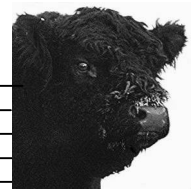
The Galloway Dispatch



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN GALLOWAY BREEDERS ' ASSOCIATION

Spring 2008

Cow Size, Quality Grade, and Efficiency

When it comes to the topic of Cow size, discussions can be as heated as NFL fans defending 'their' team. And like sports fans, most cattle producers are extremely loyal to their breed and/or their genetics sources.

But a new reality is rapidly approaching: cow size does affect profitability, both in cow maintenance costs and in terms of the finishing costs for her calf.

The properly finished steer (or heifer) means a couple of things: Good marbling (choice being the most reasonable goal) with low backfat and good retail yield. Good retail yield and low backfat may be easy to achieve with larger framed cattle, especially those with some continental influence, but quality grade can suffer without many additional days on feed. And in today's grain markets, that is becoming cost prohibitive.

Iowa State University Ag economist John Lawrence references data collected through several years of the Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity as evidence of a negative correlation between mature cow size and marbling in her calf. This negative relationship is in the context of 'fast tracking' steers to finish, and harvesting at an early age, which is an industry norm. It turns out that steers from large framed cows are at a disadvantage, because they have not matured enough to express their marbling potential. Not only do more days on feed significantly run up costs, but if taken to a true finish, these larger calves run the risk of exceeding the target carcass weight range and the resulting price docking. Essentially these larger steers are being harvested prematurely for economic reasons: to stem the flow of red ink.

The economy of the moderate cow continues on the ranch side of the

(Continued pg. 8)

" There's nothing like sitting back and talking to your cows"

~ Russell Crowe

Inside this issue:

Got Hair?

It isn't often that the topic of winter hair coats on cattle actually makes print. But late this winter, Kris Ringwall of NDSU Extension, published such an article on the NDSU extension website.
(http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/news/columns/beeftalk/beeftalk-don2019t-overlook-the-value-of-cattle-hair/)

Ringwall makes it very plain that the cow's health and her maintenance requirements are seriously impacted by the quality of her winter hair coat. He compares the well-insulated cow to the well-insulated house: If heat is *not* leaking out, both cow and house will be adorned with much of the ice and snow that have fallen. The well-insulated cow does not rely on constantly consuming feed (the 'hayburner' model) to meet her metabolic requirements, because these are kept at a minimum owing to her good healthy coat of hair. In contrast, the cow not so well endowed with hair will be more prone to health issues, lose more condition, and cost her owner more money.

Hair is by far a more economic means of reducing costs on the ranch as contrasted with increasing feed and the additional labor involved in treating ailing animals. The Galloway is second only to the bison in haircoat density. And with its two layers in winter, the Galloway haircoat offers the ultimate insulation. The Galloway or Galloway-cross female is the ideal commercial cow for a number of reasons:

- Increased efficiency on lower quality pastures and roughages
- Good fertility even on lower quality pastures
- Easy calving and strong mothering instincts reduce rancher's time requirements
- Increased winter hair coat = decreased winter feed costs
- Top quality carcasses from her offspring

Cost cutting practices have become non-negotiable in the beef cattle industry. Making genetic changes in the cowherd can be a slow process. A major means of executing these changes resides in the Galloway bull. Progressive-minded cattle producers give thoughtful consideration to the information we convey about the attributes the Galloway breed can infuse into their operation. Keep spreading the word: There are cattle producers out there in need of Galloway genetics. They'll figure that out sooner or later.

Dried Distillers Grains

How will the Era of Ethanol be written about someday? Will ethanol be crowned a conquering hero, having saved the country from certain fuel shortages? Or will we have learned that converting the fruit of our soils into fuel for combustible engines is folly?

Today the arguments for and against ethanol range across the board, from adamantly opposed to staunch support. Some pundits go so far as to predict that ethanol could prove to be the third most pivotal event in the history of agriculture, with the first two being the moldboard plow in the 1850's and the introduction of hybrid seed corn in the 1940's and 50's. Both of these irreversibly changed the direction of agriculture.

