Cows that are lame from foot rot tend to lie around, eat less and produce less milk. Whether that mild is going in the bulk tank or into the calf, less

Please see *Foot Rot in Cattle* on page 4

HHCA Fundraiser Success!

By Sybil Roberts

This years Celtic Festival was a smash hit once again, thanks to Gloria Asmussen, HHCA Secretary, who was not only the chairperson for the festival but also put together the only Heartland Highland fund raiser this year.

This years Festival began Friday night 9-10 with the calling of the clans, but for a lot of people it began weeks ago with all the prep work for such a large event. Contacting food vendor's like the Cattlemen association, the BBQ people, and of course setting up the Highland concession stand. Finding and retaining all the entertainment such as the Shortleaf Band, the nationally sanctions Celtic games, our very own Scotsman Ken Bristow with his beautiful bag pipes and witty sense of humor, the Irish wolfhounds, and the Border Collie demonstration, to name just a few of the events held that day.

But for us it started Thursday night with the help of James and Kimberly Craig , together we set up the pens for their cattle, the Irish Dexter's , the Shetland sheep, the Highland cattle, and the border collie demonstration area.

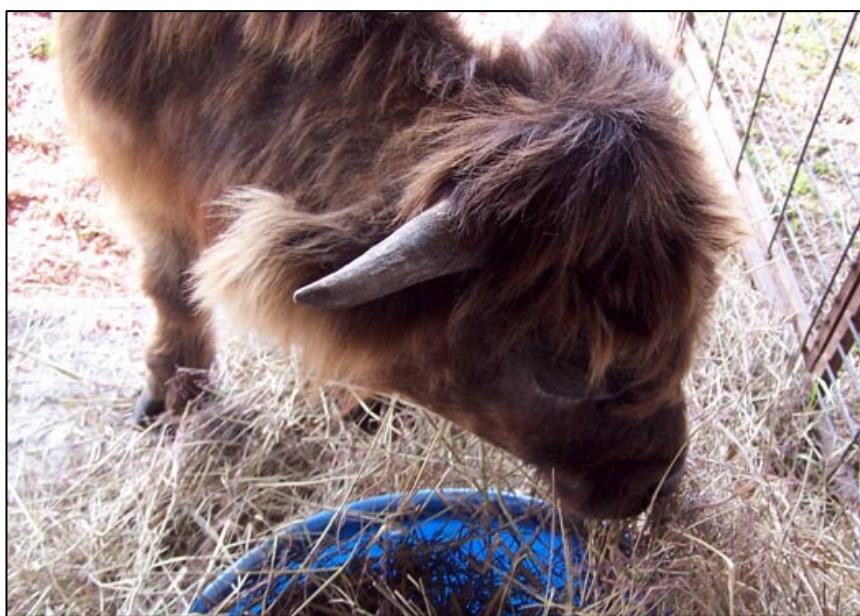
Friday morning started around 7:00am by loading all the equipment that it would take to set up the Sweet booth and the concession stand. Tables, tent, chairs, coolers, and all the food that would be needed for



The Parade of Clans begins!



Beth Bristow and Jean Reid enjoying Ken's performance



Vulcan was happy as long as the hay and range cubes were plentiful!

HHCA Fundraiser Success! from page 2

Friday afternoon had to be taken from Gloria's house to the park. From there we split up to collect all the odds and ends like water hoses, electrical cords, breads, bottled water, ice, etc. We even made a trip back out to Gloria's to bake biscuits and make gravy to be sold bright and early Saturday morning.

Returning to the park we caught up with our volunteer Jennifer Sutton who was in charge of selling Ice Cream and Gloria's famous Short breads and Rum cake along with Beth Bristol donated sweets like her wonderful lemon tart. We hit the concession stand to sell Coowich, Bratwurst, Franks, Bangers and mash among other things until 9:00 pm. Whew what a day. And then there was Saturday, hoping to be up by 5:30am, but not crawling out of bed until 6:30am we hit the floor at a dead run to find Gloria already hard at work heating gravy and putting all the beef items together that needed to go with us to the park that morning,(8 or more crock pots and at least 3 extremely large roasters and all the extra beef in coolers.)

Finally arriving at the park somewhere between 7:20 and 8:00am it was non stop. While serving biscuits and gravy our wonderful volunteers began to appear, and what a blessed relief they were. Now this is the fun part...to say thank you to Keith and Sherri Bakeman for helping in the sweet tent and with the cattle and helping clean up; Kathleen Collins and her daughter Brittany for helping in the concession and Dan Collins for also talking about the Highland cattle; and a big **thank you** to Jerry Delcour and Janet Melton, for doing a tremendous job at the concession stand and staying to help pack up, and to their daughter and our youngest volunteer who is great at selling raffle tickets and being an all around stand in where ever we need her, thank you Jerica.

