

May 2023



AGBA

AMERICAN GALLOWAY BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

American Galloway Journal



AGBA Directory AD sign up

Calving pastures & protein

Color sided Galloways

2023 Annual Meeting schedule



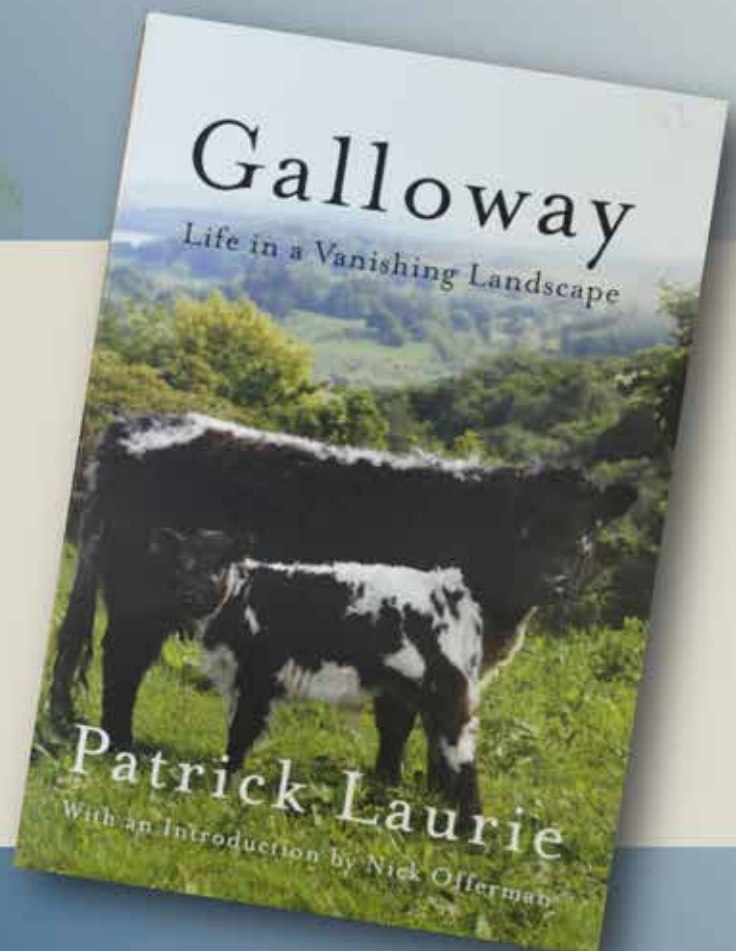
On the cover; a good looking bull calf in H5 Galloways' pasture.

My AGBA TO DO List

- ☒ Make sure my membership is up to date by heading over to clrc.ca/manage-my-account, or you can still go old school and mail a check up to the CLRC.
- ☒ Get in touch with Shawn or Michelle to get my ad in the 2023-24 AGBA breeders directory
- ☒ Order one of the last few remaining Galloway T-shirts, which include the Black pocket T's (1) Lg & (2) 2XL the Stonewashed Green - (1) Md (2) XL (1) 2XL
- ☒ Set a reminder in my phone to get a room reserved for the AGBA annual meeting in Minnesota



Here is an enjoyable read. Former AGBA President Joyce Jones, mailed me a newspaper clipping talking about this book, I ordered it right away and really enjoyed it. If you don't already know about this little book, the Author Patrick Laurie, a dedicated conservationist, has an amazing talent and walks you right into the landscape and atmosphere surrounding his farm in the Galloway region of Scotland.





AGBA is in the process of printing our 2023-2024 Breeders directory!

Get in on our most recent opportunity to get your name out there and be seen. Ad space is filling up but there is still room. We hope you will choose to participate again.

Our advertising rates for this directory continue to be very reasonable and this year we will be able to take credit cards for your convenience!

We will be including a SEMEN DIRECTORY within the directory. If you have semen that you would like to list on one or more bulls, the cost will be a flat \$35. DON'T LET THIS SLIP BY, There's always inquiries for semen!

Semen Listing Submission Date is May 15th 2023.