All guessing games aside, however, cattle producers today must live with the immediate consequences of the federally subsidized ethanol boom: prohibitive feed costs. They must find a means of making every kcal of energy contained in a pound of feed grains produce the maximum bang for the mega buck it is costing to feed the stuff. And one alternative to traditional feed grains such as corn, soybeans and milo, are dried distillers grains (DDG), a byproduct of the ethanol production industry.

But getting the scoop on these by products is not as clear cut as one might hope. The fact is that no fewer than 5 byproducts exist that all bear some form of the name 'dried distillers' something or other. If you call a supplier to check on using ethanol byproducts, you may have a choice of one or more of the following byproducts:

Distillers Dried Grains (DDG)
Distillers Dried Solubles (DDS)
Condensed Distillers Solubles (CDS)
Distillers Wet Grains (DWG)
Distillers Dried Grains with Solubles (DDGS)

(continued page 4)

Forms, Forms, Forms,

http://www.bovigen.com Download the forms you need for DNA profiling. Also available on the AGBA website. Contact Bovigen Customer Service at 1-877-233-3362 if you have questions. Plan on about 4 weeks for DNA fingerprinting results of bulls. Other tests turn around in about 1 week.

http://www.americangalloway.com Download the forms you need to become a member or renew your membership.

http://www.clrc.ca/index.shtml Visit the CLRC website for .pdf forms and to do pedigree searches online

(distillers, continued from pg.3)

Please visit the website listed at the end of this article to review detailed descriptions of these various byproducts and how they differ from one another. A general description follows.

Obviously some distinctions can be weighty. Dried versus wet distillers, for example, will require totally different material handling capability and storage facilities. Wet distillers will store only a few days in summer weather before spoilage sets in. The products containing a certain percentage of the 'solubles' will have different nutritional composition than those not containing solubles.

In general, though, DDG in their various forms offer a concentrated protein (30%) supplement and an energy source through the fat and fiber left behind after the distillation and fermentation processes.

(continued page 6)

REMINDER!!

2008-2009 Dues are DUE by June 30th!!

$80 Full Member
$20 Associate
$5 Junior

Is this your **last issue** of *The Dispatch*? If your AGBA membership has lapsed, so will your subscription! Not sure if you are paid up? Visit the AGBA website Breeders' Directory. Only current members are listed. Paid up but not listed? Contact your regional Director.

AGBA 2008 Calendar

2008-09 Membership Dues are due by June 30th, 2008

August 1: Deadline for article information and ad materials for next issue of Dispatch

Presidents' Box

Howdy everyone. I hope Spring has sprung at your place. As I write this on April 25th, there is a winter storm brewing to our south that could bring up to a foot of snow to our area in the next couple of days. This winter maybe wasn't the worst for snowfall, but we had blowing and drifting snow all winter with temperatures in the -30 degree range over and over, day after day, week after week, … well, you get the picture: it was miserable. But on some special occasions it even got above zero, at least for part of the day.

With the weather like that all winter, we went through more hay and straw than normal, but we were fortunate to have Galloways and only had to purchase a small amount of additional feed to get the cow herd through. Hopefully we will have grass by mid-May.

Calving went pretty well - we only had to assist one first calf heifer. The problem we had was calves getting stepped on during the blizzard-like conditions. The cows and calves would bunch up to get out of the wind and blinding snow, and the smallest of the calves usually didn't fair so well.

As far as association news, I have been working with NDSU on an upcoming study using Galloway bulls on a portion of their Angus based crossbred heifers. They will be using low birth weight Angus, Low-Line, and Galloways on the heifers. They will then feed out the calves in either a feedlot, or by supplementing them on grass in a grassfed beef type scenario. At the end of the study, carcasses will be evaluated.

The guy in charge of the study has gathered quite a bit of information on his own. He helped with MARC at Clay Center, and really thinks the Galloway have a lot to offer the beef industry. SMART GUY!! He is running into some hurdles with others at the University, but continues to press forward. Sarah Bowman has offered to donate semen from her proven bulls for this study, Thanks Sarah.