After leaving the park at 6:00 PM we headed back to Gloria's and with help from my son Shaylin and his girl friend Kara we unloaded all of the food and part of the equipment. At this point I would like to put in a

*Jerry Delcour: hard at work!
Just kidding Jerry!*



*Ken Bristow: telling some tall
Scottish tales and playing the pipes*

special thank you to Gloria's neighbors for taking care of the chores, so we didn't have to. And then exhaustion finally won and we crashed.

Upon waking Sunday morning finding our selves slightly rejuvenated we began on the final day of work to wrap up the festival. We had to go back to the park and load all the hay bales that were used for seating under the tents and put them in the barn at Gloria's place. After leaving her house we drove an hour and a half to return borrowed crock pots from the Bristol's who were staying in Springfield, and ending at our own house around 2:00pm, tired but happy.

One final note to thank the person who pounded the streets and knocked on doors for the funds to put on this Celtic festival that in the end gives the Heartland Highland Cattle Association a very rewarding fund raiser, to the person who cooked and baked almost all the food for the concession stand, who generously supplies most the equipment that is needed to run the concession, a **big hats off to our Secretary, our friend and the biggest promoter of the Highland Cattle Breed, Gloria Asmussen-Wolfgang—without her this would not have been possible. Thank You!**

Stopping Pinkeye—Relevant in a Wet Summer

By Jordan Haymes, OFN

Several Highland breeders had cases of Pinkeye in their folds this summer. Here is some information on the problem.

With a wet summer coming to a close, pink eye is as much of a threat as ever. Pink eye, or Infectious Bovine

Keratoconjunctivitis (IBK), is a bacterial disease of the eye in cattle (though another form can be found in goat herds as well). The disease is usually not fatal, though the economic damages from decreased weight gain,

Please see *Stopping Pinkeye* on page 5

Foot Rot in Cattle from page 1

milk means less money to the producer. Additionally, treatment costs and the occasional animal with unresolving lameness represent further economic loss due to the disease.

Many of the southern states are notorious for hot, humid summers and that creates an excellent environment for the foot rot organism. Cattle out on wet ground or constantly walking through wet grass are at a greater risk of developing abrasions of the skin around the foot giving the organism opportunity to set up infection. Typically, a lesion develops in between the toes, the foot swells and lameness appears suddenly and generally affects only one foot. Many animals will recover without treatment but lameness will typically persist for weeks and the risk for joint involvement increases. In certain cases, if the disease is not treated effectively and infection does spread to local joints, recovery becomes much more difficult and prolonged. This will be indicated by swelling that begins to climb up the affected leg. If joint involvement does occur, your typical antibiotic injections are rarely effective and surgical draining of the joint is often necessary with extensive foot soaking and antibiotic therapy to follow.

First Time Displaying

By Tom Thompson, HHCA Vice President

The Farm Heritage Museum hosted its annual Heritage Days weekend event July 24-26 in Greenville, IL. This was the first year I was able to take animals to the event. I took a cow/calf pair and they were a big hit. The visitors really enjoyed feeding range cubes to Lady Eve and her heifer calf Silvie. All the visitors were a big hit to the animals as well. They soaked up the attention that was lavished on them.

I think the next time I want to put this pair on a trailer, they will hop on and be ready to show themselves to the public. They were both a little reluctant to get on the trailer Friday morning. Lady Eve had not been on a trailer in 7 years. This was Silvie's first time loading. It was like trying to load a small jackass at first. She was planting her feet and refusing to move several times. Once we got her on the trailer she was fine. Her mother needed some prodding as well. Two people pulling her lead rope and one person pushing finally got her loaded. They both did very well Sunday morning for the trip home. Silvie hopped on the trailer to get some range cubes. Lady Eve took her time but stepped on

Discharge from the feet of affected cattle is considered the source of transmission. However, the organism can survive for a month to several months in the environment allowing for future outbreaks.

Prior to treatment, foot rot should be distinguished from other causes of lameness. The foot should be cleaned and examined. If foot rot is indeed the diagnosis, prompt treatment with systemic antibiotics such as LA-200, penicillin G or others as prescribed by your veterinarian will often result in a quick recovery. Typically, prevention is centered on avoiding abrasions to the feet by minimizing time cattle spend on rough ground such as dried mud, rocky corrals and coarse, but hogged weeds etc. Additionally, reducing exposure to wet ground and providing a good mineral supplement (specifically supplementing zinc and organic iodine) may also help to reduce case numbers. A vaccine has been developed but seems to have produced mixed results and has not been definitively proven to be efficacious in the prevention of the disease.