Ad submission due date is JUNE 1, 2023

Submit your ads to:

Hayley Leray at hleray@winston-publishing.com

Any questions: call text or e-mail Shawn or Michelle

Shawn Schumacher 406-799-0276 ckgalloways@itstriangle.com

Michelle Blegen 701-219-4815 blegengalloways@midrivers.com

***** remember to check your membership
and bring it up to date so that you will be
included in the membership section
of the directory *****



Calving Season

Part 1 (early lactation)

Most of us are deep into calving season by now, I talked to a few breeders about when they start calving and found most of them wait until May to start calving. May, it flies by with a blink and you missed it, from hardly any grass above 6" the pasture explodes into a virtual sea of wild and crazy plants, bugs, frogs, birds, fawns, calves, it's all going on in May.

I asked Rebecca from Ward labs for a bit of her advice about what we should be watching for on the early season pasture with the early lactation cow.

Q: What pasture conditions in terms of protein and energy considerations should spring calving producers be aware of?

A: I am sure we are all aware that when beef cattle transition from late gestation to early lactation, there is a spike in their nutrient requirements. Specifically, protein and energy requirements are increased to support milk production for the growing calf. So, do our spring pastures support this increase in nutrient requirements?

The answer is maybe. Pasture samples submitted to Ward Laboratories Inc. in March, April and May were analyzed by NIRS to determine protein and energy content. Most of these samples were submitted from Nebraska, Wyoming, Kansas, and South Dakota.

The protein ranged from approximately 2% to more than 25% with most samples providing between 5% and 16% protein. As a 1200lb gestating beef cow transitions into lactation, her protein requirement increases from 7.9% to 9.8%. So, spring pastures are variable and may or may not meet protein requirements. Now, if a pasture were to provide for example, only 8.5% crude protein, cattle would be receiving the protein they need during gestation but would be deficient and require supplementation during lactation.

The total digestible nutrients (TDN) is the energy value of the forages. Beef cow diets are balanced first on the protein and energy (TDN) content, then micronutrients. The TDN of pasture samples ranged from approximately 40% to 70% with most samples providing between 48 and 60% TDN. As a 1200lb gestating beef cow transitions into lactation, her energy requirement increases from 54% to 58%. So, again spring pasture grasses may or may not be meeting cattle requirements.

Another consideration is that in the spring when sampling new, rapidly growing forages, the available biomass may not be enough to provide cattle with the gut fill needed. Samples exceeding protein requirements were limited, but those forages high in protein are often also high in soluble carbohydrate content. This is the situation where pasture bloat may be a risk factor. To avoid pasture bloat, offering a more fibrous hay may work. Although, cattle may refuse to eat high fiber hay with the lush forage available. I would recommend allowing that pasture to rest and mature. As forages mature protein content decreases, fibers increase, and sugars decrease. Therefore, without easily available protein and sugar to the rumen microbes, pasture bloat risk is reduced. Timing grazing when forages more closely match nutrient requirements will reduce bloat risk and the need for additional supplementation.

The ability to estimate the available dry matter/biomass in your pasture a good skill to add to your repertoire. I recommend becoming familiar with a simple grazing stick. Grazing sticks can be used to estimate the pounds of dry plant material by measuring plant height. Grazing sticks also include simple math to help producers determine forage supply and grazing rates and periods.

Your pasture samples should be collected in a way that imitates how cattle graze. Going across the field collecting sub-samples while also taking various measurements with the grazing stick will allow you to evaluate the available forage while collecting your sample. Once you have results from the lab, you can determine how much forage is available to graze as well as supplementation needs.

continued



If a bale of good grassy hay is made available, the cows can somewhat balance their own ration and fill in as needed with the dry matter they may be lacking on spring pastures, calves eat it too.

increased protein and energy demands of calving and lactation is to collect a sample for laboratory analysis. Additionally, there is no substitute for visually evaluating pastures for available biomass. Understanding pasture nutrients will allow you to make the best decisions and avoid depriving cows of key nutrients, and over-feeding protein and energy, potentially experiencing an unfortunate case of pasture bloat or sub-par performance from your cows.