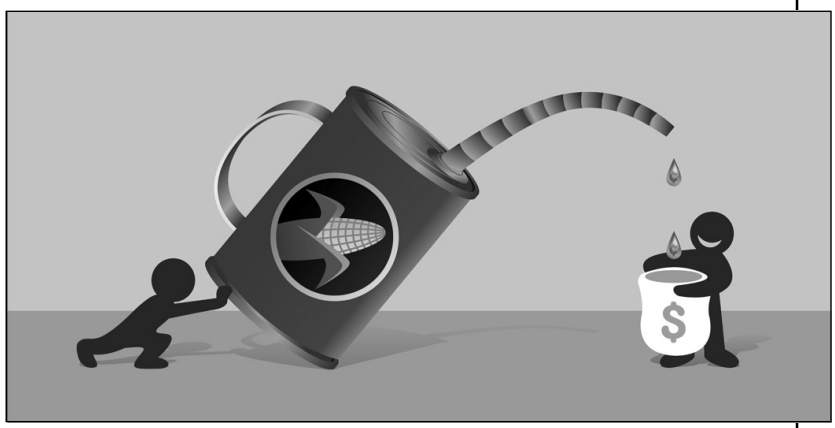
Deb Vance is still in need of cattle at altitude to be tested for Brisket Disease. The results for the Galloway are very good, and the more numbers we get, the better. Please contact Deb if you are interested. I am proposing that the AGBA

Continued page 12)

(ddg continued from pg. 4)

But of course onto every parade a little rain must fall. Producers who do decide to use DDG in their feedlot rations or as supplementation for yearlings or cows in winter must make allowances for their very high phosphorus content and make sure to bring calcium back into proper proportion. Also, excessive phosphorus excretion in a concentrated feeding setting will pose runoff problems. Elevated sulfur concentrations in DDG will likely be a restrictive factor in many uses since too much sulfur can lead to trace mineral imbalances, reduced feed intake, and health problems, up to and including death of the animal.

A very important consideration for producers opting for the inclusion of ethanol byproducts is the recently documented twofold increase in e coli 0157 populations in the hindgut of cattle fed DDG's. (Kansas State University December 2007). However a subsequent study funded by the Kansas Beef Council and the NCBA found that at no more than 25% DDG''s in the ration, no e.coli increase occurred.



Along these same lines is some uncertainty about the effect of ethanol byproducts on carcass quality, including flavor and color of beef. Feeding DDG's can alter the fatty acid profile of the meat, increasing polyunsaturated fats, which oxidize more quickly. Feeding large doses of vitamin E seems to help check this oxidation.

As long as grain prices remain perched at record highs, alternatives to grains for supplemental feeding to weaned calves and yearlings will become a necessity. Good quality hay can reduce manpower requirements and still get the cattle through the winter without supplementation, assuming the cows are not super-sized!

See page 15 for a comparison chart of ethanol by-products

Sources:

http://beefmagazine.com/business/ethanol_changes_everything/

http://www.iowacorn.org/ethanol/ethanol_11.html#drymilling

Announcing ...

The New AGBA Breeders Directory

Major kudos to Michelle Blegen for tackling the job of organizing and completing a current Breeders Directory! Many of you have been eager to once again have a printed directory available for personal use as well as for distribution. The directory can be easily emailed to you in pdf format for you to print off. If you do not have internet access, please contact Michelle at (701) 645-9073

(Cow Size, cont. from pg. 1)

equation as well, because if the cow is matched to the ranch's forage base, pregnancy rates go up and maintenance costs go down.

A valuable measurement of economic efficiency in the cow herd is the pounds of calf weaned per cow exposed. So while some producers may be at the top of the heap with their average weaning weights, they may in fact have a lower performing herd in economic terms if their pounds of weaned calf per cow exposed does not remain ***very*** high. Difficult births and a cow size mis-matched for her environment are two sources of a reduction in pounds weaned per cow exposed, yet the economic losses caused by these two factors are controllable by the rancher to some degree through careful sire selection, and by keeping cow size in check to improve pregnancy rates while reducing feed costs. Paying attention to these details will also allow the producer to raise the type of replacements that are needed for the ranch.