I suggest focusing our efforts on improving environmental conditions and treating cattle early in the course of disease.

with out any fuss.

I enjoyed talking to all the people who came by the display. I was able to get the names of people who were interested in the Highland breed with a sign up sheet for information. Then I sent that to the HHCA Secretary and she sent all the inquiries the HHCA Informational newsletter and a membership directory. The majority of the people thanked me repeatedly for bringing the hairy cows to the event. Of course, as with any public event, there were many people who didn't know what they were and some people who just wanted to find fault with the cattle.

I did pass out quite a few brochures and literature to passersby. I am really looking forward to showing Silvie on her own or Lady Eve and her 2010 calf at next year's farm event.

I have found that once you make the commitment to attend and display at an event, you will get the bug and want to do more events to help promote and educate the public about the Highland breed.

Stopping Pinkeye from page 3

decreased milk production and treatment were estimated to be at least \$150 million per year in the U.S. alone.

According to Lance Kirkpatrick, a University of AR Extension agent, pink eye is a common disease affecting cattle of all ages, but is most prevalent in calves. "The infection caused inflammation of the tissue lining of the eyelid and the eyeball itself," he said.

It is important to watch out for the early warning sign of pink eye—which include eyelid swelling, redness and increased tear flow or excessive watery discharge from the infected eye. The cow may also be squinting the eye because of painful sensitivity to light and the animal is likely to seek shade or a darkened area.

Kirkpatrick encourages producers to treat pink eye early, immediately upon noticing the initial symptoms, in order to prevent long-term damage to the cattle, "because as the disease progresses a decrease in productivity will be evident as the animal grazes less as a result of the pain and discomfort caused by pink eye." If left untreated the animal will experience poor vision and possibly blindness, which lead to decreased performance.

The best treatment is early treatment. Kirkpatrick added, "Producers will want to use a treatment program that will care for and protect the infected eye as well as target the bacteria causing the initial problem." Some of the approved products to treat pinkeye include the long-acting tetracycline products (for example, LA-200, Biomycin 200) or tulthromycin (known as Draxxin), etc. These products should be delivered according to label directions in terms of dose and route. Kirkpatrick suggested 4.5 cc/100 per lb. of body weight. He also noted that antibiotics can be

administered to the affected eye by a topical application or by injection in the outer lining of the eye. (Though the latter should be done under guidance of a veterinarian). Talking to your herd's veterinarian is a good way to determine the best treatment plan for your cattle.

Kirkpatrick continued, "Pink eye is most commonly transmitted from animal to animal by face flies that carry the bacteria for up to three days after exposure. However, for multi-species producers, it is important to note that pinkeye is not transmittable between goats and cattle due to the different bacteria that cause the disease in each species."

Preventative measures to eliminate face flies are a good way to decrease transmission of pink eye between cattle. Face Flies are attracted to the excessive watering of the eye, so it follows that the flies occur more often when pink eye is present. Again, the quick spread of the disease is another reason it's important to watch for early warning signs and treat the symptoms early.

Kirkpatrick recommends controlling fly populations with ear tags, dust bags or pour-on meds. Vaccines are also available to help prevent pink eye. However, with vaccinations, producers are encouraged to consult with their veterinarian to ensure the product is being used properly. Also, some vaccines may require a booster dose to be effective the first year. It's also important to note that vaccines will help lower the occurrences of pink eye, but may not totally eliminate it in the herd. Kirkpatrick concluded, "Although it may seem time consuming or an added expense, treatment and prevention of pink eye may just be the key to increased production and profits when it comes time to market your livestock."

Report on the 58th Annual American Highland National Convention

By Keith Bakeman, Heartland Regional Director

The convention was held in Bozeman, MT June 18-20, 2009. 67 highland people enjoyed the fellowship, good food, illuminating technical programs and interesting farm visits. We even had a couple attending on their honeymoon. The weather was cool in the 50s at night and 60s to low 70s during the day with occasional showers on Saturday. The association provided a

supervised children's program for the periods that the parents were in meetings and educational programs. This was a great hit with the children and relief for the parents with younger children. The Heartland Highland Regional Association was recognized and congratulated for the fine job they are doing promoting



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Report from page 5

Highland cattle and increasing membership faster than any other region or the national organization. I attended the Governance Committee meeting on the morning of June 17th and the Board of Directors Meeting in the afternoon.

