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AGBA
AMERICAN GALLOWAY BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

THE Galloway DISPATCH

GALLOWAY: MAKING CATTLE GREAT AGAIN!

May
2018

Fly Control

Depending on where you live, fly season may already be upon you. And even if you're free and clear now, those pesky nuisances will be pestering your herd soon.

There are many ways to combat fly populations. As Galloway producers, our cattle have a bit of a built in advantage since they often keep a small amount of fuzz along their backs. But face flies and horn flies can have a substantial economic impact if they reach critical levels, on the order of 100 -200 flies per animal. At these levels, nursing calves show reduced weaning weights due to reduced lactation of their dams, and stocker cattle average daily gains (ADG) can be reduced by up to 14%. Face flies feed from eye secretions and are responsible for the transmission of the bacteria responsible for pinkeye. Pinkeye compromises an animal's daily forage intake for several days, and can cause temporary blindness.

So where to begin? One good practice is to get out your matches, and burn off the hay residue from your hay feeding locations. These areas tend to hold moisture and manure, making them ideal for flies to lay their eggs. By burning the residue, these fly nurseries are eliminated.

Now that you've torched the nursery, why not send in the troops? There are predator wasps that seek out and kill flies in their pupal stage. They do this when the female predator wasp lays her eggs in the fly pupa. Her eggs hatch, and feed on the developing nuisance fly. Genius, right? It can also be a fairly expensive proposition, but if you are running an organic operation, it may be just what you need to control flies.

Bombs Away!
A female predator wasp lays eggs in a fly pupa.

See Pg. 2

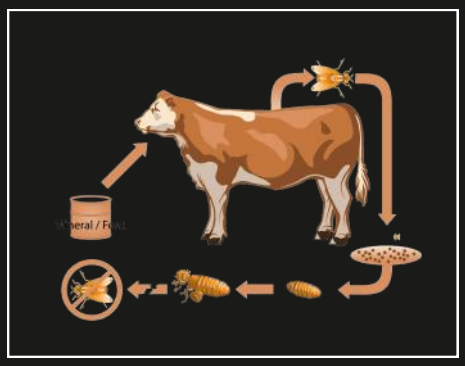
"People demand freedom of speech as a compensation for the freedom of thought which they seldom use."
— Søren Kierkegaard

Flies, from pg 1

There is, of course, a plethora of chemical combatants in the war on flies. Backrubbers are a time-tested means of delivering minute doses of fly toxins to the hair of cattle's backs and necks. The chemical is diluted in either mineral oil or diesel fuel. The actual back rubber has been soaked in this mixture, and should be recharged every month or so. There are several commercial products available for applications via backubber.

Some of the products that can be used in the back rubber application method can also be used as a spray on. This naturally means more labor for you, but you get the satisfaction of knowing the animal has been treated thoroughly. Products such as Permectrin II also can be good for late fall/early winter spray treatment for lice, to prevent a serious breakout later on.

If any or all of the aforementioned measures are not a good fit given time and/or facilities restrictions, there are also direct-fed products. Most of these make use of a compound called methoprene. Methoprene is an analog to a hormone produced in the immature fly life cycle. It is fed to cattle via their mineral, tubs or blocks, and passes right through into the manure, where it later inhibits the maturation of fly larvae into mature flies, effectively halting population expansion of flies. It has also been used in cisterns and wells to reduce mosquito populations in efforts to control malaria and dengue fever. There are questions as to effects on amphibians and some fish if heavy concentrations were to wind up in a body of water.



One last product used by many commercial cattle producers is the insecticide ear tag. There are two primary chemicals used to impregnate the tags. 1) Organophosphates (OP), and 2) Synthetic pyrethroids (SP). There is also a newer trend that combines both an OP and and SP into one tag. Be advised, extreme caution must be used in their application, as the concentration of chemicals is high, and easily transferred through human skin. Use of non-permeable gloves is a must.

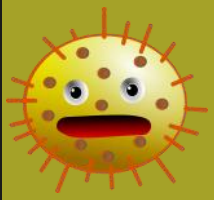
Good luck!

Making Hay

It always seems like haymaking season rolls around sooner than anyone is ready for it. And that means a rush to get equipment serviced and ready for action the moment the hay is ready and the fields are dry enough to access.