So by pursuing heavier weaning weights, a producer opting to keep cows that are not suited for

(Continued pg. 11)

Effects on native ecosystems of grazing with native cattle breeds

In Northumberland National Park in the UK, a research project was conducted a few years ago to evaluate the usefulness of traditional breeds of cattle for maintaining the health and vigor of the natural, desirable habitats within the park. It seems the Continental craze which overtook European beef producers left an unexpected fall out: The continental cattle are far more selective in their grazing, and are prone to seriously damaging the ecosystem of the park.

Galloways, Blue Greys and Whitebred Shorthorns graze the Northumberland National Park, UK.

The study was set up to determine if the native breeds, such as the Galloway and its cross, the Blue-Grey (a cross between a Galloway cow and a Whitebred shorthorn bull) would forage the park without damaging the species composition of the plant community.

Indeed the results indicate that the Galloway and Blue Grey cattle have been 'having a considerable impact upon the rank grass species such as purple moor grass, and causing little damage to sensitive habitats…"

According to the Northumberland National Park website, traditional breeds of cattle are consistently showing themselves to be better keepers of the preserves. The size of the continental breeds requires them to be more selective grazers, while at the same time inflicting more physical damage on the

(Continued pg 11)

Is This Goodbye?

You may be receiving this issue as a courtesy if your membership has lapsed. Why not renew today?
AGBA fiscal year runs July 1 thru June 30.
Next issue will be mailed to members only!

HERD BOOK RULE CHANGE

The AGBA board of directors recently voted on and approved a motion to amend the herd book rules. The amendment requires "Any bull born after the year 2007 to a sire meeting the criteria for DNA fingerprinting must be positively DNA-Sire traced to the sire that will be recorded in the AGBA herd book." Since all registered bulls born after 2000 must be DNA fingerprinted, there is no additional money involved. The DNA sample you submit to Bovigen can be used to trace the registrant nominee to the bull you are submitting as sire at no additional cost.

New Registration Application Form

The CLRC, in conjunction with Steve Castner, has revised the registration application form for the AGBA. The changes are designed to better dovetail with the entry screens used by the CLRC to enter data in the herd book program.
The form will soon be available on the AGBA website. Please use it for all your future registrations.

(Native Grazers, cont. from pg. 9)

grassland. However the native breeds, such as the Galloway and its Whitebred Shorthorn cross, the Blue Grey, readily convert that same coarse, undesirable vegetation into high quality beef in a harsh environment while preserving, if not actually improving, the overall diversity and quality of the Park's ecosystem.

Blue Grey cows at Ingleborough National Nature Reserve, UK

Olds College Steer-A-Year

Galloway Results as of Feb, 2008, pen average, 2 months before slaughter

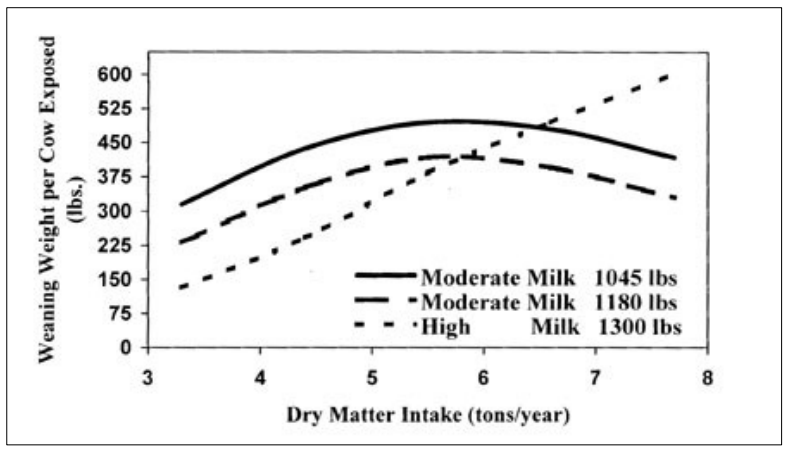
Feed Efficiency: 3.85

ADG 3.5 lbs/day

(Cow Size, Cont. from pg 9)

the available forage base and overall ranch environment runs a significant risk of paying a higher feed bill for a cowherd that does not wean a significantly higher number of pounds of calf per cow exposed than a herd of smaller cows weaning smaller calves at a much higher percentage of success, AND with a much lower feed bill.