The Governance Committee had our final discussion led by Ted Hall on the Long Range Plan for the American Highland Cattle Association (2009-2014) developed by the committee over the past several years. This plan formalizes goals and action items for the board of directors to follow for the next 5 years providing measurement of action and success with the ability to modify the plan when appropriate.

Major Objectives

- Create a strong, self-perpetuating organizational structure and leadership team
- Sustain and expand our community of Highland cattle enthusiasts
- Foster a national show program that positively reinforces the breed's fundamental advantages as a specialty beef breed
- Promote the Highland cattle breed to both prospective breeders and to wholesale beef buyers and consumers

The “Summary” was the last part of the document to generate strong discussion resulting in these first two paragraphs:

Taken together, the programs outlined in this plan hold the promise of expanding and extending the role of the Highland cattle in the specialty beef industry, strengthening the formal and informal networks among Highland enthusiasts, and building broad awareness among wholesale buyers and consumers about the qualities of Highland beef.

The plan is intended to provide a focused, effective means for AHCA, its membership, and the breed to move forward in the coming decades. However, the plan is also an evolving document and it will be adapted as experience and new information is accumulated and reviewed. Its implementation at the local, regional, and national levels is critical to success. By adopting this plan, the Association’s members are expressing their collective commitment to do so.

I expect the 8-page plan will be published in the next Bagpipe for you to read in its entirety.

The Board of Directors meeting was orderly with the usual committee reports including the governance report answering questions about the Long Range

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Another Successful Educational and Promotional Displaying Year

By Gloria Asmussen, HHCA Secretary

What a year!!! The HHCA had a great year for attendance at many Educational and Promotional events, some were Scottish/Celtic festivals, and others were farm shows and events, Vacation Bible School event, Highland Field Days, Highland Seminar and Heritage Festivals.

These are events that HHCA members display their cattle and help educate and promote the Highland breed. The HHCA has a booth at these events with information on Highlands as well as the HHCA directory for inquiries about breeders near them.

Events attended by HHCA members displaying Highland cattle were in AR, IL, LA, MO, and PA. I am sure there were other HHCA members in other states attending events promoting the Highland breed that I don't know about. I want to **thank everyone** who helps

promote and educate people about the Highland breed. This year there were many more Highland breeders who helped promote and display Highlands. Check out the HHCA webpage Events page at www.heartlandhighlandcattleassociation.org for pictures of these events.

This is just one way for the members to get involved and help with promotion and education. The more people learn about the Highland breed, the more cattle everyone may sell and the more breeders we have owning Highlands. Also, by being a member of the HHCA, you get your Highlands and farm promoted at these events as well. Some of the farm/agricultural events had around 40,000-50,000 people attending with one day for FFA students to learn about the different breeds of cattle.

Please see *Another Successful... Year* on page 7

Report from page 5

Plan, the plan was approved by the board in a telephone meeting in early May so that it could be voted on by general membership at the annual meeting.

Discussion of the special responsibilities of the Regional Directors resulted in appointing a sub-committee of Dean Adams and Keith Bakeman to develop a list of responsibilities and to develop a training program for Regional Directors to be held at the next National Convention. The National Convention will be at the Michigan State University Kellogg cattle research farms in Kalamazoo, Michigan. This should be a great gathering and only a day's drive for most of us to attend.

A breeder in Washington asked if the association would like to join a grass finished beef study conducted by a Washington University with USDA funding to gain an independent analysis of beef nutrition, tenderness and flavor under different processing and aging periods. Highlands would be joining the study with Angus and Angus cross cattle. The board approved joining the study as it would create credible comparisons between the three categories of cattle, provide credible nutritional properties of Highland beef and the best processing and aging criteria for grass finished beef. We hope the University proposal will be funded with the results published in about 3 years. The Highland Cattle Foundation is, a 501-(c)3 tax exempt educational organization whose funds can be used to help pay for the study, if needed, and publish the information for member use.

The annual meeting covered a long list of agenda items with general approval of all items of business. The "Bagpipe" will cover the items of interest in the next

issue. One recommendation was to develop single day registration opportunities for local members or interested public to participate. The five, 1 1/4 hour classes related to cattle at Montana State University or the Highland farm tour are examples of good one-day events.

We visited Skip and Emily Hoagland's place for cookies and goodies during the farm tour. They were gracious hosts and Emily's goodies were delicious. We ended the farm tour at KG Ranch, a large Angus seed stock ranch that sold large numbers of bulls and bred heifers and cows at their ranch auctions. The fact that amazed me was they AI-ed all their heifers and cows. The foreman and the veterinarian take turns breeding 250 animals a day at the rate of 1 per minute with about 80 percent success.