One of the givens of the haymaking season is the dual pressure of rain forecasts and downed hay. This can lead to hay that is baled while still a touch too green, and this can lead to mold. Mold can be a problem for both the cattle and the producer. Some strains of mold can lead to abortions in cattle. Mucor and Aspergillis are the primary culprits in cattle abortions. Some herds can see up to 10% loss through abortions, though usually it's a single animal or two that are badly affected. And these molds are not limited to hay, but can also grow in silage and wet byproducts, such as wet distillers grains, wet brewers byproducts and sugar beet byproducts. Knowing how to store these properly, as well as your hay supplies, can help avert reproductive woes.

One option is to feed moldy hay to non-pregnant animals. There is still a risk of respiratory compromise, however. Limit exposure by feeding good quality hay at the same time.

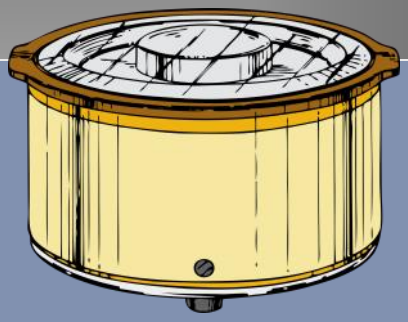


And please be aware that the mold in your hay is not good for you either! A condition called Farmers Lung can develop from exposure to hay molds. It is an allergic reaction in the lungs after repeated exposures to molds and heat-tolerating bacteria, usually from hay.

"*Farmer's lung allergic reactions that are acute are usually treated with medication and mould avoidance. However, chronic symptoms, such as weight loss, fatigue, prolonged fever and severe difficulties in breathing, may warrant hospitalization. Severe symptoms of farmer's lung require treatment with oxygen therapy, bed rest and large doses of corticosteroid medications. Farmer's lung is more frequent in men and in the age group 51-55 years. Many farmers are forced to leave their occupation due to the physical limitations caused by farmer's lung." (www.mouldfacts.ca)*

Making hay is a true juggling act between time, weather, and the health of you and your animals!

Galloway: The BE$T kept $ecret in the beef industry.



Crockpot French Dip Sandwiches

Arm Roast, 3-4 LBS

1 Can Beef Consomme

1 PKG Onion Soup Mix

1 Can Beer

Hoagie Buns

Add all ingredients to crockpot. Cook on High for 6-8 hours, or until meat falls apart. Remove and shred beef, stack on buns. Use the remaining 'au jus' for sandwich dipping.

YUM!!

BERRY RANCH
GALLOWAYS
Mora, Minnesota - 612-390-2249

Clockwise: Ben Lomond Mhordhu (Scottish), Glenfiddich Zeppelin (CAN), Braveheart of Galway (Scottish), Snapshot of Trapper.

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Best Sloppy Joes EVER

1# Ground Beef

3 TBSP Butter (Yes, real Butter!)

Finely chopped or grated onions

3 TBSP Vinegar

Sugar

Ketchup

Melt butter in skillet. Add onions and saute til tender. Add ground beef to skillet and brown. Add vinegar, sugar and ketchup to meat and onion mixture, mixing well. Heat through. Serve on big scrumptious buns.

(Hint: Go ahead and double this recipe… your clan is going to love these! And they make quick, delicious leftovers during the busy summer months.)

Check in with us this coming Fall for heifer calves and bull calves. They are looking good!
Watch for more pictures on Facebook.

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Find us on: facebook

Keep or Cull?

Culling is a fact of the cattle business, and is just as much a part of the purebred business as the commercial side. Perhaps more so. Culling is the tool that makes our overall herd BETTER, by eliminating individuals that are either predisposed to bad feet, udders that fail early in life, poor milking, poor efficiency, or whose offspring exhibit these tendencies. So even if Bossie is the sweetest cow in your herd, if she fails, either on her own or through her progeny, she needs a trip down the road.

This is where feedback from your breeding stock buyers can be so valuable. If you always sell Bossie's offspring, you never know how her daughters milk, or how her son's feet hold up, not without input from the buyers. And yes, some of these factors can be nutritionally determined once they leave your farm.

But the good news is, you are the one who sees the animals frequently throughout the course of the year. And no doubt, your favorite cow has a fair number of descendants roaming around your place. But what about your not-so-favorites? Ever ask yourself why they aren't a favorite, and why her daughters are sold rather than retained? It can be a difficult trick to view one's own herd objectively! Sometimes Form and Function, aka Beauty and Efficiency are not wrapped in the same package. And then we must ask ourselves performance based questions.