According to Dr. Glen Selk, Extension Cattle Specialist, Oklahoma State University, a 1250 pound heavy milking cow, producing 26 pounds of milk daily, needs 34% more energy as averaged across an entire year. This is as compared to the 1100# moderate milking cow producing 18# of milk daily. This translates into reduced stocking rates, 66 large cows to 100 smaller cows.



As the demand for grain increases, the demands on lands are going up as well. Lease rates and land sales prices are climbing. It would not be surprising to find old 'go back' and planted pastures come out of grass and back into crop production. The effect of this may be to further push beef cattle production onto very marginal grazing land.

Continued page 15

Galloway: When it has to be the best beef.

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN GALLOWAY BREEDERS ' ASSOCIATION

Yes! I want to receive each quarterly issue of *The Galloway Dispatch*

American Galloway Breeders Association

Associate Membership Application

Name _____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Phone_____ E-Mail_____

Associate Membership Fee: $20 annually.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Make Checks payable to American Galloway Breeders Association (AGBA)
Mail to AGBA,
c/o CLRC
2417 Holly Lane
Ottawa, ON KMV 017 CANADA

Seaweed

Feeding a seaweed derivative to cattle has beneficial effects. Feedlots supplementing with *Tasco*® report reduced heat stress and fewer foot rots. Fed early in the feeding regimen, seaweed also appears to increase the number of choice carcasses.

(For additional information visit beefbiz.com and enter tasco in the search box.)

(Prez's Corner, continued)

share some of the cost, as this is a very positive thing for the breed, not just a handful of individual breeders.

We are still in need of some ideas for advertising. I have spoken with a couple of writers who are doing free lance articles on the Galloway breed, and submitting them for publication. These writers contacted me, and are hopeful about marketing their articles. This is all very good, especially if they get published in a few magazines.

Wishing all a profitable 2008.

Promoting Galloways,

Harley

American Galloway Breeders Association

THANK YOU ADVERTISERS!!

Notes from New Mexico State University Bulletin B-217

"Many factors can affect production efficiency in the cow herd. Major factors include cow size, milking ability, and reproductive performance."

"According to Montano-Bermudez and Nielsen (1990), when production efficiency was estimated as weight of calf weaned per unit of energy intake, lower-milking cows were more efficient producers to weaning; the calves retained this efficiency advantage through the feedlot. This efficiency advantage to weaning appears to remain throughout the lifetime production of the lower-milking cows (Davis et al. 1983a, 1983b)."

"The same research group (Davis et al. 1983a) in a different study found that feeding larger cows a higher-energy diet did not increase enough the number and total weight of calves weaned to offset the higher level of energy intake. In other words, supplying larger cows with more energy did not increase their production efficiency. Energy intake comprises a large portion of the input into the cow herd. Maintenance energy (the amount of energy required to maintain body weight) can represent 70 to 75 percent of the total energy consumed annually by the cow herd (Ferrell and Jenkins 1985).

"Cows that produce more milk have been shown to wean heavier calves than low-milkers (Clutter and Nielsen 1987), but the higher weaning weight may not be economical because of the efficiency loss and increased cost. Calves from low-milking cows tend to replace milk nutrients by increasing their nonmilk feed consumption at an earlier age (Montano-Bermudez et al. 1990)."