Rebecca Kern-Lunbery, MS, PAS
Animal Scientist

WARD
Laboratories, Inc.

4007 Cherry Ave.

Kearney, Nebraska 68847

Phone: 308-234-2418 or 800-887-7645

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In conclusion, the only way to know if your spring pastures are in a good state to correctly support your cows with their

BREEDING STOCK FOR SALE

out of these two herd bulls



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The Breed within a breed, within a breed.



Wolf, one of Kathy Engel's calves

There is no doubt that the flashy, boldly marked calf born out of your purebred registered white Galloway cow is a Galloway, but where exactly did that coat pattern come from?

This distinctively patterned calf usually displays a rough edged, white stripe down it's back, with the width of the stripe sometimes widening to encompass most of the rump. Sometimes the white wraps around the legs continuing along the belly. A roan face is typical, and if you are really lucky you'll get a little diamond shape below the ear. This calf is what's known as a Riggitt or "Rigged". A pattern created by just the right expression of an ancient gene nearly eradicated from the Galloway cattle. The pattern is believed to be named for a white rigging, thought to be a Norse name dating the recognition of the pattern in Scotland to at least as far back as the 14th century.

In speaking with a couple of long time White Galloway breeders, Joan Hoffman and Joyce Jones, it was evident that the pattern is still there in the Galloway blood, and that in their thirty something years of breeding they were each surprised with roughly 4-6 calves displaying the pattern. The boldly marked calves were sold as unregistered 4H calves or used for beef. There was no place for them in a white herd, and from a white park breeders perspective they are a mismarked calf and taken out of the gene pool. That splash of white down the back of a colored base coat is part of the White Galloway spectrum, and the interesting thing is that the pattern has been culled and selected against for hundreds of years yet it persists, giving us fleeting opportunities to see and appreciate this particular Galloway's spectacular fur coat.

The pattern exists in many cattle breeds and has been employed recently in the formation of a composite breed, the Canadian Speckle Park, but often crops up in British Whites and others.

In the times before cattle were collected up and sorted into breeds, and really just used for their human life sustaining attributes, such as draft, meat and milk, genetics of color patterns were readily shared amongst the wild cattle. If you had been a farmer in the late Middle Ages around Galloway or anywhere near the border between Scotland and England, you would have probably been subjected to the thievery of your livestock. Basically what we would call cattle rustling, at the hands of skilled outlaw horsemen known as the Border Reivers (robbers). A farmer may have collected a nice bunch of cattle and was happy with the genetics and the coat patterns they expressed, when they would be stolen under the cover of darkness. Stolen, and then run off through the woods, in the dark, down secret trails to hiding places. The farmer's stolen cattle were then thrown in together with all of the other stolen cattle.

Eventually after a border was created and times of farming in Scotland settled down the formidable solid black cattle of Galloway were selected from to be designated a breed, a standardized black breed. Solid black Galloway females were then and still are in demand for a cross with a white shorthorn bull that brings about the “Blue gray” commercial cattle still popular today. The focus then, as is somehow still today, on black and only black Galloway. During this breed building, the White Galloways were eventually acknowledged, but the variegated Riggitt was always culled.

The secret genetic language of the Riggitt pattern is complicated yet worth the researching, after which you may end up knowing more than when you started, but still mostly confused.

Kathy Engel, a cattle person who has been patiently pursuing the Riggitt pattern helped to explain some of the basic points to take away from the information overload you may experience on first researching the topic. She explained that “the color sided Cs29 mutation/translocation is a mechanism for duplicating copies of segments of dna, and moving those segments and the information the segments include from one part of the genome to another.”

She continues with “Without getting into the gruesome details, it’s very important to understand that moving these extra copies of genetic code can change the signaling for events downstream from the insertion, deletion, or translocation. These modifications are important mechanisms for inheritance flexibility.

And, she concluded, by putting what should take many pages to describe into very small nutshell, explaining that “There is an entire gene network involved in domestication and among the genes targeted is the KIT gene. KIT is involved in signaling the growth, survival and differentiation of germ cells (reproduction), mast cells (immune and neuro-immune system), blood cells and melanocytes. Melanocytes are pigment producing cells.