The banquet was like a catered chuck wagon dinner at KG Ranch. The high point for me was the presentation of the Hall of Fame trophies for Dr. David Demuth and Lee Wolfgang. Lee's presentation was by Wally Congdon who had worked with Lee on updating the Association bylaws particularly for the portion concerning regional associations. He recalled Lee's love for Highland cattle and introducing them to the others and how well he and Lee worked together. Wally praised Lee's thoughtful writing that went into the bylaw changes and what a caring, friendly and helpful person he was. We will all miss Lee Wolfgang with his warm, cheerful smile.

I am your ears and eyes at AHCA events I attend and will carry your ideas and concerns back to the Board of Directors. Call me at 417-995-2002 or e-mail me at laughingsun@keinet.net with your ideas, comments, and questions. I will attempt to answer your AHCA questions or find the answers.

Another Successful...Year from page 6

Another success for the HHCA this year was the HHCA concession stand at the SW MO Celtic Festival in Sept. With the help of many HHCA members, the association profited \$759 for the treasury. The concession stand sold its original Highland Coowich and Highland BBQ, Bangars and Mash, Highland brats and franks. I want to thank all the members who helped with this undertaking as people always love the taste of Highland beef. It's just another way of making people aware of Highland beef and Highland cattle.

The fundraiser money helps the HHCA promote and advertise in many of the farm magazines and agricultural circulations throughout our membership states. Again another way the membership receives benefits.

Hopefully many more members will get involved with promotion and education of Highland Cattle and events next year. When promoting, just contact the HHCA Secretary for hand outs and brochures. These are also free to members.

Labor Day Highland Gathering

By Kathleen Collins with Beth and Ken Bristow

It turned out to be a beautiful day at Ken and Beth Bristow's farm near West Plains, MO on the Labor Day weekend. There were a variety of attendees, some who had Highlands and some who didn't. In addition to Ken and Beth, me, my husband Dan and our daughter Brittany, we were pleased that Dave and Ruth Embry, Gloria Asmussen, Greg and Sybil Roberts, John Maruska, Pearl and Junior Dominio, Jim and Jean Reid, Al and Kirstin Kosinski, and others could all be there for the sharing and fun.

The day's agenda items were: caring for Highlands on a small farm, alternative energy sources, and self-reliance during difficult and good times. These

discussions were conducted from lawn chairs 'round the patio under a partly cloudy sky with the "hairy coos" nearby.

Highlands on a Small Farm

Ken discussed how they manage their fold on their farm with emphasis on pasture care, rotating your Highlands to prepared pastures at the right time, and using a special hay extender. The hay extender, a balanced mixture of corn, grain, molasses, etc. with a minimum of 9% protein is used by Ken to add to the herd's winter food supply. He recommends two to four

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Labor Day Highland Gathering with food, conversation, idea sharing and good friends!

Selecting for Beef Production

By William Lipsey

Selecting and breeding cattle—some call it an art, others say it's a science. In truth it's a combination of both, with a little luck thrown in for good measure. Because cattle are raised in such dramatically different environments it is almost impossible to define the perfect animal. Because many important traits are antagonistic; calving ease vs. growth, productivity vs. longevity; it is difficult to select for one trait. And because Highlands are generally produced outside the "commodity market paradigm" it is difficult to set goals for the breed.

If you are a Highland producer intending to raise and/or sell your animals for beef, what should you look for? Is it worth spending extra time and money to select and improve your genetics? And what traits

should you look for? I talked with several highland beef producers, both small and large, to get some idea of what they felt were important traits and their views on selection.

Good feet, good udders and good temperaments were three constant comments. No one wants to have to trim feet or lose calves because they can't start on a large teat. Nor do they seem to want to be chased out of the pasture by an ornery cow. Most talked about wanting a moderate framed animal—1000-1200 lbs.—with good depth and spring of rib, one that will be hardy and an easy keeper. Another constant was productivity. A cow must raise and wean a calf every year.

When selecting replacements many talked about the first cut being an above average weaning weight. They

Please see *Selecting* on page 10

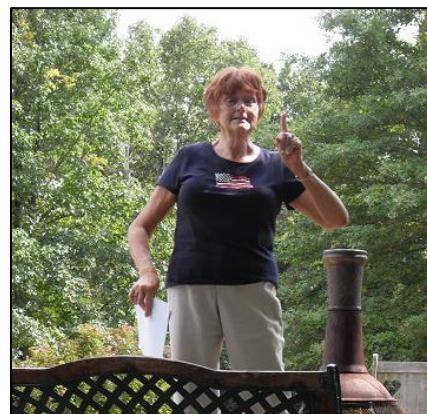
Labor Day from page 8

pounds of the hay extender per head per day. It is available in 50 pound bags. The Bristows buy all winter hay and feel that this hay extender is a good supplement at less than \$5.00 per bag.

