



THE *Galloway* DISPATCH

GALLOWAY: MAKING CATTLE GREAT AGAIN

May
2020

IS REGISTRATION IMPORTANT?

“Why should I invest my time and money in registering my cattle?”

This is not an unfamiliar sentiment to many in the world of cattle production. And certainly not all animals born in an operation are worthy of being registered. They’re called ‘beef’.

Registering cattle in a ‘rare’ or ‘heritage’ breed becomes even more important compared to registrations in the world of conventional, modern cattle, for many reasons.

First, modern breeds of cattle are seldom truly pure, since most of the mainstream breed associations allow breed ups. Breeding up simply means that another breed was introduced into gene pool of a given breed or individual animal at some point. Depending on the governing breed association’s herd book rules, if the individual animal reaches some high percentage of the named breed, such as 15/16, it is permitted to be registered as a purebred. Many contemporary breed associations have fairly lax standards for admitting animals to the herd book, or create herd books dedicated to specific crosses using their breed. An example of this is the Gelbvieh Balancer. Per their website: “Balancer® cattle are a combination of 25 percent (1/4) to 75 percent (3/4) Gelbvieh and 25 percent (1/4) to 75 percent (3/4) Angus or Red Angus with a maximum of 12.5 percent (1/8) unknown or other breed.” There are many examples of specialized ‘crossbred’ herdbooks.

In sharp contrast, the American Galloway Breeders’

**“Never,
never, never
give in!”**

— Winston S.
Churchill

**“The only way
you can pre-
serve unique
genetics in an-
imals is you
have to raise
them.”**

~ Temple
Grandin

Is Registration Important?	1
Parasite Resistance	7
Comedy Corner	8
Pricing Bulls	10
President’s Address	11

(Continues Pg 2)



(Why Register, con't from pg 1)

**Fullblood=100%
pure, no outside
genetics ever in-
troduced**

**Purebred=
<100% pure,
usually 87-97%
pure with outside
breed found sev-
eral generations
back in pedigree**

Association (AGBA) maintains a closed herd book. What does this mean? It means that the American Galloway Herd book has never permitted any form of 'breeding up'. The cattle registered therein are true fullbloods, meaning 100% pure with zero outside genetics introduced. Ever. Breeder integrity plays a huge role in assuring the integrity of a truly pure herd book.

In a tangible sense, the traits that historically led the Galloway breed to survive, and then thrive, in the harsh environment that formed it centuries ago, are still preserved in the genetics of the breed, and are unleashed in every new mating. The Galloway will breed true to type, because genetically there's not a lot of variation within the breed for appreciably different phenotypes. No surprises. Today it continues to output those same predictable traits which are easily observable: Resilient animals that put a premium on successful reproduction and survivability. They are hardy animals because they are genetically programmed to be survivors. Breeders can select for carcassing traits that suit their means of production. But from a maternal standpoint, the breed is programmed for successful reproduction.

Second, it is important to register your Galloway cattle in order to keep the gene pool diversified as much as possible. The fewer the number of breeders/producers that make the effort to register their cattle, the less diversity the breed has to draw on for matings. Consider collecting one or two bulls that are worthy, and gather some good data on his birthweights, carcass weights and dressing percentage of his sons, and by all means take a little time to snag some good quality photographs of the bull from the side and rear. If you love the breed, help it survive in tact into the next century.

"Registration of animals destined to become breeding stock is essential to the long-term security of the breeds. Registration validates purebred status of animals and assures their availability for conservation by future generations."

~ Livestock
Conservancy
website

Continues pg. 3



(Why Register, con't from pg 2)

Finally, registering at least some of your Galloway cattle protects and promotes diversity within the cattle genome at large. Since pure breeds have a genetic prepotency for their traits, traits that might be declining in some cattle populations, it is important to have a reservoir of pure genetics with predictable traits.

An article on the Livestock Conservancy (LC) website discussing the importance of registrations makes the argument this way: “Crossbreeding can create valuable meat, dairy, and eggs for the marketplace, but if the purebreds are lost, the opportunity to crossbreed is lost with it.” the LC calls this ‘crossbreeding out of existence’.

In 2006 the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN reported that as much as 20 percent of farm animal breeds are at risk of extinction. In the five years prior to that report, 60 breeds of cattle, goats, pigs, horses and poultry had been lost. That is significant.