When the KIT gene is down regulated, one consequence is that the timing of melanocyte migration is impaired and pigment delivery to the hair follicles is interrupted. The interruption or delayed reception of pigment results in patches of white, or unevenly pigmented hair. In a perfectly marked White Galloway, the signaling pathway for melanocyte migration is blocked over the entire body except the extremities. Depending on the dosage of KIT duplication involved in the Cs29 mutation/adaptation, color expression varies from solid black, red or dun to speckled, to color sided Riggitt, to White Park with distinct or faintly pigmented points.

Copy number variation enables the genome to interact with environmental stress at both the individual and lineage levels. Selecting for uniformity is how breeds are traditionally established, but there are fitness trade-offs. The non breed sanctioned color phases of the White Park pattern might hold adaptive advantages that we are culling out in the pursuit of an idealized phenotype. Circular bits of translocating KIT DNA are indigenous gene editors; splicing ancient KIT signaling pathways back into DNA reduced from its original instructions for fertility, camouflage, attention to sound and acute visual awareness. (dumbed down domesticated DNA)

The Riggitt stripe is not a recently introduced characteristic; it is among the very oldest distinctions of a friendly animal that has not yet lost the genetic intelligence of freedom.



Ladywells Farm Riggitt calf

Maybe it could be referred to as a mutation, biologists prefer to classify it as a translocation, translocation of a part of a gene from one location on the gene into another. Genes, proteins, alleles, switches, reading material where the scientists use all of these terms, sometimes interchangeably, can be a bit like getting lost out in the weeds and trying to find your way back to where you came in. If you are not familiar with all the technical jargon, you are not alone. Big picture is a KIT gene became altered, and it translocated some of its pigment making codes into a different location on the gene and maybe copied itself a few times. The white park is a "color sided" animal and that gene that creates that is labelled with a Cs, so when these genes start to interact and work together we get a Riggitt pattern

Genetics are amazing, resiliency is a trait we love about our Galloways and it is a resilient KIT gene that has kept alive the Riggitt pattern to this day, even though the pattern in Galloways was nearly eliminated. Luckily some folks have decided to help keep alive the beautiful and mysterious pattern and have undergone the task of trying to make the unpredictable, predictable.

Riggitt Galloway societies in New Zealand and in Dumfries have formed and their dedicated members have teased out the hidden color sided genes and set up herd books for the cattle. On our side of the pond, but north of the border in Alberta, the Canadians have a Galloway trailblazer by the name of George Ramsay. George has been hard at work to develop a herd of Riggitt Galloways. After buying his first "Canadian White Galloway" bred cow, she went on to deliver a couple of good Riggitt bulls. The first one, a piece of good luck, became Ladywells Jester 21J, and the second Riggitt bull calf out of her was named Ladywells Uncommon 37U. Since then he has been crossing his whites, reds and blacks, slowly uncovering the generally heterozygous pattern. He has now a herd of about 40 Riggitt breeding females and semen on 7 Riggitt bulls and is looking forward to the possibility that he may have created his first bull that is homozygous for the pattern.

George grew up on a dairy farm in northwest England where he says, he could look out his bedroom window on the attached hill in Scotland's Galloway region.

He shared the childhood recollection of his father buying a black Galloway bull to use on the family's mostly Ayrshire heifers, probably to get a little more beefy calf out of the unproven heifers, he can't remember for sure but says "that was when I first liked Galloways."



Ladywells calf



Ladywells cow & calf

George has spent the last few years working with the Canadian Galloway Assn. to fine tune the "Canadian White Galloway" herd book rules, whereas in the past a Riggitt pattern was relegated to the most heavily colored classification of a what is supposed to be a white breed, he has now formed a "Riggitt Galloway" classification for the beautifully marked animals that truly are a part of the White Park genetic spectrum. At George's home place, Ladywells Farm, it's nearly raining Riggitt calves, eye catching calves that many of us in the US would love to find surprising us in the spring grass.