Trapper Galloway Ranch

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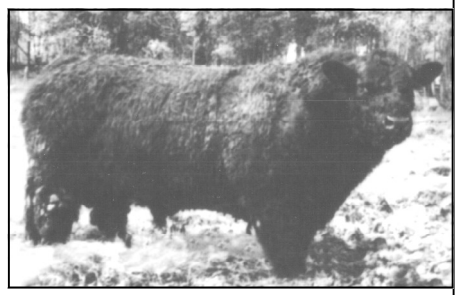
www.trappergallowayranch.com kit@trappergallowayranch.com

Snapshot of Trapper

Trapper Galloway Ranch is pleased to announce the safe calving of seven ET calves at Alzada, MT.
The five bull and two heifer calves bring together two phenomenal bull lines, Snapshot of Trapper and Glenfiddich Brodie.

This is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity to secure such powerful genetics in one animal, for your herd. These bulls will sire excellent feeder calves for the commercial producer, as well as top notch replacements. The females will make excellent foundation animals.

Purebred Galloway breeders, take note:
Opportunity is Knocking!



Geordawn Axel, a son of Glenfiddich Brodie. These ET calves are paternal brothers and sisters of Geordawn Axel.

Videos of ET Calves Coming This Summer!

Cow Size, cont from page 11

Clearly, the high milking female will be at a serious disadvantage, particularly if she is packing a lot of frame. Take a look at the chart on page 11. The smaller, moderate milking cow produces more pounds of calf per unit of dry matter intake on a per cow exposed basis than the larger females of either milking ability.

What is clear in the research data, and on many working ranches across the land, is that the moderately sized cow possessed of moderate milking ability whose offspring can grade Choice YG 1 or 2 is a cow who is friendly to the ranch's bottom line. So where does one find such a cow?

The Galloway breed epitomizes these qualities! Physically they are naturally a moderate sized animal. Maternally they are modest milkers with tremendous mothering instincts and good breedback. These are the three legs of cow/calf profitability. They will use the worst pastures with nary a fuss, keep in reasonable condition and wean off a sturdy, healthy calf in the fall. True... Its not often they'll give you much cause to join in the 'weaning weight' discussions at the coffee shop.

But just smile while you listen and sip your coffee. Sooner or later, they'll ask you about that silly grin on your face.

Nutrient composition of ethanol co-products.

Nutrient	Dried Distillers Grains	Dried Distillers Grains plus Solubles	Modified Wet Distillers Grains plus Solubles	Wet Distillers Grains plus Solubles	Condensed Distillers Solubles
DM, %	88 to 90	88 to 90	50	25 to 35	23 to 45
			DM Basis		
TDN, %	77 to 88	85 to 90	70 to 110	70 to 110	75 to 120
NEm, Mcal/cwt	89 to 100	98 to 100	90 to 110	90 to 110	100 to 115
NEg, Mcal/cwt	67 to 70	68 to 70	70 to 80	70 to 80	80 to 93
CP, %	25 to 35	25 to 32	30 to 35	30 to 35	20 to 30
DIP, % CP	40 to 50	43 to 53	45 to 53	45 to 53	80.0
UIP, % CP	50 to 60	47 to 57	47 to 57	47 to 57	20.0
Fat, %	8 to 12	8 to 12	12 to 15	10 to 18	9 to 15
Calcium, %	0.11 to 0.20	0.10 to 0.20	0.02 to 0.03	0.02 to 0.03	0.03 to 0.17
Phosphorus, %	0.40 to 1.15	0.40 to 0.80	0.50 to 1.42	0.50 to 0.80	1.30 to 1.45
Potassium, %	0.49 to 1.08	0.87 to 1.33	0.70 to 1.00	0.50 to 1.00	1.75 to 2.25
Sulfur, %	0.46 to 0.65	0.37 to 1.12	0.38 to 1.20	0.40 to 1.20	0.37 to 0.95

A handy chart for comparing nutrient values of ethanol by-products

Want to receive the Galloway Dispatch quarterly? Complete this form and send it $20 Associate Membership dues to:

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c/o Canadian Livestock Records Corp
2417 Holly Lane
Ottawa, ON K1V OM7 Canada

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AMERICAN GALLOWAY BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

c/o Canadian Livestock Records Corporation

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