There are two primary ways breeds go extinct. Eradication, and disuse. An example of eradication is the Santa Cruz sheep, inhabitants of the Channel Islands National Park off California. They were intentionally eradicated in the 1980’s in order to preserve the park’s flora. The population fell from approximately 21,000 to 40 during the eradication effort.

Extinction by disuse happens when livestock producers pursue the extremes in muscle and milk. Beef producers are rewarded at the sale yard for having heavily muscled beef calves, regardless of what the ‘front end’ costs (dystocia's, infertility, need for higher inputs) might be. Same for dairy producers who chase near maximum milk outputs in exchange for short productive lives through re-

DNA is your friend!

Many breed associations, including the AGBA, require DNA verification that the offspring being considered for registration is positively ‘sire-traced’ to the sire of record. This means the sire must have a DNA ‘fingerprint’ on file with the breed association, as well as being made available to the lab doing the DNA tracing on the calf.

DNA capabilities enhance your ability to run multiple sire pastures in a registered cattle operation.

(Continues pg 5)

“An astonishing 90 percent of cattle in industrialized countries come from only six very tightly defined breeds.”

~ The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), Sciencedaily.com

(Breeding Stock Prices, con't from pg. 10)

Naturally there are variables influencing this 'rule of thumb' pricing structure, such as maturity of the bull, weight, and the presence of some stellar EPD's if available. But, it does provide some good footing for setting private bull sale prices in the current economic situation.

The cost of a bull is spread out across the size of the cowherd and the number of years he is retained for use, plus salvage value, or resale price if that's an option. Small herds necessarily pay a heftier per cow price for a bull, and at some point artificial insemination makes the most sense until the herd has increased in size. Not to mention the ability to inject a lot of genetic diversity into the herd each breeding season.

In the end, any bull is worth what someone is willing to pay for it. Sometimes a bull is worth more to the breeder than what others are willing to pay for it, making the decision to hold on to retain and use him in the home herd that much easier.



- ♦ 2020 Calf Crop is arriving now, sired by these bulls.
- ♦ Bulls and Semen For Sale



Glenfiddich Zeppelin

**5 Time Winner of NWSS
Premiere Exhibitor and
Breeder Awards**



Ben Lomond Mhordhu



YY Contrail 529C

Give us a call, or send email to eberryranch@gmail.com

(Why Register, cont'd from pg 3)

duced soundness, and again, higher inputs.

The definition of the word 'breed' as it relates to animal husbandry is really somewhat vague, but in general terms, a breed is comprised of animals that all maintain a specific set of similar characteristics and when mated together produce animals of those same traits. The breeder further refines what his or her own herd looks like based on personal preference, natural resources and environmental influences. That's one of the enjoyable things about visiting other breeders' herds. There can be noticeable, though not significant, differences between herds, yet all within the same breed and herd book. It is the continuation of the intentional selection process that brought forth specific breeds in the first place.

What we are really talking about here is what's referred to as 'pedigree breeds', breeds with written herd books that maintain the lineage of individual animals. With the advent of fenced pastures, it became feasible to control matings with more and more intentionality. This concept of controlled matings was put into practice in England by Robert Blake-well in the mid to late 1700's. Jay L. Lush wrote Animal Breeding Plans in 1943. In it he describes how that early process of breeding for pedigree establishment progressed. Note that linebreeding is one of the cornerstone matings in establishing type. (See sidebar at right.)

Whenever any of us utilizes breeding stock from a registered herd, we stand on the shoulders of those who went before us. They managed their breeding decisions, in many, but not all cases, based on their environment **and** what was (or is) beautiful to their own eye. But function must always supersede beauty, else the animal has no genetic future. That much we learn from Darwin. Registered animals should be deemed worthy of registration, and registration should always carry with it the sense that the animal is worthy of breeding, of having its traits propagated.

