

# The Galloway Dispatch



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN GALLOWAY BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION

Summer 2008

## Cattle Herd Health: BVD Watch

(Sourced from <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/VM023>)

Vaccination of the cattle herd is a pretty common practice for many cattle producers in North America. It is, as they say, cheap insurance. By exposing the animal's immune system to specific, 'denatured' portions of potentially devastating viruses, that animal will be better prepared to mount a successful immunological defense should it later encounter the virus in its infective form.

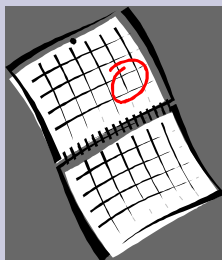
The effectiveness of vaccines is attested to by the vastly lowered incidence of brucellosis in cattle; today many states sport a 'brucellosis free' status.

One virus that is uniquely problematic is Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD). According to Dr. E. J. Richey, University of Florida, Institute of Food

(Continued pg. 4)

## Make Plans to Attend the NILE and the AGBA Annual Meeting

Even though many of us are feeling the heat of summer at present, the cool breezes and fetching colors of October will be upon us before we know it. And you know what that means! It'll be time for the annual gather at Billings, MT, at the Northern Invitational Livestock Exposition. The NILE has hosted a Galloway show for many years, and if you have not yet attended the show, met your fellow breeders, and participated in the annual meeting, why not make this THE year?! Go ahead and select a few head now, and get them entered by the September, 15, 2008 deadline. (Late entries accepted until October 1, \$15.00 per entry penalty applies.)



(Continued pg. 3)

**"Remember that there is nothing stable in human affairs; therefore avoid undue elation in prosperity, or undue depression in adversity."**

**~ Socrates**

### Inside this issue:

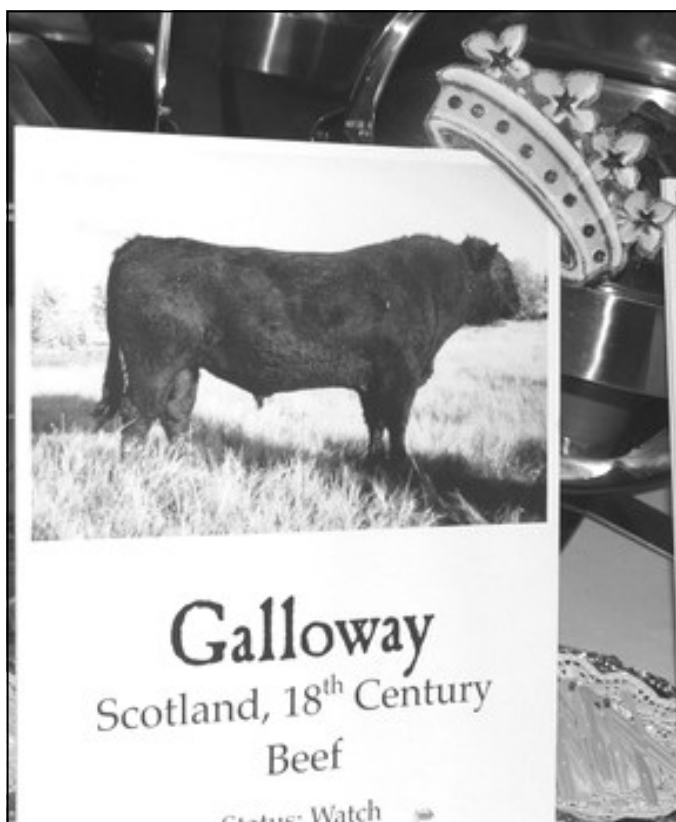
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## Galloway Beef Takes Second in Blind Taste Test



**Wearing its Second Place Crown, this photo of a Galloway bull was unveiled after the final points were tallied.** Photo courtesy John Rockhold - Mother Earth News website

According to a press release from the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy (ALBC), the Galloway breed won second place in a blind taste testing held at Ayshire Farms in Upperville, VT. On June 20, 2008, over 70 chefs, food connoisseurs, food writers, and food 'professionals' sampled beef from the chuck of ten breeds, with eight of these being beef from heritage breeds. Two conventional breeds, Angus (tied for 5th place) and Shorthorn (tied for 6th place), were also included. The heritage breeds participating were: Ancient White Park, Dexter, Galloway, Highland, Milking Devon, Pineywoods, Randall Lineback and Red Poll. It is worth noting that the Randall Lineback, Red Poll and Milking Devon were finished separately from the other seven, with the latter two being grass finished. Out of the 7 breeds finished under identical conditions, the Galloway placed first.