The Culling Selection Checklist is from the North Carolina State University Cooperative Extension, and does a good job of making a producer try and see his or her cattle through a lens of objectivity. Even if you do not have any culling to do this year, the checklist makes us get out and evaluate our cattle individually, for specific conformation and productivity traits. The day will eventually come when your pastures are full, and/or drought hits or a pasture lease is lost, and its helpful to know who the most likely candidates for culling are.

Culling Selection Checklist

✓ **Performance Potential (cont.)**

❑ If her calf did not perform well, was it due to the genetics or milking ability of the dam? (Calf health problems and sire genetics can contribute to this.)

❑ Does she have acceptable Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) for economically relevant traits (seedstock operations)?

Culling Selection Checklist

✓ Reproduction

❑ Is she pregnant or open?
❑ Does she breed back in an acceptable time frame and produce a calf every year?
❑ Is she too extreme in her muscling pattern?
❑ Is her frame size or pelvic area too small, making calving difficulty a real concern?
❑ Is she healthy and in good condition for breeding?
❑ Is there a history of vaginal prolapse?

✓ Functionality in a Given Environment

❑ Is her frame size too large for feed and forage conditions?
❑ Is her milking potential excessive for feed and forage conditions?
❑ Is she an easy keeper (keeps flesh and condition with proper nutrition)?
❑ Does she have adequate body capacity for carrying a calf and consuming large quantities of forage/feed?
❑ Is her breed composition suited to the environment?
❑ Is her disposition manageable with available labor and facilities?

✓ Maternal Traits

❑ Does she exhibit desirable maternal instincts (licks off calf at birth, readily accepts nursing calf, etc.)?
❑ Does she milk adequately for acceptable calf growth?

✓ Structural Soundness

❑ Are her feet and legs structurally sound for ease of movement under pasture and breeding conditions?
❑ Does she have desirable slope to her shoulders (not too straight)?
❑ Are her hips level from hooks to pins?
❑ Are her eyes healthy?
❑ Is her udder healthy with a level floor and good suspension?
❑ Does she have four evenly spaced, acceptably sized teats?
❑ Does she still have teeth that will be effective for grazing?

✓ Marketability of Traits Passed on to Calves

❑ Does she have the potential to produce calves that fit market specifications for frame size, muscling, conformation and structure, breed composition, coat color, etc.?
❑ Does she have the potential to transmit desirable post weaning growth to calves marketed for stocker or back grounding programs?
❑ Does she have the potential to transmit desirable carcass traits to calves marketed for finishing programs that pay premiums for carcass merit?

