

May
2019

Bud Box: Cattle Handling Simplified

One thing that's a given in the cattle business is the occasional need to catch cattle for health care. Absent some minimal facilities (or very tame cattle), a producer can be in for a rodeo. You've seen those T-shirts, right? The ones that say "I'm sorry for what I said while we were working cattle."

One simple, do-it-yourself change in your handling facilities layout can pay big dividends in stress and time reduction. Its known as the Bud Box, and is the brain child of renowned stock handler Bud Williams, proprietor of the Bud Williams Stockmanship School.

The Bud Box is based on a working knowledge of cattle psychology. When cattle enter a new confinement area, the first thing they do is look for their escape route. Upon reaching the far end of the Bud Box, they will turn back and head in the direction of their entry, because that is a known escape route to them. Only by now, the handler has already swung that gate shut, which forms a wall in-line with the alleyway that leads to the squeeze chute or load out.

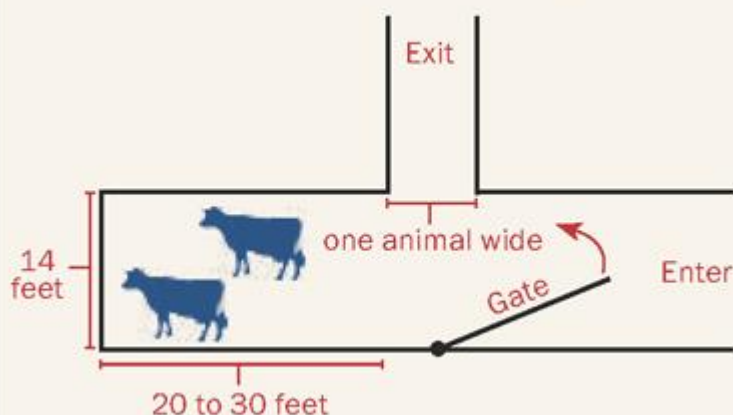
(Marked "Exit" in diagram).

Now as the cattle approach their point of entry in search of escape, they spy an escape hatch in the form of the alley opening, and since they are looking for an

"You never change your life until you step out of your comfort zone; change begins at the end of your comfort zone."

~Roy T. Bennett

A basic Bud Box design



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(Bud Box, Con't from pg 1)

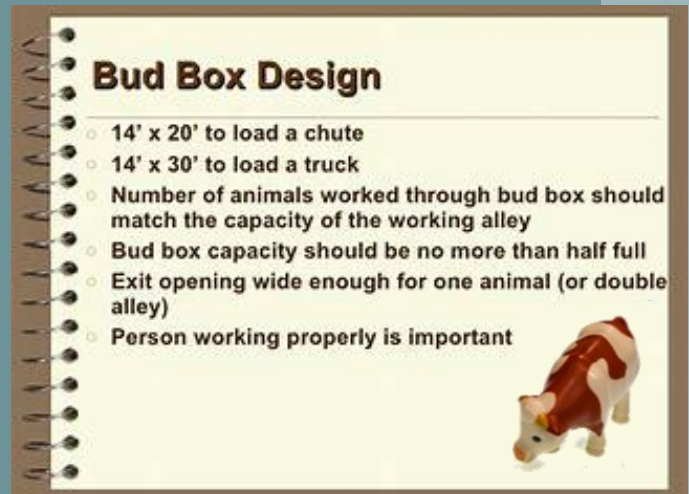
exit ramp, they happily choose that one.