In a small breed such as the Galloway, securing *outside* (distinct bloodlines) purebred genetics can involve a lot of time, work, and travel. That's just the cost associated with propagating superior genetics without drastically increasing

From Animal Breeding Plans

by Jay L. Lush

1. A generally useful production type was identified.
2. The best individuals of that type were congregated into a breeding group (herd) or groups, often with little if any outside introduction of breeding stock.
3. Varying levels of sometimes intense inbreeding occurred, but more often linebreeding to highly favored individuals was practiced to increase the relationship to such individuals while minimizing elevation of inbreeding.
4. These groups became distinctive in type and inheritance.
5. If the group was desirable in some way, it attracted notice and became popular with other breeders.
6. In response to its popularity, the group increased in numbers, leading to records of ancestry in a herd book or registry to keep track of inheritance.
7. A breed society or association was formed to facilitate accurate recording of ancestry, maintain breed purity, and promote the breed. The first such registry for cattle began in England in 1822 for Shorthorns; the Hereford registry started in England in 1846; and the Angus, actually Aberdeen-Angus, began in Scotland in 1862.

(Continues pg 6)

(Why Register, con't from pg 5)

the inbreeding coefficient. The fact that some breeders are willing to commit to the time and expense of travel, and/or embryo transplant and semen collection and storage, is a proven benefit to those who eventually discover an individual animal or even a whole cow family that really works in their own operation.

A 2007 Sciencedaily.com article compiled from information provided by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) illustrates the need for natively adapted breeds to be maintained. In Uganda, the Ankole cattle could be faced with extinction within 20 years because “they are being rapidly supplanted by Holstein-Friesians, which produce much more milk. During a recent drought, some farmers that had kept their hardy Ankole were able to walk them long distances to water sources while those who had traded the Ankole for imported breeds lost their entire herds.”

The Galloway breed isn't suited for every environ throughout the globe, no breed is. But it is possessed of multiples of good, solid traits that make it a valuable factor in the crossbreeding equation. Harlan Richey in 2006 stated that “as near as can be determined, two British breeds appear to have remained free of outside blood - Galloway and West (Scotch) Highland.” Further, he says that Galloway are “recognized as the oldest breed of beef cattle in the British Isles.” (BEEF Magazine, July 2006).

Think about that for a moment. The genetics of the Galloway breed are steeped in secrets that were sown in the corridors of time and circumstance. Their ancestors of centuries past were, genetically, very much the same as what we have in our pastures and out on the range today. Theirs is a legacy of survival and cooperation: Refined by the elements and time and circumstance, and, I strongly suspect, doing so with the very same spirit of cooperation that we see today in the breed. Having Galloway cattle in the pasture is like having a teammate. They diligently do their part by successfully reproducing, grazing what's set before them, and generally speaking, living their lives with very little demand on their keepers. They will naturally benefit from some basic health preventatives, and they will fight their damndest when they do take seriously ill. I've seen it firsthand. They are hardwired for survival.

If you are reading this as a breeder of Galloway cattle, hats off to you for your continued investment in preserving this gem of a cattle breed.

**Galloway
are
“recognized
as the
oldest breed
of beef cattle
in the
British
Isles.”**

(BEEF Magazine,
July 2006)

Continues page 12)

Parasite Resistance: The Battle is Real

Depending on your location, you may be using some sort of dewormer on your herd twice a year. And the parasites may be on to you. Parasite resistance has been well documented in goats, sheep and horses for several decades. In the past decade the issue has come to the forefront for cattle. There are only three main classes of anthelmintics used in cattle, and eventually, even with good rotation of these products, the parasite populations begin to develop resistance. Resistant parasites contain genetic information that protects them from the toxic effects of the dewormer being used. Resistance can occur to more than one product simultaneously.

One approach to slowing down the growth curve of resistant parasites is by providing the parasite populations with 'refugia'. Refugia is the plural of refugium, defined by dictionary.com as an area where special environmental circumstances have enabled a species to survive after extinction in surrounding areas. Thefreedictionary.com defines refugia as areas inhabited by one or more relict species. A relict is an animal or plant that has survived while others of its group have become extinct.