Self-reliance: Food and Energy Production

I was asked by the Bristows to talk about our farm, Heritage Hills (www.TheHeritageHills.com). We moved from northern Virginia to Missouri because we needed to restore our health—both mental and physical (Virginia was a very stressful and expensive place to live). We researched slow-growing food animals which is one primary reason we settled on Highlands. Our Highlands do the clearing we can't do ourselves (we have some very steep slopes on the farm), they are low maintenance (I was not interested in pulling calves), and they are generally quiet and gentle (unless our bull is interested in some of the ladies in the next field). At our farm, we also have mulefoot hogs, a variety of chickens, turkeys, and ducks, horses and have recently added a Jersey cow for fresh milk and a short-legged Angus cow to cross with our bull for some faster growing meat. Dan and I also shared our research on solar and wind power combinations that could be a “best of all worlds” energy production system and which doesn’t

place your energy production eggs into one basket. When we brought up this topic, we were thrilled to find out that most of the attendees were looking into alternative energy sources as well and there was a lot of great ideas and information that were shared.



Beth sharing some of her grandma's sound advice



Ken plays, Tam (ahem!) sings!

Taking Care of You and Your Family

Beth presented a wonderful little booklet “Best Ideas and Recipes for Hard Times”, a compilation of recipes and home health aid handed down to her from her grandmother. Beth is now in the process of writing a book which will include these recipes together with a “how they did it then, and what are we doing now” book. In the meantime, if you are interested in receiving a copy of these recipes, please let Beth know via her e-mail: bethlasswell@hotmail.com. She provided a number of great recipes such as homemade laundry soap that is easy and inexpensive to do, home treatments that work for belly aches and head colds, and delicious recipe for pineapple cake and cinnamon raisin biscuits to name a few.

We all brought dishes and drinks to share. We enjoyed a juicy Highland/venison meatloaf, fresh homemade bread, a crock pot full of cabbage, salads of every kind, and, enough desserts to keep everyone happy. The day would not have been complete, of course, without tales from the Scotsman and tunes from his pipes. Even Tam, the dachshund got in on the gig—of course, he was singing “Oh Danny Boy” while Ken was accompanying him on the pipes! Talk about hooting and a holler!

Selecting from page 9

are looking for the animals that grow better than average, however not always for the biggest. Post weaning performance was also reviewed. Again they wanted the animals that are at least average to above average in gain. One producer has set a goal of having his animals finished between 18-20 months for steers and heifers at 15-16 months.

Carcass quality was also extremely important. Since these producers are selling directly to the consumer and not through the traditional beef commodity market, there was no talk of USDA quality or yield grades. Instead they were looking for carcasses that were tender, juicy and met customer demand.

A common complaint and concern amongst many of the beef producers is that there are too many substandard Highlands being sold. There is a strong feeling that breeders need to be more selective when keeping bulls and replacement heifers. Poor producing cows need to be culled. One breeder feels the overall quality and sale price of Highland bulls in negatively affected by the many substandard males in the current market.

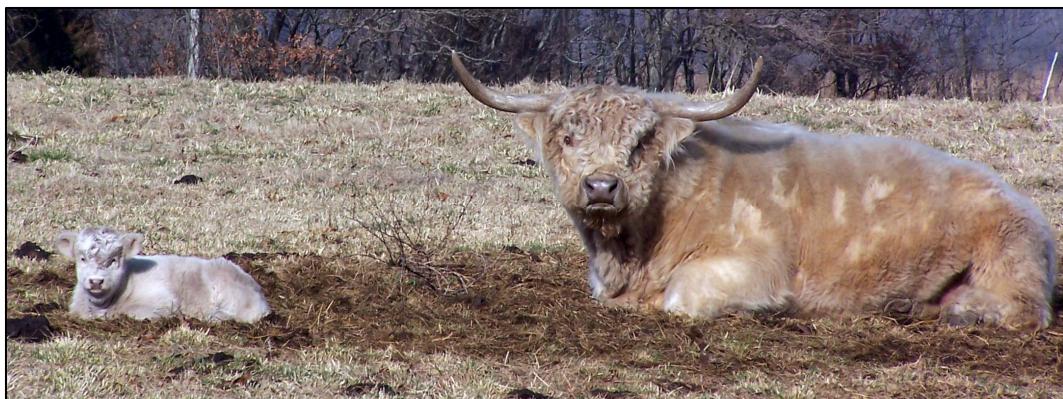
So how can a small producer utilize some of these ideas to help improve his or her herd? First of all walk out and objectively evaluate your herd. Do you have cows that are nervous and spooky? Do you have cows with bad feet/toes growing long that need to be trimmed? Do you have to help your newborn calves nurse? Are your cows staying in good condition on forages or do you need to supplement certain cows? Look over your calving records and see if each cow is calving every twelve months. Cows that have one of these "problems" should be scrutinized, heifer calves from those cows probably should not be kept as replacements and their bulls should be steered. If a cow has more than one of these problems then they should be culled, not sold to another breeder but culled.

