

## Galloway and Grazing

The grazing habits of Galloway cattle have long characterized as more, well, *eccentric* than other cattle breeds. I recently put out a call to breeders to share some of the 'unpalatable' or 'inedible' range plants that they have noted their Galloway consuming over the years.

Sarah Bowman, Hang 5 Galloways, Parkman, Wyoming, reports that she routinely finds her Galloway cattle consuming Common Burdock, Canada Thistle, Big Sagebrush, Silver Sagebrush, Choke Cherry, Hawthorne, Marsh Elder and Buckthorne. She comments that having cattle that will graze these sagebrush's is a big deal in the West due to the serious competition they pose to grasses. She included a photo that shows a clear line of demarcation where sagebrush was completely consumed in a winter feeding ground. (see pg 12)

Harley and Michelle Blegen, Blegen Galloways, Kindred, ND, shared a list of weeds and trash grass that their Galloway and Galloway-cross cattle eat regularly: oxtail, pond weeds, buds of bull thistles, cattails, sowthistle, wormwood, mustard, marestail. And that's just the ones they know of!

Our own experience here at Renaissance Farms Ltd, Emporia, KS, is that our Galloway readily graze tall dropseed, *Sporobolus compositus*, during late August and into September, a time at which the grass is beginning to seed out and dry down. Grab a handful of it

*August 2014*

"Duty makes us do things well, but love makes us do them beautifully."  
 -Zig Ziglar

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## GALLOWAY FETAL CHARACTERISTICS

One day a few years ago, I got to thinking about how embryo sizes might vary between cattle breeds. My basis for this was having been to the vet with some females to preg check. I knew the breeding date for a couple of them, and when the bull was removed. Our vet is exceptionally good at early palpations, but when a couple came back as 'younger' than my records would have indicated, I idly wondered if conceptus size varies among breeds, much like birth weights do. So I went on a Google Hunt, and soon realized that not many in academia were as curious about this topic as I. But I did land on, and save, an interesting, small research project conducted by German and Chinese researchers. **The article can be found here: <http://www.ajas.info/upload/pdf/21-90.pdf>.** (What follows is an attempt to summarize the research in generalized terms. Data has been converted to chart form by me.)

This study was fascinating in that it measures several physical parameters at gestation points of 3 months, 6 months and 9 months. Germany is one of the few places I have found that actually uses Galloway cattle in their beef cattle research. In this study (as in others they have done) the research is looking at traits across 4 different types of cattle. The paper describes them as: The common beef animal, German Angus, the Friesian Holstein, a dairy beef breed, the Belgian Blue, for its extreme

muscling, and the Galloway, designated as an 'environmentally resistant' producer of beef.

The study involved measurements of body weight (BW), individual organ weights, foreleg length and weight, total fat, and weights of two muscles - the eye of round and the bottom round. These measurements occurred at 3 months, 6 months and 9 months gestation. Nine month gestation subjects were newborn calves, 3 and 6 month specimens were collected when the cows were slaughtered at the appropriate gestation length and the fetus collected.