The Taste Testers were permitted to select only one sample as their #1 choice, and then the votes were tallied and the first and second place winners were crowned! While the Taste Testing was far from meeting the criterion for scientific

practices, there is a fair amount of anecdotal value to the results: Galloway garnering top rankings for flavor, tenderness, texture, smell and appearance is a familiar, if not commonplace result when Galloway beef is put to the taste test.

As for those Randall Linebacks, all we can say is, "Wait 'til next year!"





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(NILE continued)

If you have specific items you would like to have discussed at this year's meeting, please forward these to the President or Vice President prior to the October meeting date, which will be announced closer to that time.

One thing to keep abreast of is a brucellosis watch currently on in the state of Montana. The link below will allow you to stay abreast

NILE Galloway Show  
Monday, Oct 13, 4 PM

Barns available  
Saturday Oct 11, 8 AM

Cattle in place  
Sunday Oct 12

of any information you may need to know about that situation.

[http://liv.mt.gov/livBrucellosisindex.asp#state\\_import](http://liv.mt.gov/livBrucellosisindex.asp#state_import)

If you won't be bringing cattle, you can start checking into airfares anytime now, and snag a much better deal than if you wait until late September or early October to book. Billings has plenty of excellent places to stay, including the Country Inns and Suites, located within walking distance of The Metra Park, home of the NILE.

See you in October!

## 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



## What Is Beef's Future?

"....(F)eed costs are 60-70% of the cost of livestock production, and they have increased 40-60% in the past two years. Corn prices alone rose 266% from the first quarter of 2006 to July, 2008, at Omaha. When corn prices increased 179% in the early 1970's the swine breeding herd declined 15% and beef inventories decreased 19%."

Efficiency. It's Priceless.

Quote source: [www.farmgate.uiuc.edu](http://www.farmgate.uiuc.edu)



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and Agricultural Sciences, "*BVD can be one of the most devastating (BVD, continued) diseases cattle encounter and one of the hardest to get rid of when it attacks a herd. The problem is, whenever producers look up the classic symptoms of BVD, they read about the most severe form of the disease and decide that they do not have the problem in their herd. **The severe form of BVD is not the typical form of BVD that most producers encounter.***" (Emphasis added.)

The BVD virus replicates into different variants when encountering a stressful environment. This causes the symptoms of BVD infection to be widely variable, with a relatively low percentage of BVD cases being properly diagnosed by the producer as BVD based on the symptoms described in the documentation commonly available to them.

**70% to 90% of  
all BVD  
infections are  
mild to  
asymptomatic.**

(Continued pg. 6)

# Hang 5 Galloways



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Allen Williams'  
Ultrasounding:

**100% Tender!**

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### REMINDER!!

2008-2009 Dues were  
DUE 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 now!!**

**September 15....  
Entries due to NILE**

**October 1...  
Late entries due to NILE**

**November 19... (best  
guess as of press time)  
Entries due to NWSS**

### President's Box

Galloway friends,

As I write this today my hay is getting rained on and corn is trading in the \$5-\$6 range. All feedstuffs have continued a steady rise, with no relief in sight. Beef cattle producers' inputs will be much higher over the next cycle.

In our grocery stores, we have seen prices double or nearly triple for certain types of products. Most of this cost increase is due to the rise in the cost of transportation, as gas and diesel have basically doubled in price in the last year. There have also been numerous food safety issues to further dishearten the public about their situation.

I know these things are not a secret. That is why I can't help but to be happy to be raising Galloway cattle. We have a breed of cattle that produce a highly sought after product, in an efficient manner, regardless if they are being fed a grain based ration, a by-products based ration, or are being utilized in a grass fed operation. We need to get the word out, and sooner rather than later.

Yes, I know Galloways have been around for a long time, but the majority of today's cattle producers have not heard of them or what they have to offer the cattle industry.