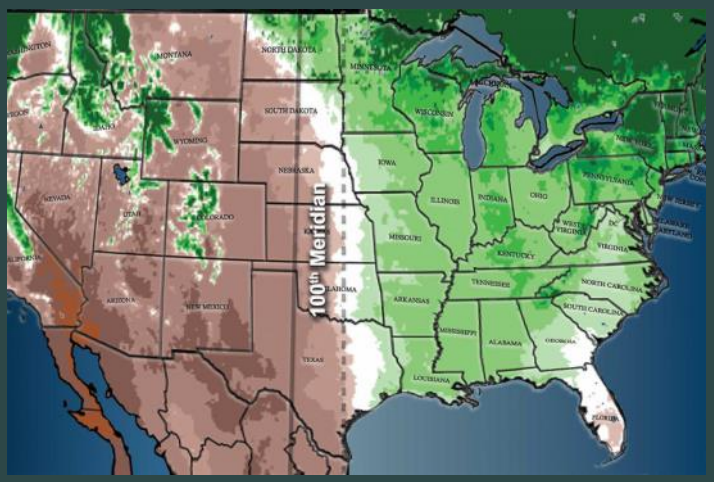
✓ Performance Potential

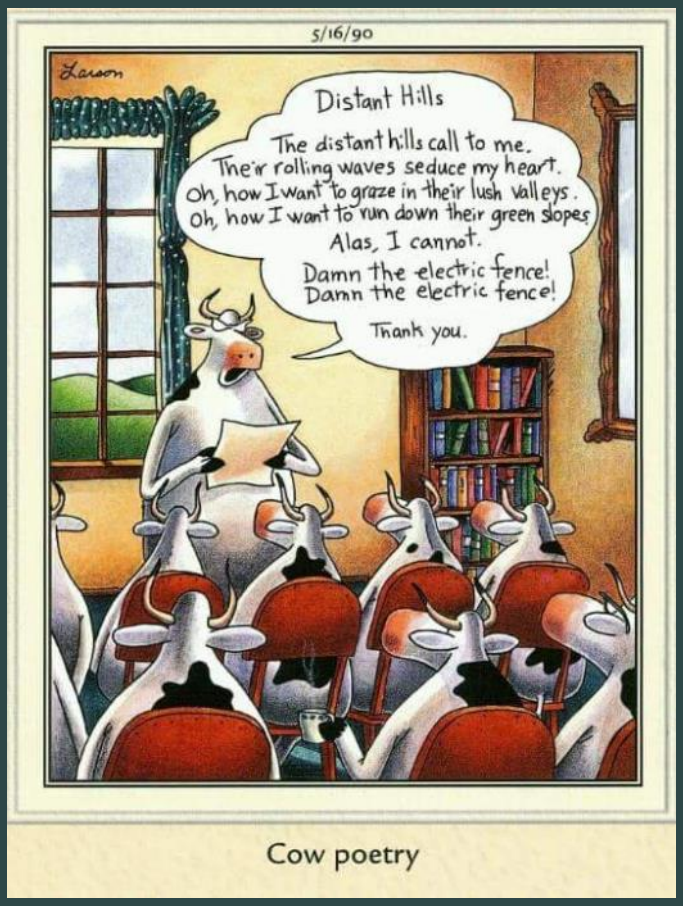
❑ Do performance test results indicate desirable performance over her lifetime (acceptable Most Probable Producing Ability values and calving intervals)?

Galloway: A Move in the RIGHT Direction.

The 100th Meridian

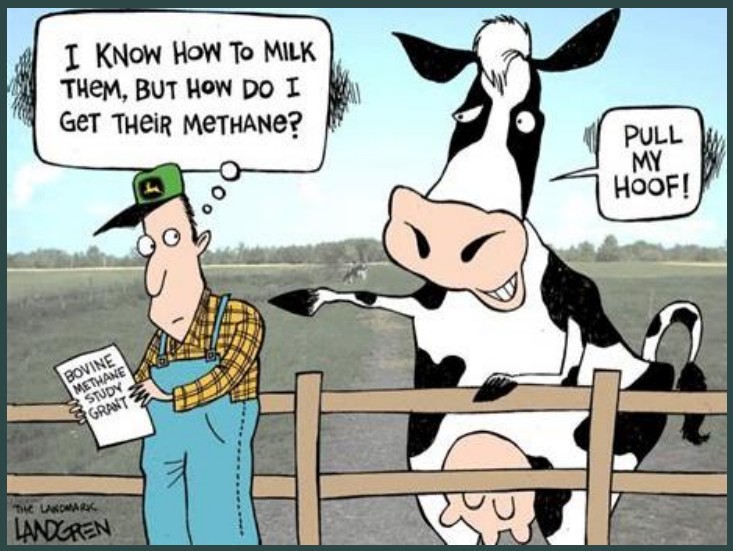
Dividing the USA near its midsection, the 100th Meridian was first described by explorer John Wesley Powell in 1878 as the separation between the arid West and the humid East. The gradual increase in humidity as one moves Eastward from the middle of the country is obvious to most, as is the increase in aridity moving westward. The humid East with its superior rainfall and soils has produced the lion's share of grain crops for decades. Now, however, an emerging trend for that so-called 'dry line' has been observed, pushing it further East. If the trend continues the guidelines for crop selection, pasture composition and carrying capacity, and other long held production practices may eventually be transformed in areas closer to the 'new' 100th Meridian.