Employing some embryo transfers, semen collection of a few good Riggitt bulls, and recipient cows, the work of proving of his theory about the pattern's existence in his cattle and the predictability of a patterned offspring was consolidated. George was able to do in 24 years what would have taken much longer if only raising the Riggitt calves through conventional breeding. An especially hard to come by color pattern can now be put on the fast track to notoriety.

The market for the gorgeous color sided Riggitt Galloway just improved a whole bunch in Canada, since it became functional through the CLRC the CGA has registered about 130 Riggitts, many of them to reclassify animals that had been previously registered under the "White" classification. George reports shipping Riggitt Galloway embryos and semen around the world.

It has been said in a few of our AGBA board meetings that we could do the same but for a committee willing to work on the project, if you'd like to see the potential for registering Riggitts become reality, start talking to the board of directors, and or each other to prepare something you'd like to see brought up for a vote at the AGBA annual meeting this fall.



Ladywells Farm

Many thanks to Kathy Engel & George Ramsay for providing so much information on this story and for working so hard to realize The Riggitt Galloways.

AGBA Annual Meeting 2023



Where: Fountain, Minnesota, hosted by Brad & Leslea Hodgson

When: Wednesday, October 4th, 2023

Tentative schedule: Wednesday get together for two farm visits one at Bar R Galloways, with a Lunch and another Galloway herd at Root Prairie Galloways, a little down time and then an evening meal with the Annual Meeting following around 6-7 pm.

Southeastern Minnesota has many opportunities for hiking, fishing, sightseeing. Fountain, is the trailhead for the Root River state bike trail if anybody wants to try our trails, no shortage of bike rentals in Lanesboro. There is really nice state park for camping, Whitewater State Park, is only about 14 miles north of us here. Lanesboro, about 10 miles from us, offers camping in a very nice city Park along side a little stream within walking distance of downtown. Lanesboro is also full of B&Bs if that suits you better.

Thursday is open for suggestions, if anyone wants stick around and go Trout Fishing on a

Minnesota stream Brad can guide you to his favorite piece of stream, there is also a trout stream in Whitewater State Park. Or do as you like. Lanesboro Sales Commission has a Friday sale or Decorah, IA has special feeder sale on the 5th about 50 miles south of here.

If you plan to fly in, Rochester, MN 25 miles north of us, has a fairly large int'l airport and LaCrosse, WI is one hour east of us.

LODGING: There are 12 rooms blocked out for American Galloway Breeders Association UNTIL 30 days prior to the meeting so they are blocked through September 3rd, at:

**Country Trails Inn & Suites,
Hwy 52 north, Preston, MN
507-765-2533 or 888-378-2896**

You can call Leslea if you have any questions at 507-993-3765 or email hodgsonranch@aol.com

Hope to see you here!

RSVP will be appreciated.

*Hard
to
Beat!*



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Bar R Galloways

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Champion Carcass Bar R Daphne 33H



Something to Consider here... There has been a proposed change to the AGBA's current by-laws, this proposed change would give voting rights to **NON ACTIVE Honorary Life Members**.

Current Bylaws:

Section 2. **Class of members.** The Association shall have four classes of members, one voting class and three non-voting classes. The designations of such classes and the qualifications and rights of the members of such classes shall be as follows:

A. Voting Members.

Active member.

Any reputable breeder of purebred Galloway cattle, registered with this Association over the age of eighteen (18) years, shall be eligible for Active Membership. A member shall be considered to be inactive if he has not registered animals for two or more consecutive fiscal years or if his dues are in default.

B. Non-voting Members

(a) Associate Member. Any otherwise eligible person or entity not meeting the requirements for Active Membership shall be eligible for Associate Membership

(b) Junior Member. Any individual under the age of 21 years, who is an active breeder of Galloway cattle, may apply for Junior Membership upon the payment of one half the regular membership fee. Junior Members do not pay annual dues until age 21. During the fiscal year in which a Junior Member reaches his 21st. birthday he will automatically be transferred to Active Membership upon payment of the annual dues.