Try to constrict your calving season to 60-90 days. This will allow you to better evaluate your calves. It is difficult to compare a calf born in January with one born in June; environments and feed will be dramatically different. Fill out your calving and weaning worksheets, as they will give you objective data on your herd.

Rotate your herd sire. Too many breeders go out and buy a bull and use him until he can breed no more. If that bull is used for ten years that means you are producing the same genetics you did ten years ago. Where is the improvement? If, instead, you were to keep the daughters of that bull and then get a new one, you have a chance to improve the genetics of your herd.

When evaluating your bull calves, be harsh. Is his dam the type of cow that you would like to have a pasture full of? If not, steer him. Does he have an outstanding disposition? If not, steer him. Is he above average in your herd for growth to weaning (205 days weight)? If not, steer him. Does he have desirable structure, muscling and breed character? If not, steer him. Then if you have gone through your calf crop and found more than three bulls that passed the above test—steer half of them. Ultimately, if that bull calf does not have something to offer to improve this great breed, steer him.

As owners of Highland cattle, we have a responsibility not only to preserve the breed, but to ensure that it has a bright future. That means we need to produce cattle that uphold the standards of the breed and meet the needs of Highland beef producers. Whether your goal is to be a seedstock producer, show or display your Highlands, or just have a few in the back yard, you should take heed of what these Highland beef marketers need and work to produce the type of cattle that will fit those needs.



HHCA Recipes

Send in a favorite recipe to share!
Send recipe to tomteesa55@yahoo.com

Italian Beef (submitted by Theresa Thompson)

1 roast between 3 to 6 pounds (this is a good one for the tougher cuts)
1 16-oz. can of beef broth
1 pack of dry Italian salad dressing mix
1 pack of onion soup mix

Put everything into a slow cooker. If cooking on low, cook for 24 to 36 hours. If cooking on high, cook for 24 hours.

Shred the meat and serve on crusty rolls with hot peppers.

Since this roast cooks for so long, cuts of chuck roast are good to use. Play around with the salad dressing and onion soup mixes. You can use zesty Italian, regular Italian, etc. Same with the soup mix—use mushroom onion, regular onion, etc. This is also a good way of making venison or pork roast. You can't tell the difference once the meat is done.



What's for dinner?

Forfar Bridies (submitted by Beth Bristow)

Pie pastry (can use two packages of pie ready pastry, pie crust mix, or make your own
One pound of Highland stew meat
1 medium onion, chopped fine
Small amount of butter or vegetable oil
1/4 teaspoon dried mustard powder
Salt, pepper
Beaten egg to glaze

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Chop the meat into very small pieces. Place in bowl with chopped onion, salt, pepper and mustard. Sprinkle with melted butter, or vegetable oil. Cut the pastry into 6-in. rounds (I use a small saucer for this), about 1/4-in. thick. Spoon the meat on to one half of each round, do not overfill. Dampen the edges of the pastry, fold to make semi-circles and pinch the edges of the pastry. Place on slightly greased baking sheet and brush with beaten egg. Prick Bridies with a fork to allow steam to escape. Bake for about 1 hour, or until golden brown. Serve hot with vegetables, or cold as a snack.

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Please remit \$20.00 yearly (12 month) membership dues to:
Heartland Highland Cattle Association
976 State Hwy. 64
Tunas, MO 65764

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact the Secretary, Gloria Asmussen at 417.345.0575

Board of Directors and Officers' Contact Information

Board of Directors

Year	Name	Location
2010	Jerry Delcour	Crane, MO
2011	Linda Betterton	Choctaw, OK
2011	Sondra Simons	Centerville, TX
2012	Alan Cameron	Minden, LA
2012	Greg Roberts	Marionville, MO

Officers

President	David Embury P.O. Box 465 Willow Springs, MO 65793 417.469.2411 lighteningridgefarm@socket.net
Vice President	Tom Thompson 615 Shompson Lane Pocahontas, IL 62275 618.669.2236 Tomteesa55@yahoo.com
Secretary/ Treasurer	Gloria Asmussen 976 State Hwy 64 Tunas, MO 65764 417.345.0575 highlandcattle@centurytel.net

Annual HHCA Membership Meeting

Please mark your calendars for our annual membership meeting on Saturday, March 6, 2010 in Branson, MO. More information will be in the next newsletter.