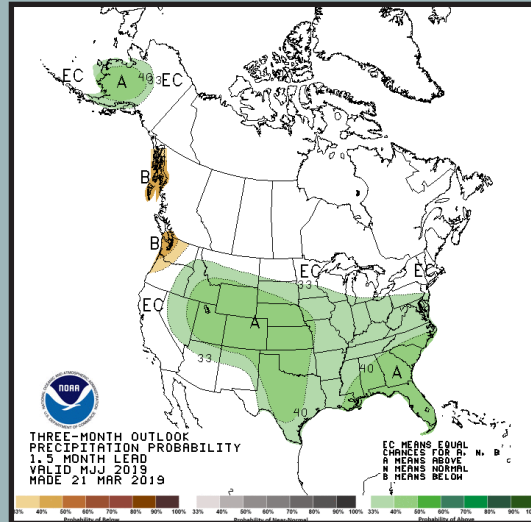
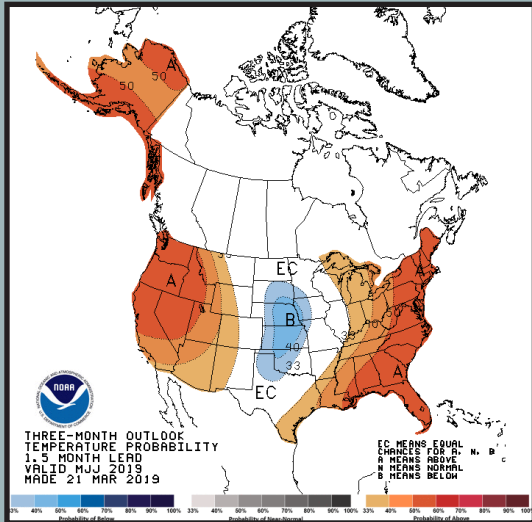
A Bud Box can be constructed of varying dimensions depending on intended use, but the minimum recommended size for working cattle on foot is 12'X20' when leading to squeeze chute. For loading out larger groups of cattle, they recommend 14'X28'-30 feet.

A Bud Box can be made out of portable cattle panels, post and boards, or pipe. Just remember that the more open the enclosure, the more looking beyond the enclosure the cattle will do. Board sides pretty much tell the animal right off that there's no way out, so turn around. You want to take advantage of their momentum. Also, do not drive the cattle back to the catch pen/lead up alley entrance! This is all on the cattle, so do not distract them by making them process added pressure by the human handler on the ground. Ideally, the swinging gate that divides the holding pen from the Bud Box would be sheeted with something that makes seeing through it impossible.

Important to note, do not allow any more cattle into your Bud Box than you can fit in your alleyway that leads to squeeze chute. You will just end up letting the excess back out of the Bud Box and into the holding pen that adjoins the Box. Also, the swinging gate that divides holding pen from Bud Box needs to be exactly in-line with the alley...don't attempt to make a wing wall or funnel from it. This will tempt cattle to enter the alleyway opening two at a time, and we all know what happens then.

Additional information on building and using a Bud Box is readily available at your nearest neighborhood internet search bar!





NOAA Long Range Forecast for May/June/July.
How's it looking for your neck of the woods?

Weather Variability, Forage Availability and Beef Cattle Productivity

Agriculture Research Services has kept copious records in the northern plains for many decades. Around 2011 researchers utilized the extensive ARS database to look for trends in weather variability, forage supply, and cattle average daily gains. The data available was so extensive it took nearly two years to enter into a computer program.

The study revealed that close to 2/3 of variation in Hereford cattle herds (for which they had long-running data available) could be associated with seasonal weather variations. As weather patterns shift from what ranchers have been accustomed to, learning to read the tea leaves and plan stocking rates becomes an important aspect of maintaining the operation's bottom line as well as protecting the ranch's primary infrastructure, its forage base. The best scenario for good gains during the grazing season came with wet winters followed by wet a wet spring, with moderate stocking rates. Warm, wet summers also provided good gains. (None of this is surprising, of course). The aim of the study was to see if readily available tools could be used to help producers plan their upcoming season's stocking rates, based on predicted weather patterns. In so doing, risk can be managed.

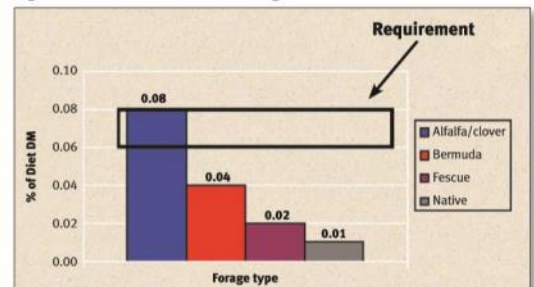
Pass the Salt, Please

Salt. As humans we are constantly warned about overconsumption due to its dietary prevalence, particularly here in the west. But for cattle, making their living off of pasture forages, their access to dietary salt is more restricted, and they depend upon humans to provide a source for them.

Salt is comprised of sodium and chloride. The mammalian body requires sodium for nerve transmission, and for shuttling nutrients back and forth across cell membranes. Sodium is required in significant amounts. Sodium deficiency will cause cattle to chew on abnormal things, such as wood and consume plants they might otherwise not eat. Further, sodium in saliva helps to buffer acid in the rumen during fermentation. One outcome of limited access to sodium is performance reduction.