(c) Honorary Life Member. Honorary Life Membership shall be reserved for persons who have made outstanding contributions to the promotion of the Galloway breed and/or to the Association. Honorary Life Members shall be nominated by resolution of the Board of Directors and elected by the members at their annual meeting. Honorary Life Members shall not be obligated to pay membership fees or annual dues.

Proposed change to the eligibility requirements for voting rights:

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Currently there are no Honorary members. It is possible that a breeder could be an active member, and then also become a honorary member simultaneously and then, be rendered ineligible to vote. The definition of ACTIVE MEMBER needs to be amended to include some iteration of (a) Active Honorary or (b) Active Regular member. Section B. Non - Voting Members would retain the (c) Honorary Life Member but add the prefix "Non- Active" for the Honorary Life Members that are no longer registering Galloway cattle.

The change as it is purposed, would give voting rights to honorary members who potentially pay no dues and register no Galloways.

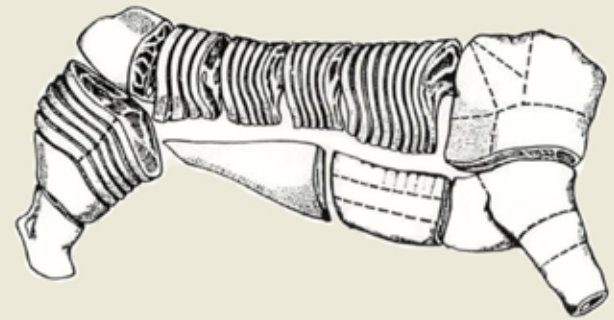
Meat to bone Ratio, another Unfair Galloway Advantage.

Selling beef directly to the consumer is not a competition free zone. Our Galloways give us one unfair advantage in their incomparable flavor but, unless you are in a market where your customers are throwing as much money at you as you'd like for your beef, it is important to keep records and evaluate your Meat To Bone Ratio.

Meat to bone is the percentage of product you, or your customers take away from the carcass. To get a handle on how your cattle do in this regard try to "standardize" your cutting orders, as in; do you usually ask for boneless steaks & roasts or bone in cuts. If for instance, you count the heart, tongue, tail and liver on one and not the next your percentage will vary by quite a bit. How much fat was trimmed is another large factor in this percentage. Galloways really shouldn't have too much excessive fat to trim, that is one of our selling points.

Make note as to who the animal was out of, how old the animal was etc. After that, take photos and study your beeves while they are still walking around and as they grow, soon you'll an eye for "the good ones".

12 months of age is a good time to evaluate for this quality as well as observe whether or not they tend to be early maturing. The Galloway bull above is May born, 12 months old, weaned in February. He would be considered good.



We do share our Genetics!

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WN Django

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Eli Berry Mora, MN 612-390-2249 eberryranch@gmail.com

Behind the Booth

Getting Ready for Farmers Market meat sales in Ohio



Market season is upon us, getting up early and packing the van with our tent, table, sign board and freezer has become our Saturday mornings. I wish I could say it's that easy, but there is so much to do before you set up the tent. Many tasks need to be accomplished to sell retail beef and become a vendor at a local market. Meat processors appointments, packaging, labels, licenses, refrigeration, booth design and most of all, location of the market.

Plan ahead, check your steers and book processing appointments at a USDA or state inspected facility. Choosing a processor with a great reputation that vacuum packs and provides labels is a must. Special labeling, such as Grass Fed, requires government paperwork and time to receive the permit. One pound packaging for hamburger, stew meat, and smaller cuts sells the best for us. Check out the cut sheet paying attention to, bone in and boneless. We have found in our area bones for broth in small packages are very popular. Knowing your consumer is part of fine tuning your sales.

Selling your beef directly to the consumer requires applying for a mobile food license for farmers market or a farm license to sell from the farm. This is where the decision is made to sell directly from the farm or at the farm market. We had to have a farm inspection of our freezers and location approved by the state ag inspector and receive a mobile food license from the county. That allows us to sell anywhere in Ohio, at farm markets or out of our van or off the farm.