The AGBA needs to put forth more advertising, to increase interest, and there is no better time than now. Judy Decker, Sarah Bowman, and I have been working on a complete overhaul of the Galloway website. I wish I could say we are close to launching it, but we want to do it right. We had to transfer the domain name *americangalloway.com* before we got ahead of ourselves. That being accomplished, an independent website designer was hired and we are rolling. The website is just one very important part of our promotion. Please feel free to let myself or your director know if you have any ideas for advertising. We are currently running an ad in one publication, but it gets to be quite costly. We need to make sure we are getting a decent bang for our buck as far as targeting the right people. All aspects of the cattle industry should be

Continued page 12)





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(BVD, continued from page 4)

BVD virus is classified as two types, Type 1 and Type 2. Type 2 has traditionally been the source of the most severe outbreaks of disease. Within each type there exists 2 biotypes: a cytopathic (CP) and non-cytopathic (NCP). *"The various disease syndromes noted in cattle infected with BVD virus are mainly attributed to the age of the animal when it became infected and the virus biotype (CP or NCP)"*, notes Richey. (See Sidebar, "BVD Disease")

In the laboratory, the non-cytopathic variety does not destroy cells in cultures while the cytopathic strains do. Both strains, however, will depress the immune system. (More on that in a moment). The ultimate effect of BVD infection on the calf's body depends on which strain it becomes infected with. Once the immune system is compromised by the presence of BVD virus, secondary diseases can gain a foothold in various forms and degrees.

Fetal BVD Disease demonstrates the flexibility of this virus. If a pregnant BVD-vulnerable cow is exposed to the CP-BVD virus, the virus can actually revert to the NCP form as it crosses the placenta and enter the fetus. If the fetus is under 120 - 150 days, it may become infected, but as yet lacking an immune system, it does nothing about the BVD virus now multiplying in its tissues. If the fetus survives to term, it may appear normal physically, but go on to manifest unthriftiness and possibly premature death. Or it may be born with any of a number of obvious defects, such as an underdeveloped brain, blindness, skeletal defects, or general body malformations.

(Continued pg. 8)

## BVD Disease

**Subclinical** - Both CP and NCP biotypes are implicated. BVD virus is a major component of many respiratory illnesses in cattle

**Peracute** - Caused by the Type 2 NCP-BVD virus. Animal manifests high fevers, respiratory disease, anorexia and occasionally diarrhea.

**Acute** - The classic form of BVD disease, animal presents with fever, yellow nasal and ocular discharge, mouth sores and diarrhea with blood and/or mucous present.

**Chronic** - found in animals with minimal to absent BVD antibody titers. Anorexia, diarrhea, crusted sores, bald spots, lameness and a starved appearance. Death likely.

**Mucosal** - Brought on when NCP-infected animal encounters CP biotype, and thus mounts no immunological counter to the CP-BVD virus. Mouth lesions traverse entire length of alimentary canal to anus. Almost always fatal.



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(Prez's Corner, cont.)

our main goal. Our cattle are versatile, so needs to be our advertising.

I am sure Judy will think I rambled on enough, so better cut it short. Please bring your ideas along with you when you come to the NILE in October. We have what the industry needs; let's open some eyes and answer the concerns. They want and need Galloways; they just don't know it yet.

Promoting Galloways

Harley

American Galloway Breeders' Associatio



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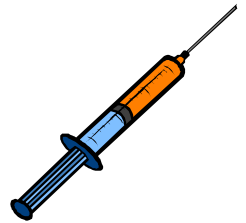
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(BVD, continued from pg. 8)

The worst case scenario, however, is the BVD calf that appears normal, proceeds to grow normally, and finally enters the breeding herd, only to produce more persistently NCP-BVD infected (PI) calves. **Every PI individual in the herd acts as a reservoir for the BVD virus**, shedding it in feces and nasal and oral secretions, providing regular BVD exposure to its herdmates, potentially making them more susceptible to secondary illnesses due to the substandard immune function caused by NCP-BVD virus. For the BVD-PI calf, the NCP-BVD virus in some ways functions as a Trojan horse to the calf's immune system: because it isn't recognized as a foreign invader (recall that as a fetus the calf has encountered and 'accepted' the BVD virus as 'ok'), the stage is set for the devastating CP-BVD virus to subsequently enter the animal's body without any immunological challenge whatsoever.

It is worth noting that the BVD virus is not limited to cattle. It can be found in goats, sheep, llamas, deer, antelope and buffalo. The BVD virus can even be transmitted from an infected animal to a susceptible one during rectal exams if the examiner does not change gloves.



### Vaccinating against BVD Disease

Vaccinating cattle of any age against BVD virus is the frontline of defense. It is very important to understand the difference between the two available types of vaccine.