The sodium requirement for cattle is between .06-.08% of dietary intake on a dry matter basis. The table

Fig. 1: Sodium content of different forages



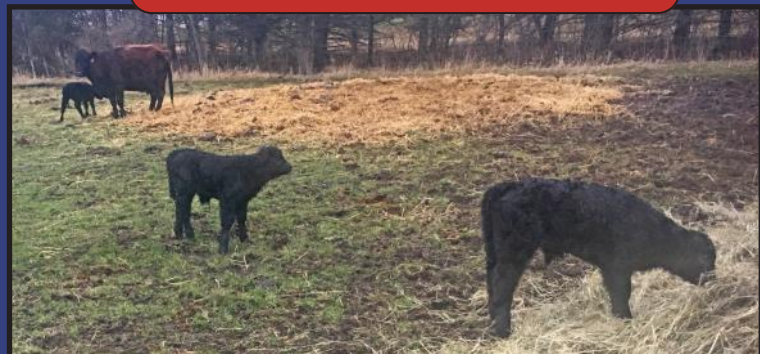
The 529 calves are arriving, and we like them! Give us a call to reserve yours. Available this fall after weaning.

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at left lists the sodium content of some common forages. Unless you are grazing legume based pastures, your cattle are counting on you to serve up the salt. The normal ratio of sodium to potassium in cow saliva is 20:1. If your cattle graze pastures on high potassium soils, their need for sodium will go up quite a bit.

Interestingly, most publications recommend feeding a mineral mix that has salt in it, as cattle will instinctively seek out salt, but have less instinct for taking in a mineral supplement to address mineral deficiencies. Producers are likely to have widely varying opinions on that conclusion however. Chelated minerals are definitely superior, with or without salt.

Color Coded Salt? Yep!

- White contains nothing more than NaCl or table salt.
- Yellow contains sulfur.
- Red contains iron and iodine.
- Blue contains cobalt and iodine.
- Brown contains cobalt, iodine, iron, zinc, copper, molybdenum, and manganese. Some brown blocks may also contain potassium and magnesium.
- Black blocks contain everything found in the brown blocks plus selenium.

(Courtesy of Utah State University Extension)

Most of our calves will be for sale after weaning this Fall. Stop in on your travels this summer and take a look.



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(Weather, from pg 3)

Changes in plant communities does occur, and can have considerable impact on cattle gains. The research looked at trends in invasive species, and associated cattle gains. Kentucky Bluegrass, which has become an invasive species in the northern great plains, is highly productive in the first couple of months of spring, but then goes dormant, providing greatly decreased nutrition, which then impacts stocking rate and cattle gains and pounds of gain per acre.



“After evaluating their combined results, the researchers concluded that livestock managers can use information about plant communities to determine how projected seasonal weather conditions will affect forage availability and, by extension, how to adjust cattle stocking rates. This will be particularly useful for producers who periodically want to use heavy stocking rates to optimize profits, since those efforts could be thwarted if seasonal weather conditions end up limiting how much forage is available to meet livestock demands.” (*Drovers Journal*, August 8, 2014).

Knowing your moisture levels going into spring and summer, your pastures' forage composition, and juxtaposing these against the long range forecast, may help you better predict forage shortfalls or surpluses, and how best to manage them.



The grass is coming up and soon we'll be out grazin', baby calves are spunking with cows trotting along behind 'em. Black, red and dun... Galloways on grass, that's what we're raisin'.

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In Memoriam

The Galloway family lost a long time breeder in October 2018. Keith Hanson, Mahnomen, MN, passed away October 31st. Funeral services were held November 5, 2018 in Mahnomen, MN.



Keith and his wife Barbara began breeding Galloway cattle in 1968, and built their Wild Rice Galloways operation into a significant herd. The Wild Rice moniker is found in dozens of Galloway pedigrees. He is survived by wife Barbara, two daughters Sue (Richard) Burnett, Victor, MT and Sherry Swiden, White Bear Lake, MN, as well as a brother, Lowell (Joan) Hanson, Missoula, MT.

Our condolences go out to the Hanson Family.