Based on those definitions, can you guess where this is going? Its about creating a 'refuge' for a portion of your resident parasite population, so that a susceptible population of parasites continues to coexist with the resistant ones and remain part of the genetic base of the parasites. If there is a pool of non-resistant parasites still inhabiting some of the cattle, their

Continues pg 13)



**Calving is not
over yet but
we are run-
ning heavy to
heifer calves.
Look for us to
have several
for sale this
Fall - both
registered and
Red Angus
crosses.**

406-749-081

Russ and Susan Waples

406-635-2114

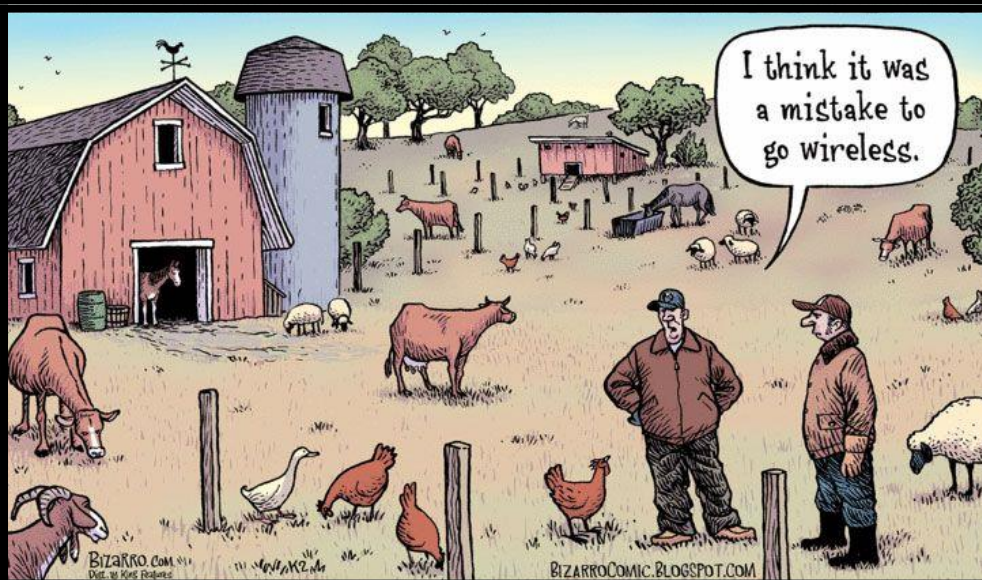
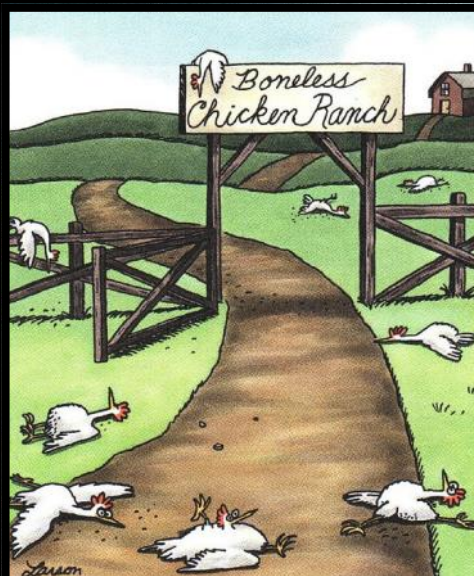
Box 544 Terry, MT 59349

brgalwap@midrivers.com

**The Coffee
Pot is
Always On!**



Comedy Corner



Thank our advertisers...visit their websites or give them a call!

GRANT GALLOWAYS

JIM GRANT ~ HAZLETON, IDAHO
Galloway Since 1966

PROVEN ON GRASS, PROVEN IN THE FEEDLOT
208.825.5215 208.420.3977 (CELL) jimgrantgalloway@gmail.com