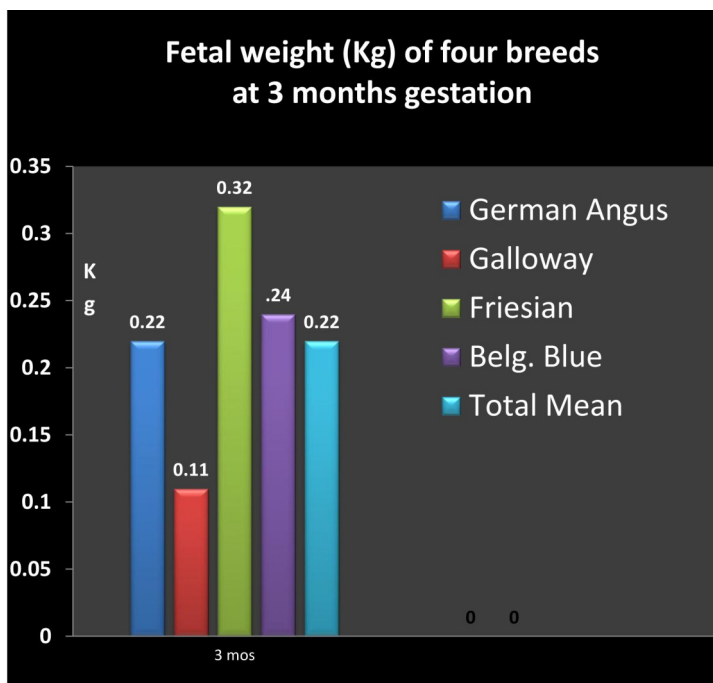


Chart 1

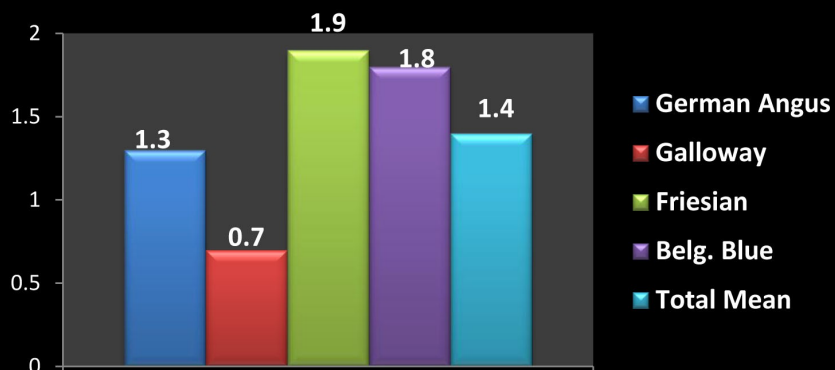
above show Galloway to have actual values noticeably lower than the total mean of the 4 breed

## Fetal Characteristics, cont. from pg 2

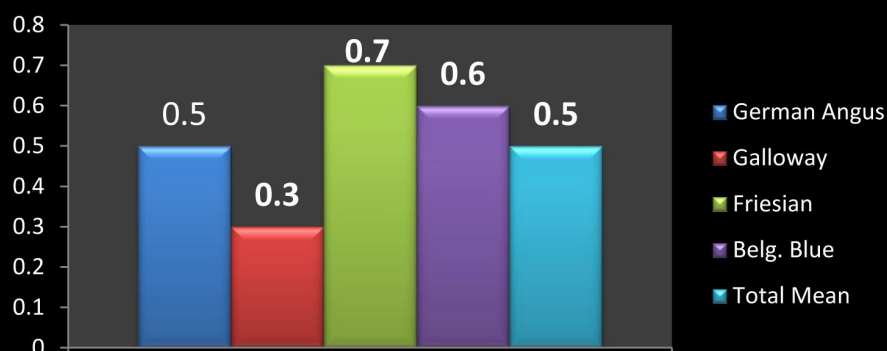
values for nearly all measured parameters. For an example of this, and one that does hint a bit at my original question regarding early embryonic size differences amongst cattle breeds, see Chart 1. (For a peek at the other raw data in chart form, see page 5.

When the values for eye of round

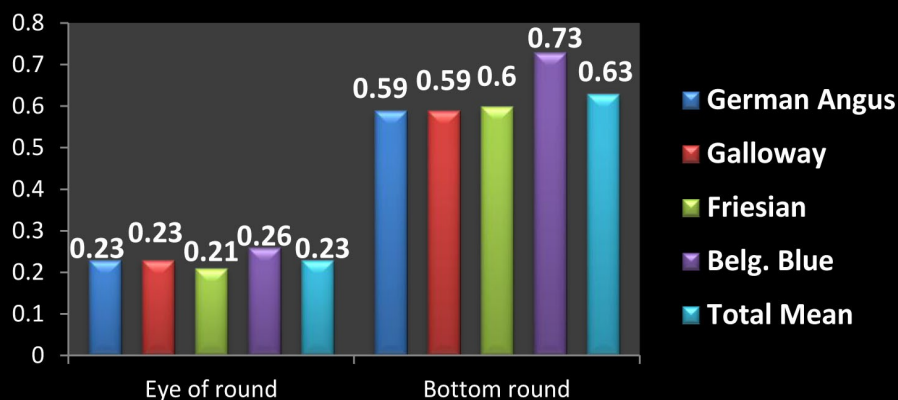
### Fetal bottom round weight (g) of 4 breeds at 3 months gestation