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4 MINUTES SIDE 1
2 MINUTES SIDE 2



MEDIUM RARE

SEARED OUTSIDE,
PINKISH-RED INTERIOR
5 MINUTES SIDE 1
3 MINUTES SIDE 2



MEDIUM

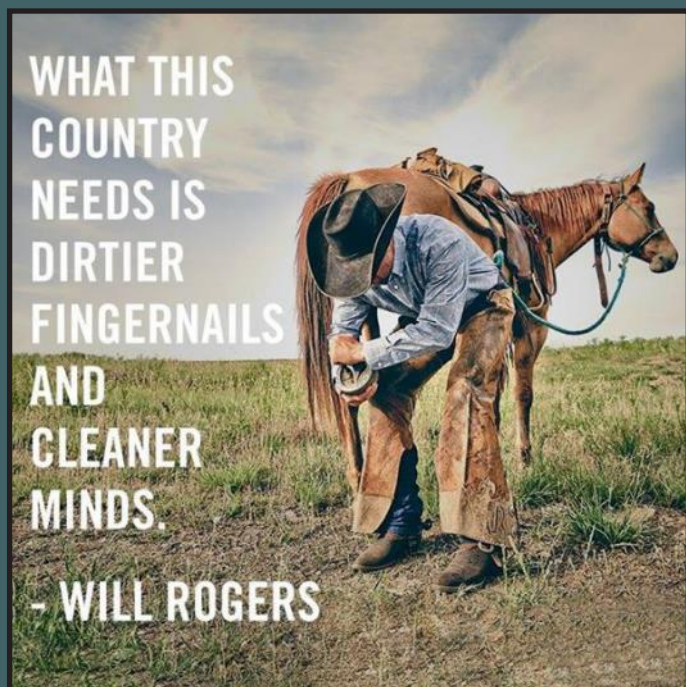
PINK CENTER
SURROUNDED BY BROWN MEAT
6 MINUTES SIDE 1
5 MINUTES SIDE 2



WELL

BROWN COLOUR THROUGHOUT
8 MINUTES SIDE 1
7 MINUTES SIDE 2





Comedy Corner

Driving through Texas, a Yankee tourist sees a real live cattle rancher and stops to talk. "What's the name of your spread?" he asks, trying to talk like a Texan.

"It's the Bar Seven, Double O, Rocking J, Flying M," replies the rancher.

"I bet you have a lot of cattle," the visitor replies, scanning the landscape on the other side of the barbed wire fence.

"Nope," replies the rancher, "Not too many of 'em survive the branding."

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Crockpot Salisbury Steak and Gravy

Gravy Ingredients:

6 oz sliced mushrooms
1/2 onion, sliced
1.5 cups beef broth
1 oz brown gravy mix
2 T ketchup
1 tsp Dijon Mustard
2 T parsley
2 T corn starch
4 T water



"Super Yummy!"

Directions

Place mushrooms and onions in bottom of slow cooker. Combine beef patty ingredients and form 6 patties. Brown over medium high heat, 3 minutes per side. Layer beef patties over mushrooms. Combine remaining gravy ingredients EXCEPT water and corn starch. Pour over beef and cook on low for 5 hours. Once cooked, remove patties and set aside. Turn slow cooker to High. Combine water and cornstarch, and stir into broth. Let it cook a bit til thickened. Return beef patties to slow cooker and coat with gravy.

Beef Patty Ingredients:

1.5 lbs ground beef
1 egg
1/4 C minced onion
1/3 C Panko bread crumbs*
3 T milk
1 clove garlic, minced
Salt and pepper

* Panko brand really does make a difference in this recipe!



Kaiser of Gnomes End ~
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Water Quality Matters



We had an interesting calving season this spring. We run two breeding pastures, two different bulls, turned out the same day. We also had severe drought for 12 months from late summer 2017 through mid-August 2018. In one pasture, ponds are fenced off and water is distributed through underground gravity flow. The ponds (3) in that pasture all went dry or nearly dry. We also have rural water in that pasture, and clean, quality water was available at all times.

In the other pasture, which is leased, there is one primary pond for the 135 acres, and a couple of lesser ponds. The small ponds were dry from the beginning of grazing last spring. The main pond continued to shrink in volume, and water quality was declining rapidly. Around the last week of July we began hauling water to this group.

Fast forward to the 2019 calving season, and the cows who were on the side with rural water all calved in the first 3 weeks of calving season which began Feb 19. The group from the other side, however, did not begin calving until April 24th, meaning conceptions began occurring once we began hauling water.

Anecdotally, we sure have to wonder if the water quality wasn't a factor in this odd calving season. I never noticed the bull in that pasture being ill or lame. A little perusing of research on the internet hints at Nitrates and Nitrites being detrimental to fertility in cows. Nitrates and Nitrites increase as cattle loaf around the edge of the pond, and wade into it to cool off, and their concentrations rise as water volume drops.