Cow poetry

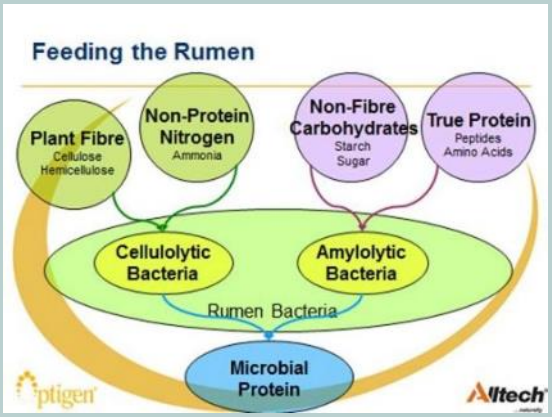
Comedy Corner



The ABC's Of Cattle Nutrition

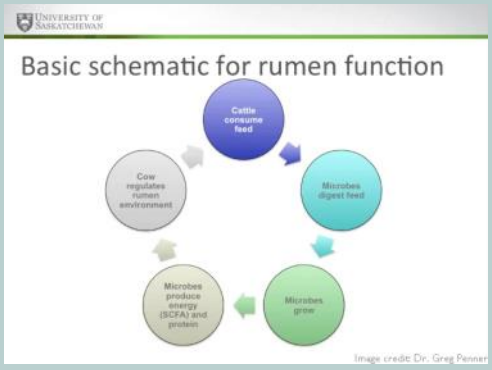
Buying your first set of heifers is an exciting moment in the life of your farm. As you watch them getting familiar with their new environment, you are already imagining the type of calves they will have (all heifers, of course!) and how they will go on to grow your herd. And no doubt you have been brushing up on how best to meet their nutritional needs.

Diagram 1



Cattle are amazing animals, thanks largely to their rumen. The rumen is basically a large fermentation vat, with a capacity of 40 to 50 gallons, and occupied by a host of microorganisms that do what no mammal can do on its own: break down cellulose. Cellulose is the insoluble portion of a plant's cell walls. It adds structure to a plant. And it takes some serious chemistry to disassemble it, chemistry that monogastric species such as humans, dogs, cats and pigs, don't have. After these rumen microbes have completed their initial breakdown of the cellulose, the interior of the cells is exposed for further processing by other strains of microbes in the rumen. The end products of fermentation are energy, in the form of Volatile Fatty Acids (VFA's) and amino acids, the building blocks of protein. By presenting the cow's body with an assortment of biological building blocks, she can go on to create the specific forms of energy and proteins needed at the cellular level.

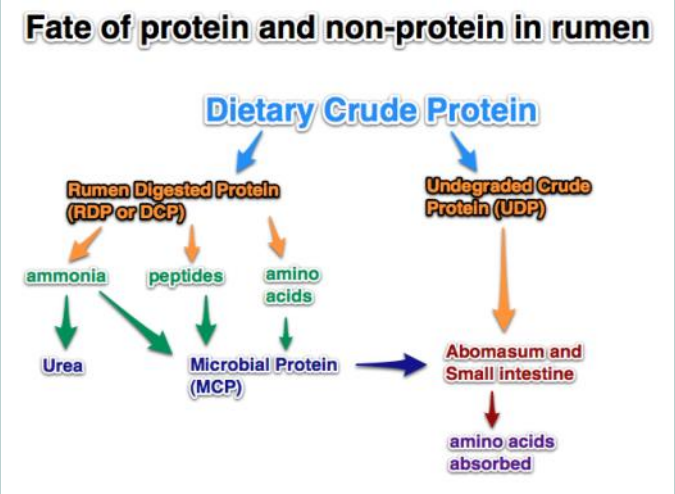
Diagram 2



As cattle producers, we are actually managing these rumen colonies, and it is they which are feeding the cow. Diagram 1 has four circles, which represent the basic types of feedstuffs cattle are provided. Not all cattle are provided all of these, since different production philosophies and available resources will affect how any producer decides to manage their herd's nutrition. Grassfed cattle, for instance, won't be receiving much in the way of Non-Fiber Carbohydrates, meaning feed grains. Non-Protein Nitrogen (NPN), which include products such as urea, biuret and ammonia, are Nitrogen sources that rumen microbes can use to produce specific rumen bacteria which in turn perform specific roles. For example, you can see from the graphic that NPN's help grow and maintain the culture of celluloytic bacteria, or bacteria that break down cellulose. Use of NPN's makes it possible to use very poor (and inexpensive) roughage sources for the cattle's basic diet.

So the remaining two circles represent elements common to all cattle diets, and are labeled as Plant Fiber and True Protein in the diagram. Plant fiber represents the potential Energy component of the cow's diet, and most familiar feed sources: grasses, forbs, tree leaves etc. When consumed by the cow, they are attacked by the Cellulolytic Bacteria, which are nourished by them and then reproduce themselves. The bacterial colony can multiply itself at incredible rates, which is necessary due to a short lifespan, and the fact that a certain percentage of the microbes are constantly being swept downstream to the small intestines. But they aren't wasted, since they are broken down there to provide nutrients for the cow. The primary result of this breakdown of cellulose and similar plant components is the production of volatile fatty acids, which become the energy source that fuels all of the cow's cellular systems.