### Fetal eye of round of 4 beef breeds at 3 months gestation



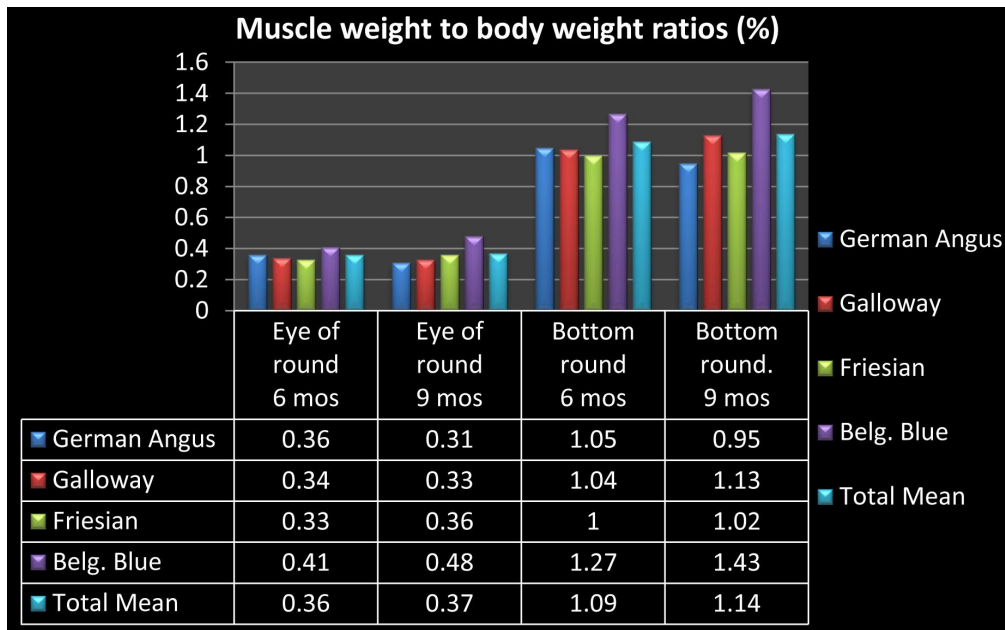
### Muscle weight to Body Weight ratios (%) in 4 breeds at 3 mos gestation



weight, bottom round weight, and total % fat are compared to total body weight (BW), the results are intriguing in that most of the weight or percentage discrepancy vanishes. When individual muscles are compared to total body weight, (the ratio given as a %), the Galloway begins to take on a different appearance. While Galloway has the smallest values for parameters such as weight of eye of round and bottom round, we see that as a ratio of total body weight at a given gestational period, they show very equitable ratios compared to total body weight of all but the Belgian Blue, but still wrapped up in a convenient calving ease package.

When the values for total fat are converted to the ratio of total fat:body

### (Fetal characteristics cont. from pg 3)



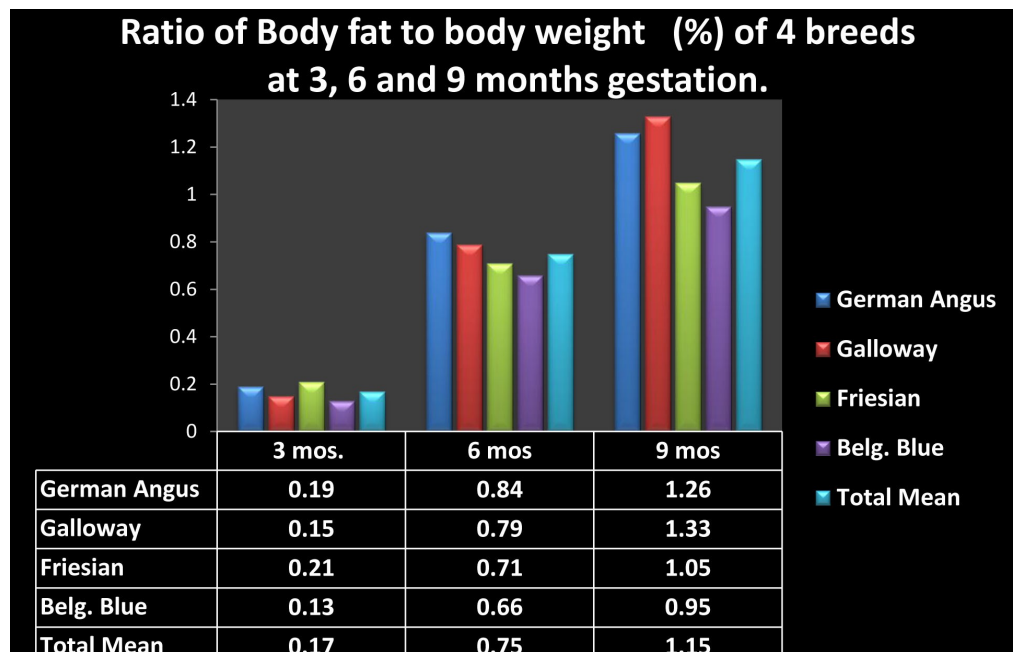
weight at a given gestational age, the Galloway begins to exhibit a superior trend during late gestation. The paper states, “In the present study, differences of fat weight to BW ratios at 9 months indicate that **during gestation the basis is established for the lower fat accretion in Belgian Blue, and the greater fat accretion in Galloway**”, and puts the