In our case, fencing off this pond on the leased pasture isn't very feasible. And thankfully, starting mid-August last year, we went into an extremely wet period, and all ponds are flushed and full. But if drought finds us again, and it will, we will be much more diligent about monitoring water quality in that pasture.

Water testing is certainly a good option and cheap insurance. So take it from us....if in doubt, take action.

Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)^{1, 2, 5, 6}

TDS (ppm)	Comments
Less than 1000	Acceptable for use in all classes of livestock.
1000-2999	Acceptable for use in all classes of livestock. May cause mild temporary diarrhea in animals not accustomed to the water.
3000-4999	Acceptable for use in most classes of livestock. May cause mild temporary diarrhea in animals not accustomed to the water. May result in decreased water consumption and poor animal performance. Poor water quality for poultry, especially turkeys, and could result in death.
5000-7000	Avoid using this water for pregnant and lactating animals. Can be used with reasonable safety for cattle. Decreased consumption and poor performance is likely. May cause mild temporary diarrhea in animals not accustomed to the water. Not recommended for use in working horses. Do NOT use for poultry.
Over 7000	Usually unacceptable for livestock use. Do NOT use for pregnant or lactating animals. Do NOT use for poultry or swine.

Nitrate Nitrogen (NO₃-N)^{1, 4, 5}

NO ₃ -N (ppm)	Comments
0-10	Generally safe for livestock.
10-20	Safe if used with a diet low in nitrates.
20-40	Could be harmful if continuously consumed.
40-100	Potentially toxic to cattle. May affect production and fertility.
Over 100	NOT recommended for use. Unsafe for cattle consumption.

World Beef Expo

Submitted by Jerry Stephens

The 2019 World Beef Expo in Milwaukee Wi will be held Sept 27-29, 2019. The Galloway Show is scheduled for Saturday morning, September 28th at 8:00 am.

There is a block of rooms reserved at the Quality Inn Suites Milwaukee Airport , 4488 S 27th street, Milwaukee Mi, 414-282-8800. Be sure and mention you are with the American Galloway Breeders' Association. The cutoff date to secure a room from our block is August 27, 2019.

For more information about the WBE and the Galloway show, visit worldbeefexpo.com. Please note the schedule listed at this time is from 2018, the 2019 schedule is still under construction.

Contact Jerry Stephens, 845-594-9749 or jerryuphillfarm@aol.com for more information!

2019 Annual Meeting

The 2019 Annual Meeting of the AGBA will be held in Milwaukee, WI, in conjunction with the World Beef Expo on or around September 27th or 28th.

You may want to reserve rooms now at the hotel of your choosing. They tend to get full during WBE time.

If you have questions about the Association, about the CLRC and/or registering and transferring animals, or any other questions, please do make a note so you can be sure and have them addressed during the meeting. If you feel you have an agenda item, please submit it to either the President, Eli Berry, or Secretary, Richard Serr. Emails and phone numbers are listed below.

Eli Berry 612-390-2249
email: eberryranch@gmail.com

Richard Serr.....509-258-6776
email: raserr@aol.com

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Bovine Trivia

(Because you never know what questions will be asked
at the next 4H Quiz Bowl!)

Y
O
FUN
T
H

1. The United States and Brazil are the top beef producing countries in the world
2. The average cow has more than 40,000 jaw movements per day
3. The salivary glands of cattle, located beneath the tongue, produce 50-75 litres of saliva per day! (13 - 20 gallons!!!)
4. Hamburger meat from 1 cow would equal 720 quarter-pound (100g) hamburgers, enough for a family of 4 to enjoy hamburgers each day for nearly 6 months!
5. More than 100 medicines, including insulin and estrogen, come from cattle.
6. One cowhide can produce enough leather to make 18 soccer balls.
7. Uruguay, New Zealand, Argentina, Australia and Brazil are the only countries with more cows than people
8. Cattle are thought to have descended from Middle Eastern aurochs, which were large ox-like creatures. The last auroch was a female that died of natural causes in Poland in 1627

President's Address

What follows is from Eli Berry, New President of the AGBA.

I want to thank all of you members and enthusiasts, who are taking the time to read this issue of the Galloway Dispatch.

I will tell you a little about myself, Eli Berry. Our family lives in Mora, MN. We have two adult daughters that enjoyed the farm life by participating in 4-H and showing cattle. One lives in Minnesota, the other in North Carolina. We have 2 grandkids.