RENAISSANCE FARMS LTD

Since 1998

Kaiser of Gnomes End

**2019 Fall Born Heifer
and Bull Calves
Available
Now**

**RFLTD Xenon
Sire of Our Top
Grassfed Carcasses
Semen Available**



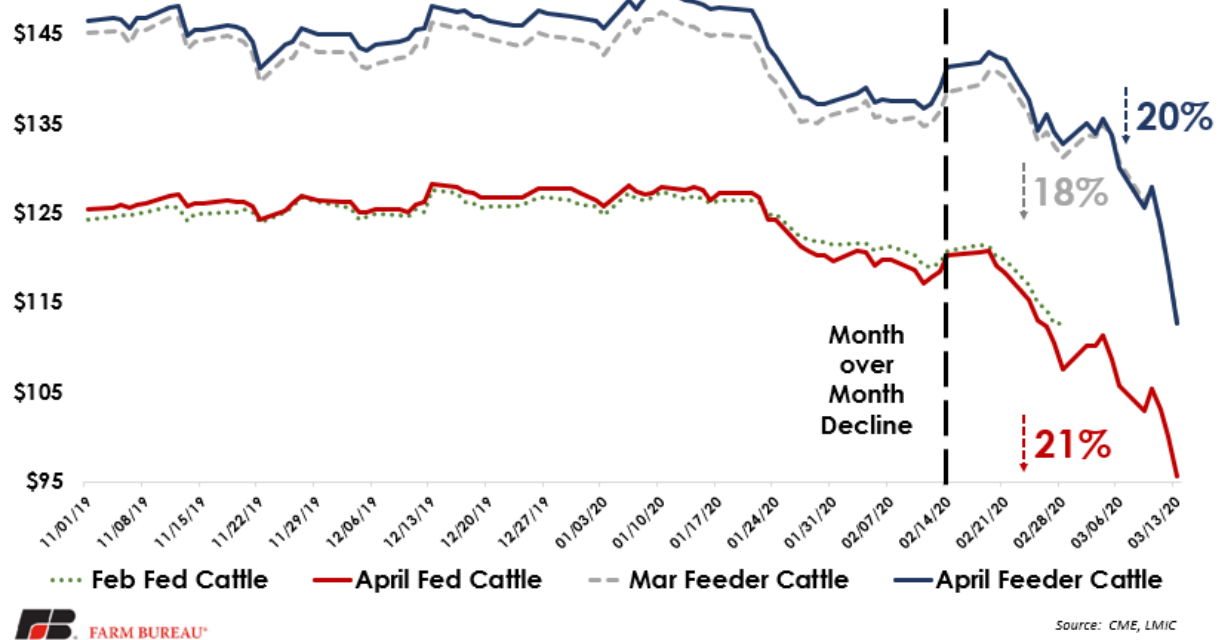
Bill and Judy Decker
Emporia, KS

www.renfarms.com 620.343.6757
galloway@renfarms.com



Drop us a line if you're going to be in the area, we're always happy to tour the cows and talk Galloway with visitors

Figure 3. Feeder and Live Cattle Futures



Pricing Bulls in a Bear Market

Thanks to the Covid19 pandemic, the cattle markets have been devastated right along with every other sector of the nation's economy. A quick glance at the chart above shows the near freefall of fat cattle and feeder cattle prices beginning in February of this year. With the economy shuttered, demand for all goods and services has decreased. However, there are still needs to be met in the production agriculture community, and one of those is the need for breeding stock, particularly bulls. The question is, how does the price of market cattle influence breeding stock prices?

As it turns out, there is a bit of old wisdom that runs in the veins of long time cattle producers. Simply stated, a bull should cost about twice the value of a 1300 pound fat steer, or 4 to 5 times the price of a feeder calf. In a February 6, 2015 article in Drovers Journal, author Travis Meteer tested this adage against 19 years of historical data, from 1996 to 2015. He compared average bull sale prices to average fat and feeder cattle prices. And surprise, that multiplier metric was strongly reflected in the analysis.

"Old rules of thumb are good to reflect on. For instance, '2 times the value of a fat steer' or '4 to 5 times the value of a feeder calf'."

February 6, 2015 Drovers Journal

(See pg. 4)

President's Address

Greetings to all! I hope you are all well and staying safe. We certainly are in unusual and unsure times. I hope we get back to normal (whatever that may be) soon. I hope calving has gone well or will go well for you this spring. My calving season starts May 1st.

I want to thank everyone that has paid their AGBA dues for 2020. If you have not done this yet, please do so. If you are not sure if you want to become a member or not I would certainly recommend it! There are many reasons to do so. Some of them are:

1. Reduced rates for registrations and transfers
2. Receive the quarterly newsletter, "The Galloway Dispatch"
3. Have your farm or ranch listed in our semi-annual Directory
4. One of the most important reasons is to meet and be part of a Great group of cattle producers to visit and network with, Galloway Breeders.