other two breeds somewhere in between.

This study was done to establish some baseline data regarding normal fetal development in different cattle breeds, so that future studies aimed at examining prenatal nutritional effects on subsequent carcass parameters could be established.

(See quote below)

(Additional charts next pg)



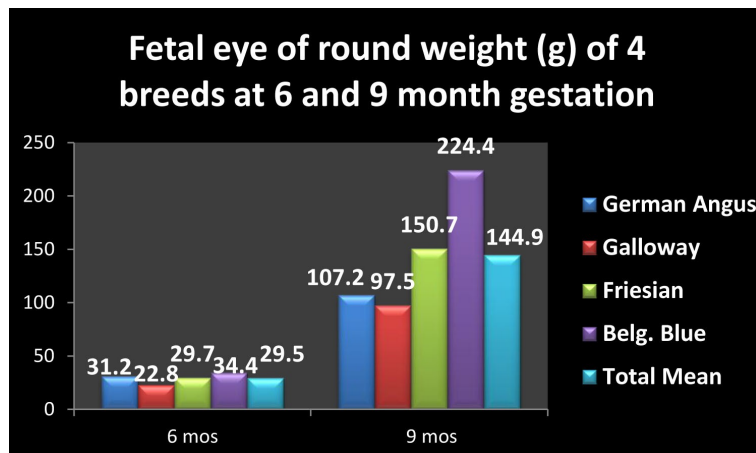
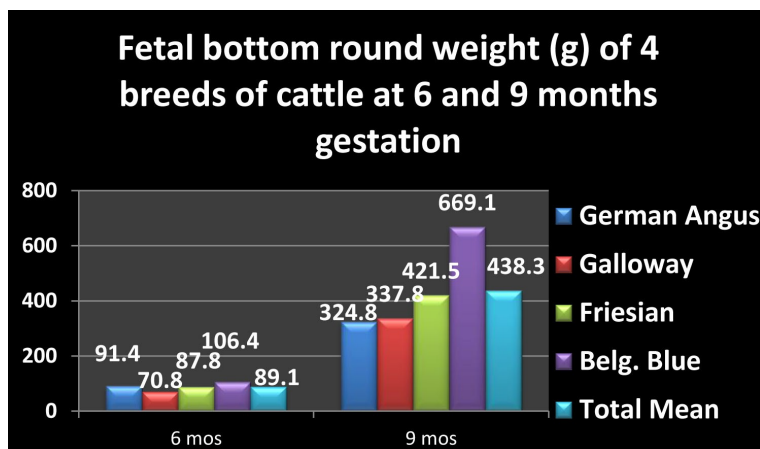
*“Any study in cattle concerning the effects on the embryo or fetus, must rely on the normal pattern of development as a basis for comparison. To understand the growth of cattle, especially the postnatal muscle and fat development, which influences the amount and quality of meat, a characterization of normal prenatal development of cattle is necessary. To date, extensive studies of fetal development in different cattle breeds have not been conducted.”*

**Mao et al. (2008) Asian-Aust. J. Anim. Sci. 21(5):640-647**



(Fetal Characteristics, from pg 4)

Two more charts of the raw data from the Fetal Characteristics study.




Please see the Muscle Weight to Body Weight Ratio chart on pg 4 to put the data in perspective.