Diagram 3



We humans are familiar with the phrase 'You are what you eat' , and a version of this holds true in the rumen universe as well. If your cow is solely eating pasture, (a cellulose based diet,) the percentage of cellulose-digesting microbes, the Cellulotyic Bacteria in the diagram, will increase in order to efficiently process the diet. This means that the Amylolytic Bacteria are under represented, which is why we never want to abruptly switch a cow's diet from heavy on forage to heavy on corn (or other grains), because the digestive capacity just isn't there. Rumen acidosis is a real possibility under such circumstances, and an acidic rumen is not a happy, healthy rumen. A rapid change in diet results in large die-offs of the rumen microbial population. This can cause actual physiological damage to the rumen lining, and in severe cases is fatal.

Protein in cattle diets is often referred to as Crude Protein (CP). Diagram 3 above illustrates the pathways available for its deconstruction and ultimate absorption by the cow's body. The objective of dietary CP is to meet the cow's protein requirements, which is accomplished first by the production of amino acids, which are the building blocks of protein. With an array of amino acids at her disposal, her body can create whatever type of protein she

(Continues Pg 12)

Cattle Nutrition from pg11

needs given her gestational, calving and lactation status, as well as repairing damaged muscles and connective tissues, and beefing up her immune system.

Adequate protein intake is always needed to ensure proper growth and maintenance of the cow, her developing calf, and milk production.

Mineral is another very important component of keeping your herd healthy and productive, and actual mineral needs can vary by region. You can always have a forage sample tested for mineral component, to determine any unusual mineral deficiencies (or excesses) in your pastures. A forage test is better than a soil test because it shows what the plants are actually able to obtain from the soil. Some soils hang on tightly to their elements, or the presence of antagonistic elements in the soil and plants may make some minerals not very available to your cattle.

Enjoy your cattle, and here's to a long and happy relationship!

For Our Younger (And young at heart) READERS

CRAZY ABOUT COWS

B U S K K L H B E F N R X M J E X E M R
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BIOSYSTEMS
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CARBON
CATTLE
DAIRY
DIGESTION
DISEASE
ENERGY
ENGINEER
FERTILIZER
FIELDS
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RUMEN
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SILAGE
SOLAR
STEER
SUSTAINABLE
WASTE

Remember your 2018 Dues

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@yahoogroups.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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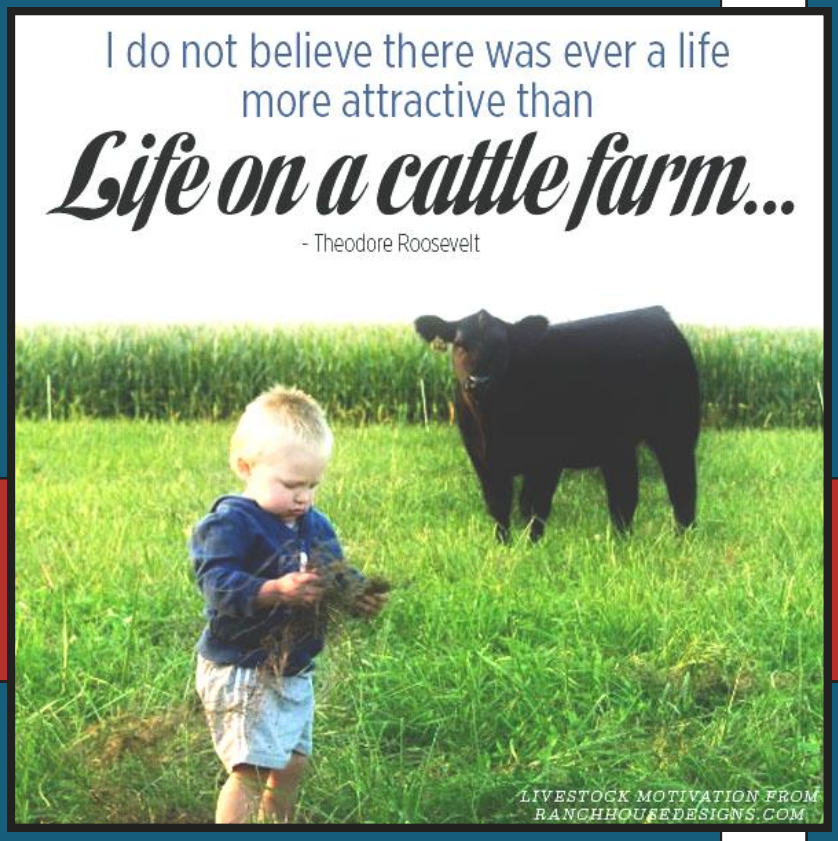
Will be your tattoo letter for 2018

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.

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!



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