My family got its start in Galloways in 1960. My dad, Claude T. Berry, purchased some Galloway bulls from the Ginthers from Lemmon, SD to use on our Hereford cows. He liked the resulting BWF calves and how they performed, and he decided to start in the purebred registered business. At that time we were in western SD. We moved to MN in 1965. We dispersed our Galloways in 1975 when we started milking cows to try to survive the low cattle prices.

I have been in the building construction business since then as well while helping operate our farm. In 1994 I became a building code inspector, I have been doing this since then.

I decided to get back into the Galloway business in 2008 by purchasing a heifer from Floyd Smith from WY and another from him in 2009. I used ET flushes from these to put Embryos into my commercial cows to speed up my restart with Galloways. We still use AI and ET regularly.

People ask me why I raise Galloways, and my answer is quite simple: "They are good cattle!" They will improve any cattle you want to cross them with, along with all of the other great qualities: Great Foragers, High Quality Meat, Winter Hardiness, and Good Maternal Instincts, to name just a few.

I was elected in October 2018 to be the AGBA President last October, 49 years after my father was elected to serve as the AGBA President.

I want to invite all of you to attend our Annual AGBA Meeting next September during the World Beef Expo in Milwaukee, WI. Location and time will be announced later. I would also encourage as many of that can, to consider bringing some of your Galloways along with you to exhibit in the AGBA show there. It is a wonderful facility to exhibit cattle in. The "Galloway Family" always seem to enjoy themselves and are always willing to help each other.

I know there have been some problems with registering our Galloways with CLRC. All I can say is, be patient as they are short staffed at this time. The AGBA board has directed the CLRC to set us up to be able to do our registrations online. Hopefully this will help speed the process up and help cut down on mistakes.

If you have any questions, complaints, or ideas give me a phone call (612-390-2249) or send me an email (eberryranch@gmail.com). I always enjoy talking Galloways.

Go Galloways!

Eli Berry, AGBA President

Remember your 2019 Dues


THE AGBA AND YOU

Have you paid your 2019 dues yet? Your support of the AGBA is extremely important. Much of the money you contribute by way of your dues goes toward promoting the breed through advertising, show venues, and promotional items available for individual breeders to distribute to your own customers and contacts.

Another idea to consider is banding together with a handful of other Galloway breeders who all share similar markets as your own cattle. Below is a screenshot from an ad placed in the January issue of Progressive Cattleman. The ad ran in three regions of the country, which was a cost effective way of using this large platform to reach cattle producers in geographic proximity to the Galloway producers who went in to sponsor the ad. This platform did generate inquiries!

YOU'VE WORKED HARD to increase the productivity of your herd and maybe lost some efficiency in the process. Now make those good cows better by using Galloway bulls. Take advantage of hybrid vigor in the coordinated calves - sturdy, good carcassing steers and replacement heifers. Those heifers will be the basis of an efficient, hardy and long-lived cow herd that will only increase your bottom line. Galloway have been bred for 500 years for just that purpose: high-quality beef from highly capable cows.

See us in the Yards at NWSS Jan 19-21



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Mailing Address

Memberships dues are now handled by CLRC. Therefore....

Mail Registrations, Transfers and Membership Dues to:

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Questions about, or Suggestions for the AGBA?

Great! Please contact the Director for your region, and discuss your ideas with them. You are a vital part of this organization, and each one of you brings a unique viewpoint to the AGBA. So please, don't be shy, and don't procrastinate. Same thing goes for any questions you may be mulling over about the Association, and its mission and duties. There's no such thing as a 'dumb' question!

Attention Annual Members:

If you are an Annual Member in good standing, your farm should be listed on the AGBA website under the Galloway Breeders tab. Go there and look! If your name and farm information are not listed, kindly send all pertinent information to **Richard Serr at raserr@aol.com**. Just the basics, look over a few of the other entries for the general idea of it. Also, if your address or email address change, contact Richard for website changes, and cc myself for changes to the Dispatch mailing list... renfarms@osprey.net

Are you receiving AGBA EMAILS???

We want all active AGBA members to be on our AGBA EMAIL List!

If you are a current, paid up member and never receive any emails from the gallowaybreeders@yahoo.com address, please email Michelle Blegen at blegengalloways@midrivers.com to have your email added to the list.

If you are a **member** and do not receive the Galloway Dispatch and view it online only, kindly send your information to Judy : renfarms@osprey.net and include your mailing address.

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