**Grant**  
**GALLOWAYS**  
 GALLOWAYS SINCE 1966

**Visitors Always Welcome!**

**Jim and Kathy Grant**  
 1934 E. 400 South  
 Hazelton, ID 83335  
 208.825.5215  
 208.420.3977 (cell)  
[jimgrant@myway.com](mailto:jimgrant@myway.com)



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**On Grass**  
 and  
**In the Feed Yard**

# RFLTD XENON

## SEMEN AVAILABLE

70# bw

Quick Shedding

Homozygous Black.

TH and PHA Free.

Superior Disposition

## STRUCTURAL CORRECTNESS



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Half sibling to  
RFLTD Xenon

*Since 1998*



**Renaissance Farms Ltd**

Bill and Judy Decker

Emporia, KS 620.343.6757

[www.renfarms.com](http://www.renfarms.com)

[galloway@renfarms.com](mailto:galloway@renfarms.com)





## GALLOWAY YOUTH PROGRAM UPDATE

SUBMITTED BY DAWN SWENSSON

SUMMER TIME IS FAIR TIME FOR MANY YOUTH SHOWING THEIR CATTLE. IT IS ALSO TIME FOR MANY TO START PICKING OUT FUTURE SHOW ANIMALS OR SORT THEIR FAVORITE CALVES TO KEEP AND ONES TO SELL.

IF ANY YOUTH HAVE STORIES OR PHOTOS TO SHARE ON THEIR CATTLE PLEASE GET THEM OUR GALLOWAY DISPATCH EDITOR JUDY DECKER FOR FUTURE ISSUES.

# Youth Rock!

# Hang 5

Mountain raised  
Carcass-verified genetics.

## GALLOWAYS



Red is the color of the season, with 20 of our 60 calves looking just like this one.  
Two month old calf pictured.

HANG 5 GALLOWAYS, PARKMAN, WY  
307-752-7457

HANG5RANCH@MSN.COM

YOUTH MEMBERS INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE **GO GALLOWAY HEIFER PROJECT** PLEASE GET IN CONTACT WITH DAWN SWENSSON OR GAYLE CERULLO.

RECENTLY, I WAS IN CONTACT WITH A 4-H FAMILY IN NORTH CAROLINA. THEY HAVE A VERY ACTIVE CLUB AND AS A GROUP TRAVEL WITH ABOUT 15 YOUTH TO SHOWS. NOT ALL THE CATTLE ARE GALLOWAYS BUT THE POTENTIAL FOR MORE GALLOWAY YOUTH PARTICIPATION IS OUT THERE!

THANK YOU TO ALL THE AGBA BREEDERS WHO SUPPORT OUR YOUTH!

*Dawn Swenson*

## Grazing, cont. from pg 1

and try to yank it free during this time period, and you will know why it is called wire grass by some! (hint: you had better be wearing gloves.) Seeing Galloway in September with mouthfuls of 10 inch long tall dropseed is as common as seeing grasshoppers.

Buckbrush (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*) is an invasive woody shrub in the Eastern half of Kansas, and is noted as being unpalatable to cattle. It is favored by deer. While not consumed during the growing season, the Galloway discovered that the outer 5 to 6 inches of berry-laden twigs in winter are quite desirable. We have this plant in excess on a leased pasture in a long riparian strip totaling 20 acres or so. The first winter we had cattle pastured there, I decided by Christmas that they surely needed hay. I showed up (in 6 inches of snow) with the round bale, but the cattle didn't. After searching through the woods, I found them aggressively browsing the buckbrush. I was intrigued enough to have a forage analysis done. The CP was 6.7% and TDN was 54.2 %, as sampled. Kansas also has a se-



Wiregrass. Looks yummy...but it plays rough!

vere problem with *Sericea lespedeza*. We later leased an additional 32 acres attached to the original lease, and turned steers on it in October. Just a day or two prior, we noticed a large patch of *Sericea* in the 32 acres, but planned on dealing with that chemically next year. However, when I went to check on the steers the next day, they had completely demolished the 1/8 acre or so patch of *Sericea*.... I couldn't even find any short stems left. I am not saying "Galloway eat *Sericea*", because one time does not a pattern make. But that time, they ate it to the ground.

I recently observed 11 month old steer calves grazing field bindweed in another small pasture we lease. There are numerous other weeds our cattle regularly consume, but it is unknown by me whether or not these weeds are regularly grazed by other cattle in the area.