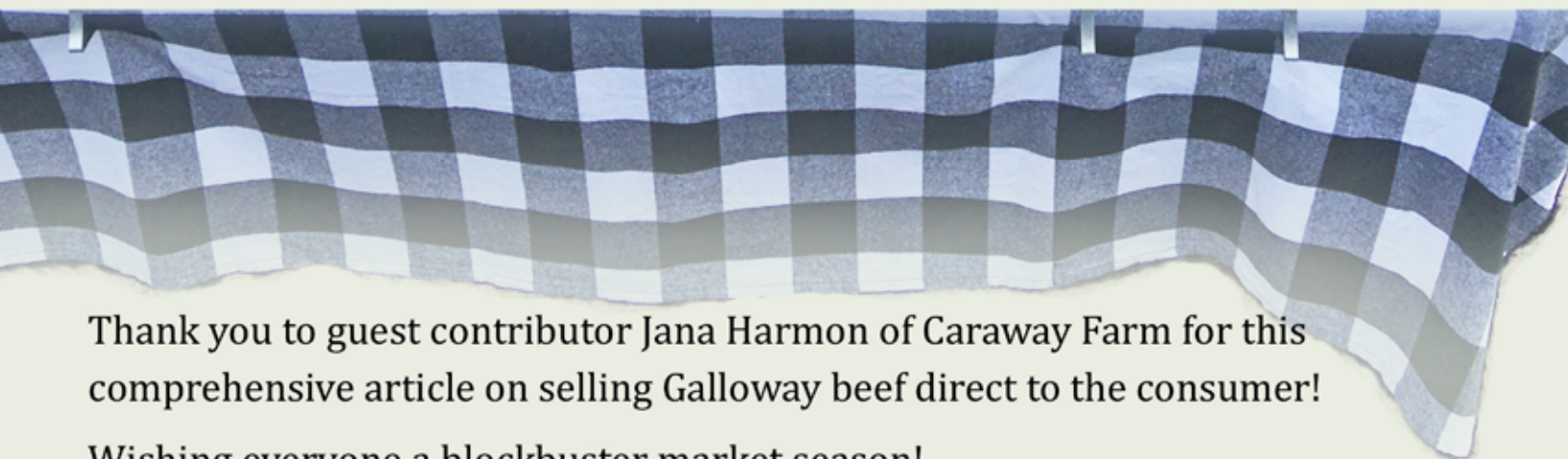


The next license is the county health district. Apply for the permit and license to sell at the farmers market. Your freezer must be inspected for temperature control and may need to be plugged in or use a generator to ensure proper cooling of your meat. Every state has different requirements, check ahead and start early to make sure you're ready for spring. Renewal is much easier every year.

License in hand, time to design and set up marketing in your booth. Information handouts about your farm and production, pictures of the farm and cows, business cards, price board and signage all go into making the booth inviting and informative. Bags with farm labels are a great way to send info home with the consumer too.

Now that the booth is set, how do we receive payment for the beef? We use cash or Square. Square takes all credit cards but there is a processing fee. It connects to your phone to process or you can purchase a terminal to use. A new way to process is with Clover. Clover is being offered through Farm Bureau Bank. It's a business management tool that allows users to accept many types of payments, protect the business from fraud and manage the merchant account. Just like square funds are directly deposited into your bank account. Farm Bureau members with a business are eligible for discounts on transaction fees. For more info go to ofb.ag/clover.

Selling to your customer at market needs to be easy and quick and calculating price per pound can take time, rounding up your price per pound to the nearest dollar or half dollar makes calculating the price easy and also you need minimal change for cash sales. Also recording sales and keeping records is less work. We print out the Wholesale to Consumer Price List put out by the USDA Grass Fed Beef price sheet monthly to watch the market prices, direct to the consumer. We take the average for the Midwest and use it to set our prices. We try to keep our prices consistent and change only quarterly.



Thank you to guest contributor Jana Harmon of Caraway Farm for this comprehensive article on selling Galloway beef direct to the consumer!

Wishing everyone a blockbuster market season!

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