This reminds me of a statement Robert "Bob" Irvine wrote in 1997, Bob lived in Shakespeare, Ontario on Avon Acres raising Blacks and Silver Dun Galloways. Bob wrote:

Breeders of Pedigreed Livestock Take on the Mantle of Commitment

When you own and propagate an established breed of pedigreed livestock, you automatically take on the role of a conservationist. Using the cattle industry as an example. While it is necessary and beneficial to enhance our breed in every aspect, thus making our cattle more desired by the commercial beef producer, the real challenge is to do so without losing or sacrificing the inherited characteristics and appearance of the breed. Had our forefathers not followed these criteria, livestock breeds as we know today would be indistinguishable one from the other.

So, in the final analysis, if the breeder of pedigreed livestock is not dedicated to the preservation of the characteristics of his chosen breed then the question will be – who will be?

Bob Irvine

Bob has since passed, he shared this with me when I was at the 2012 World Galloway Conference held in Ontario, Canada. I agree with this statement.

Now that you have read this far that brings up registration and transfers. I would like to en-

Continues back page

(Why Register, con't from pg 6)

If you have not been doing as many registrations as you could, would you give it some consideration? It has value beyond a mere sale premium. Each of us who own registered, fullblood Galloway stock are able to do so because those who came before us made that investment of time and resources in a move toward securing the breed's future. We can each can continue that legacy!

Registration information can be found at the American Galloway Breeders' Association website. On the AGBA tab, select AGBA from the dropdown menu. Registration applications are available for download. In the near future, the CLRC will have online registration capabilities enabled for the AGBA.

Today's footprint is tomorrow's
L E G A C Y.



The trademark yellow grass fat high in beta carotene is our healthy reward for a summer of grazing tall grasses and forbs. Galloway's grass finished flesh is sweet and succulent while still lean enough for heart health conscious buyers.



Root Prairie Galloways

Fountain, Minnesota
507-867-4004



High Forage Grazing Bulls Frames 3 - 4

www.rootprairiegalloways.com hodgsonranch@aol.com

(Parasites, con't from pg 7)

eggs will wind up on the pasture as well. You want to keep the genetic base of the resident resistant parasites diluted with the genes of susceptible parasites.

A 2013 article on farmprogress.com puts it this way: "When an entire group of cattle is dewormed, we eliminate refugia in the animals. The only parasites that survive the deworming are the few that are resistant. These resistant parasites then mate and multiply and soon take over. Eventually, there is failure of the dewormer to work as expected."

So how is this parasite nirvana created? BEEF Magazine has a good short list in their February 20, 2017 issue:

- Not deworming all cattle when there are few parasite larvae on the pasture. In the South, this would be during the hottest part of the year. In the North, it would be during the coldest part of the year.
- Only deworming incoming cattle and leaving resident cattle untreated during extensive dry periods, when infection is low.
- Not using the same class of dewormer on resident cattle repeatedly.
- Not using a dewormer and then moving immediately to a clean pasture, as this will contaminate the new pasture with only resistant parasites.
- Not deworming at least 10 percent of the animals, known as "selective non-treatment."

Common Parasites of Cattle

Brown Stomach
Worm

Coccidia

Lungworm

Clinical Signs: anemia, scouring, depression and even death. But...clinical cases occur infrequently. Typically parasitism is sub-clinical and results in more subtle signs such as indigestion, poor feed conversion, reduced weight gains and decreased milk output. Lungworm infestation can result in bronchitis or pneumonia.

Bottom line: the struggle is real, maybe more so in some regions of the country than others. But armed with a little knowledge and planning, resistance issues can be delayed and minimized.

Watch for signs that individuals in your herd may be dealing with a parasite load...they will be sharing. Speak with your veterinarian about product rotation schedules.

Fight The
Resistance!!