We will continue to compile a list of the 'unpalatable' plants regularly grazed by Galloway. If you would like to contribute, simply observe your cattle's grazing habits, identify the plants, and look them up in your state's forage handbook for additional information. It is preferable that you include the scientific name when submitting, and are available in most handbooks you will use.





Brady Strand exhibiting his Galloway sired Commercial Yrlg Hfr. Brady received Grand Champion Commercial Heifer & Reserved Champion overall heifer in the Kanabec County Fair 4-H Show July 24th. She was also Reserve Champion Commercial Heifer in the open show on July 26th.



Brady Strand exhibiting Purebred Galloway fall calf-Berry's Adelaide 128A- at the Kanabec County Fair 4-H Show, Reserve Champion Purebred Heifer, sired by Berry's Yosemite 65Y.



**Congratulations to our young 4H friends on your recent achievements!**

**ONE STOP SHOPPING!**

**BULLS, HEIFERS, PERCENTAGE HEIFERS, SEMEN AND EMBRYOS**



Nolan McGaw exhibited his Galloway X Polled Hereford yrlg hfr. at the Kanabec County Fair 4-H Show. Sired by Berry's Yank 61Y.

**ELI BERRY**

Give us a call, or send email to [eberryranch@gmail.com](mailto:eberryranch@gmail.com)

## Mailing Addresses

Mail Registrations and Transfers to:

**CLRC**  
**2417 Holly Lane**  
**Ottawa, Ontario K1V 0M7**  
**CANADA**

Mail Membership Applications and **Dues** to:

**Joyce Jones/AGBA Sec**  
**395 Double J Lane**  
**New Castle PA 16101**

## 2014 DIRECTORS

Harley Blegen - ND	701-645-9073
Eli Berry - MN	612-390-2249
Jon Brown - OK	405-785-9115
Jody Hipsher - MI	715-742-3495
Joan Hoffman - MI	517-627-2310
Joel Jackson - WY	406-635-5409
Joyce Jones - PA	724-924-2938
Shawn Schumacher -MT	406-622-5601
Richard Serr - WA	509-258-6776
Debra Vance - CO	303-887-1731
Susan Waples - MT	406-635-2114
Tom Wilder - WA	360-581-3700

## OREGON, HO!

In June I had a response to my regular call for Dispatch news and ad requests from Sally Gallagher. She attached an ad draft, and when I looked at the information, I realized we might be passing right by the Gallagher's operation during our pending July trip to Oregon. Things worked out (barely!) so that we

could make a very brief stop, meet Ed and Sally, and their growing



herd of Galloway cattle. Above is a photo of a fine light dun bull calf. (Rumor has it that he is for sale!) Thank you, Gallaghers, for letting us drop by in such whirlwind fashion. We loved seeing your place!

### Registered & Commercial Galloways



Charlottesville  
Heritage Breeds

Ed & Sally Gallagher  
22853 Harris Rd.  
Philomath, OR 97370

Phone: 541-619-4980  
E-mail: [gallzook@peak.org](mailto:gallzook@peak.org)  
Visitors welcome!

## A Wee Bit of Galloway History.

(Taken from *Cattle: their breeds, management, and diseases*. By William Youatt, London, 1834. )

"The Galloway cattle are straight and broad in the back, and nearly level from the head to the rump. They are round in the ribs, and also between the shoulders and the ribs, and the ribs and the loins. They are broad in the loin without any large projecting hook bones. In roundness of barrel and fullness of ribs they will compare with any breed, and also in the proportion which the loins bear to the hook bones, or protuberances of the ribs. The Rev. Mr. Smith, the author of the Survey of Galloway, says that, "when viewed from above, the whole body appears beautifully rounded like the longitudinal section of a roller." They are long in the quarters and ribs, and deep in the chest, but not broad in the twist. The slightest inspection will show that there is less space between the hook or hip bones and the ribs than in most other breeds, a consideration of much importance, for the advantage of length of carcass consists in the animal being well ribbed home, or as little space as possible lost in the flank."