This is a great place to meet fellow Highland members and network with Highland breeders. Hope to see you there!



Calendar of Events

When	What	Where	Contact	Website/Email
The Calendar of Events is being compiled for the next newsletter.				
If you have any events you are planning or plan to attend with Highland cattle, please contact the HHCA Secretary with the "when, what, where, contact, and website/email".				
The more events we attend or display Highland cattle at, the more people we educate about the Highland breed and the better promotion for the breed and our membership.				

Classified Ads

See the ads on-line at our website

www.heartlandhighlandcattleassociation.org

Alabama

Reg. Highland Heifers & Bulls; great for foundation stock.

Hoover, AL 205.426.2086

tracey@www.gb3highland.com

Iowa

New crop of reg. Highland calves.

New Providence, IA 641.497.5499

honeycreekhighlands@yahoo.com

Louisiana

Reg. Highland cattle for sale; steers available.

Minden, LA 318.377.3121/ 318.371.1781

alancamvet@aol.com

Missouri

7 yr. old Reg. red bull & Reg. red yearling heifer.

Contact Greg Roberts Marionville, MO 417.744.1928 cell 417.489.0912 email sybilmcampbell-roberts@netzero.net

(2) exceptional white Reg. Highland heifers; 19 month old and 14 month old very docile

Gary Cheek, Fair Grove, MO 417.818.2255 email cindycheek@netzero.com

Weanling red Highland bull calf; docile, halter trained lots of interaction with humans; dob July 09.

Ed Bright, Gatewood, MO 573.255.3116

Silver Highland bull calf dob 2-12-09
Contact Heritage Hills, Ava, MO 417.686.1102

(2) Purebred Highland cow/calf pairs for sale; one heifer and one bull calf pair
West Plains, MO 417.257.0770 email gdeshazo@centurytel.net

Steers for sale: yearling & weanling steers-reasonably priced
Dadeville, MO 417.995.2002 email laughingsun@keinet.net

Purebred Highland bull calf born in spring 09 dark red color, eats range cubes \$550
Alton, MO 417.778.6009 email blackbellacres@yahoo.com

Highland cows & bull dispersal sale, moving to KS—good prices available, cows are pasture exposed to bull Competition, MO 417.668.7735 cell 417.664.2473 email skwiles@centurytel.net

(2) six month old Highland bull calves for steers \$350 each or package deal
Everton, MO 417. 535.7540 email ntimms@centurytel.net

Scottish Highland bull, LSR Toro Tesoro. for sale.. Proven bull
Woodhaven Highlands Pineville Mo 417-223-2246 blkpowder@olemac.net

Oklahoma

800-900 lb Highland steers for sale
Registered & Purebred Highland cows& calves available (2) yearling black Highland heifers
Allen, OK 580.436.5858 email cameronvanbuskirk@sbcglobal.net

Bred Registered Highland cow due to calf in Feb/Mar. \$1000
Choctaw, OK 405.391.5655 email cbetterton@cox.net

Kansas

Reg. Highland cattle for sale: great selection of bred cows, open heifers and steers.
Winchester, KS 913.774.7231
scattercreekfarm@grasshoppernet.com

Purebred Highland cows, calves, bulls and heifers available for sale: all ages and colors
Oskaloosa, KS 785.863.3596 or cell 785.969.9226

For Sale: Reg. & Purebred pasture exposed Highland cows and 09 calf crop
Troy Schroeder Albert, KS 620.923.4552 troyas@gbta.net

Texas

Highland bull calves; born spring 09
Gatesville, TX 254.865.4049
bustedbucket@att.net

(4) Highland bull calves for sale; can be registered, black colors
North TX check out at
www.aguaqujeta.com
972.962.8688 or 214.232.8825

Bannockburn Highland Ranch offers great selections of Highland cows, calves, heifers, bulls for sale
Doucette, TX 409.837.9707
blanlex@earthlink.net

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E-Mail:
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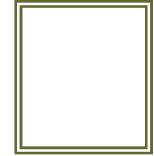
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