HANG 5 GALLOWAYS

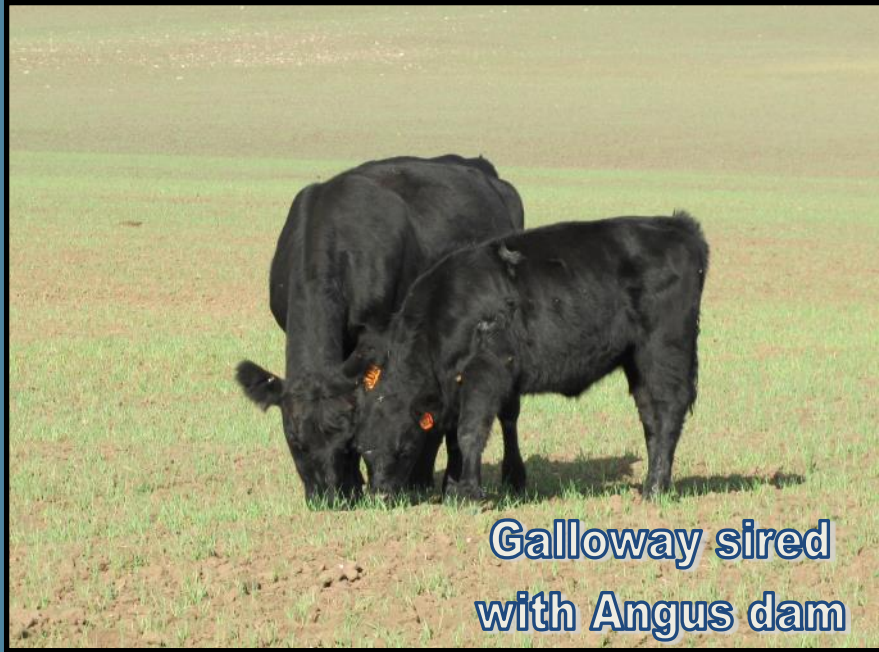
www.hang5galloways.com



Blacks Breeding Stock Always Available, Including **Duns**
Reds Pairs This Summer **Whites**
Always at Reasonable Prices!

Sarah Bowman
778 Pass Creek Rd
Parkman WY 82838
307-752-7457 307 655-9848
hang5ranch@msn.com

Remember your 2020 Dues



Galloway sired
with Angus dam

What can
Galloway do for
your calf crop?



Galloway sired
Angus cross calves

Galloway-sired progeny out of Angus first calf heifers.
Photos courtesy of Hang 5 Galloways. Cowherd owner uses Galloway
bulls on 80 replacement heifers every year.

DIRECTORS

Harley Blegen - MT -VP	406-323-4815
Eli Berry - MN - President	612-390-2249
Judy Decker -KS	620-343-6757
John Goetzinger - WI	608-464-3110
Christa Grywusiewicz - WY	307-751-5665
Terry Marcotte - KS	785-614-2271
Joan Hoffman - MI	517-627-2310
Joe Schumacher -MT	406-799-0276
Joyce Jones - PA	724-924-2938
Richard Serr - WA - Sec	509-258-6776
Susan Waples - MT	406-635-2114
Tom Wilder - WA	360-581-3700

Mailing Address

Memberships dues are now han-
dled by CLRC. Therefore....

**Mail Registrations, Transfers
and Membership
Dues to:**

CLRC
2417 Holly Lane
Ottawa, Ontario K1V 0M7
CANADA



1st Class postage
to Canada is
\$1.15





**Is your tattoo
letter for 2020**

Did You Know...
You can easily share
this newsletter with
your inquiry list by
simply going to
americangalloway.com,
click on the
Library tab,
and then copy the url
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!

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 in-
formation 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. Al-
so, if your address or email address change, contact Richard
for website changes, and cc myself for changes to the Dis-
patch 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 nev-
er receive any emails from the gallowsbreed-
ers@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 infor-
mation to Judy : renfarms@osprey.net and include your
mailing address.

DISPATCH ADVERTISING RATES

CLASSIFIED.....	\$10
(30 WORDS OR LESS, NO IMAGES)	
BIZ CARD.....	\$25
QUARTER PAGE.....	\$50
HALF PAGE.....	\$90
FULL PAGE.....	\$150

*PREPAY 4 INSERTIONS AND
SAVE 10%*

Judy K Decker, editor

1800 E. 18th

Emporia, KS 66801

President's Address, con't from pg 11

courage you all to register and record the pedigree of your Galloways. This is one of AGBA charges to do for the breeders. The AGBA is contracted with the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation (CLRC) to keep these records for us. If you are selling registered Galloways please transfer the registration papers to the new owner as soon as possible. This will help save the executive committee a lot of time trying to track down the papers and help get animals transferred. This also helps fund the AGBA. The AGBA has limited funds to help promote the breed.

As of now the 2020 World Galloway Conference is still on for November in Louisville, KY. I would recommend that you consider attending.

Take Care!

Eli Berry