## Trapper Galloway Ranch

Floyd "Kit" Smith

925 North 6th Apt 6 ~ Greybull, WY 82426



4 Winds Farm Panda - 10 units @ \$100

Rough Rider Extra - 65 units @ \$100

Diamond B Triple Play 28T - 12 units @ \$100

Diamond B Zamboni - 100+ units @ \$20

HRG White Lightning - 100+ units @ \$20

307-765-2971

[www.trappergallowayranch.com](http://www.trappergallowayranch.com)

[kit@trappergallowayranch.com](mailto:kit@trappergallowayranch.com)

## AGBA MEMBERSHIP

### RENEWAL TIME.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

= \$80

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP DUES

= \$20

DUES SHOULD BE PAID BY JUNE 1, 2014

## NILE ENTRIES ARE DUE SEPTEMBER 15.

LATE REGISTRATIONS  
ACCEPTED UNTIL OCT. 1.

LATE FEES APPLY

MAILING IN  
REGISTRATIONS AND  
TRANSFERS?  
FIRST CLASS POSTAGE TO  
CANADA IS:

\$1.15



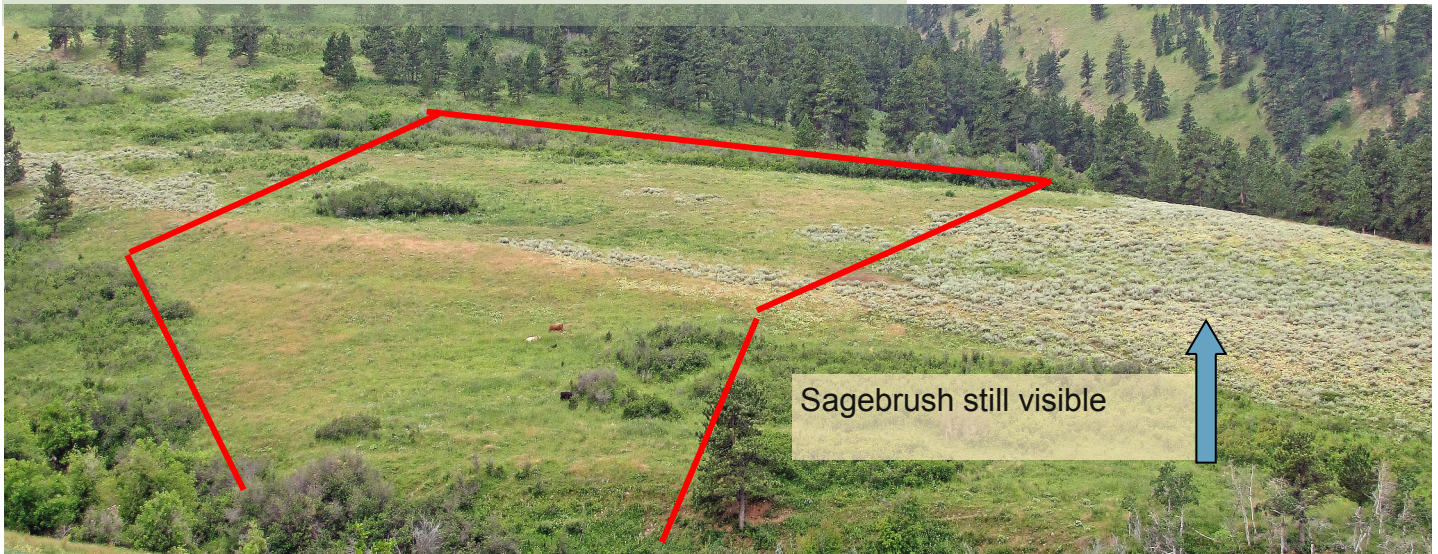
It's a great big World Wide Web out there.

*And if you don't have a website, it won't find you.*

Get a Website!



## Picture Perfect Pasture.... From a Galloway's perspective anyway



The area within the red lines used to be solid sagebrush in Hang 5 Ranch's pasture, until an electric fence was used to create a winter feeding ground. The Galloway browsed on the sagebrush until it was gone. Remnants of the sagebrush can be seen to the right of the red



Left, Close up shot of Buckbrush in winter, East Central Kansas.  
Right, even young fall-born calves browse the Buckbrush in winter.





**HB Beefcake 2644**



**HB Blush 2044**

*Come join us*



**# 1474**

*Mata Sired*



**For Sale**



**# 4714**



*Pericles Sired*

**For Sale**

**BLEGEN GALLOWAYS**  
 701.212.0112 or 701.645.9073  
 BLEGENGALLOWAYS.COM




**Commercial Female Prices are through the roof...  
So how will you value your registered Galloway females?**

This set of figures was pulled from the Ogallala, NE, auction barn report for July 30, 2014. If the 250# calf is valued at \$675, that puts its commercial dam at \$2925.

#### **Cow/Calf Pairs**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Calf Heifer Pairs, 250# calves at side \$3,600.00
- 1<sup>st</sup> Calf Heifer Pairs, 130# calves at side \$2,900.00
- 3-4 yr old Stockcows, 266# calves at side \$3,700.00

## **Brass Ring Galloways**



**We will be offering the majority of the 2014 calf crop for sale this fall. Come and see some at the NILE show in Billings, and feel free to visit our place afterwards and see them all.**

**The coffee pot is always on!**

**RUSS AND SUSAN WAPLES  
BOX 544 TERRY, MT 59349  
406-635-2114, 406-749-1957 (CELL)**

## **2014 NILE GALLOWAY SHOW**

**Superintendent: Joel Jackson, Terry, MT (406)989-1548**

**Judge: Quintin Smith - Lebanon, TN**

**Barn Available: 6 pm Sunday,  
October 12 - Expo Center**

**In Place: 12 noon Monday,  
October 13**

**Processing: 12 noon- 2 pm Monday,  
October 13**

**Judging: 10 am Tuesday October 14**

**Release Date:**

**After Show Tuesday, October 14**





**B**

Is your tattoo letter for 2014

## Stay Informed

The AGBA has an email list that is available for members to use to notify others about upcoming events such as field days, sales, shows, etc.

If you have never received an email from ***gallowaybreeders@yahoo.com***, chances are you are not on the list. SO...kindly send an email to myself, and I will see to it that you are added :)

Use this address please:  
**renfarms@osprey.net**

Thanks!

Judy

### Did You Know...

You can easily share this newsletter with your inquiry list by simply going to **americangalloway.com**, click on More About Galloways tab, and then copy the link for The Galloway Dispatch into an email.

## Meet Your Directors

*In the coming months, this space will be used to introduce some of the current AGBA Directors. This month features Eli Berry, Berry Ranch Galloways, Mora, MN.*

Let me introduce myself. My wife Mary and I live NW of Mora, MN on the farm my father purchased in 1965 when he made the move from western South Dakota. We have two girls, Kristen and Sarah. Kristen and her husband Aaron live in the Twin Cities area. They gave us our first grandchild, Caiden, last December. Sarah lives in Charlotte, NC and will be getting married this November. I work as a building official in St. Cloud, MN and Mary teaches 3rd grade in Braham, MN.

As our girls were growing up I got them involved in showing beef cattle for 4-H. Many of their friends and cousins also began showing cattle. I still enjoy helping many children with their beef 4-H projects.

The Berry family started raising Galloways in 1960. Our ranch was the Hidden Valley Ranch, Milesville, SD. My dad (Claude T. Berry) bought a bull from Pete Ginther to use on his Hereford cows. After seeing the results he purchased some females from Ginther's Whetstone herd. My family was part of the boom days of the Galloway's in the 60's and early 70's. We exhibited Galloway cattle in SD, MN, MT and CO.

My dad dispersed of our registered Galloways in 1975. However, in 1980 I purchased a Galloway bull at the ND Winter Show to use on my commercial cows. I also purchased a Galloway heifer at the ShyAn dispersal.

Our current herd of Galloways was started in 2007 with the purchase of Helen of Trapper 1S from Floyd "Kit" Smith, followed by Charity of Trapper in 2008. I do use AI and ET technology to help enhance and expand my herd. I know all the good qualities of the Galloway breed and enjoy promoting them.

We need to keep collecting all the information we can to back up what we tell others while promoting our animals. Last February at the NCBA trade show we were asked many times if we had proof.

Directors, continued from pg 15

We need to get information from feed trials, carcass data, etc. to help with our promotion. Galloways work well in feedlots, grass fed programs and the club calf industry. We know this, we need to tell others!

We need to keep promoting our Galloways!

I'll see you at the NILE in Billings, MT and in Denver at the NWSS.

Thank you.

~ Eli



Spring 1965, Eli Berry with his  
Galloway X Hereford steer

J. Decker, editor  
1800 E 18th  
Emporia, KS 66801