(Continued pg. 9)

## U.S.A. Beef Now = COOL Beef

By now you are aware that the Farm Bill survived a veto by President Bush by handily passing in both houses to become law. Most features of the mammoth bill take effect October 1, 2008. This includes the Country of Origin Labeling Act, or COOL.

COOL, as it will be applied to meats, including beef, is designed to permit consumers to purchase beef that is 'homegrown', meaning from animals whose entire life has been spent on U.S. soil and therefore more likely to meet USDA standards for production. Up until the COOL law, consumers at big chain supermarkets had no way of knowing if their beef came from Mexico, Australia, Argentina or the U.S. A.

Next issue of The Galloway Dispatch we will look at the specifics of what COOL will mean to cattle producers, their recordkeeping, and who may want access to those records.

In the meantime, be COOL.



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(BVD, continued from pg 8)

### **Modified Live Virus (MLV) Vaccine -**

confers long protection with one injection.

**Do not give to pregnant cows at any stage of pregnancy!** The MLV vaccine can be given to **calves** nursing pregnant cows, **but only if the BVD MLV vaccine IS NOT in combination with the MLV IBR vaccine.** (Good luck finding that one!)

It is possible that the IBR virus from the MLV IBR vaccine could shed from the vaccinated calf, infect its dam, and cause abortion of her fetus. **Also**, if vaccinating nursing calves with a MLV BVD vaccine, revaccination at weaning is recommended, as antibodies in the mother's milk may neutralize the virus received by the calf in the vaccine.

**Killed Virus Vaccine** - These vaccines are safe for all cattle of any reproductive status. They do require a secondary dose of the vaccine 3 weeks later. **A single vaccination of the killed virus vaccine is not effective** even when coupled with annual boosters, because **one initial single vaccination of killed virus is not enough to initiate the needed immune response.**

### **Testing for BVD - PI Status**

Not knowing the BVD status of your herd can have serious ramifications. Subclinical infections may predispose animals to respiratory diseases, pinkeye, footrot and

## **BVD Vaccination Strategies**

Vaccinate suckling calves with MLV BVD vaccine that IS NOT combined with MLV IBR vaccine.

**Or**, vaccinate calves with killed virus BVD vaccine, but re-vaccinate 3 weeks later.

**Or**, vaccinate weaned calves with MLV BVD vaccine, but prohibit any contact with bred cows

## **Russ and Susan Waples**



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Email: [brgalwap@midrivers.com](mailto:brgalwap@midrivers.com)

(Continued pg 11)

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## 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!

## Russ and Susan Waples



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Yearling bulls available for Spring. Weights, Frame Scores and Pictures Available

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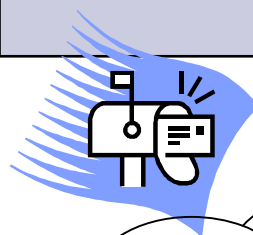
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Don't forget to use the **NEW** Registration forms when submitting registrations for animals! For now contact the CLRC to obtain them.

## 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.



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## A Beefy Carcass

Sarah Bowman, Hang 5 Galloways, got a surprise from the butcher recently. She had promised to sell a steer to a beef-loving customer, having told them that the expected hanging weight would be in the 550# to 750# range, depending on which steer was ready at the appointed time. (The steers were on feed at an Idaho feed yard.) The feed yard eventually delivered a 7/8 Galloway steer to the processor. It turns out the hanging weight projection was a bit off! This steer was a larger than is typical for her herd, and checked in with a 1425# liveweight. However, the steer went on to stretch a few more ranch statistics when it hung a 980# carcass, for a 68.7% dressing percentage! Her happy beef customer no longer needs to ask, "Where's the Beef?"

1425# LIVEWEIGHT Grading High Choice  
HANGS 980# CARCASS. = 68.7% Dressing Percent

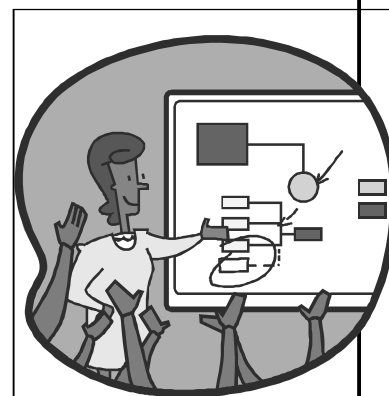
diphtheria as well as well as lowered (BVD, continued from page 9)  
cow reproductive rates and decreased growth in calves. Proper vaccination of all animals can help prevent this.

But what about those persistently infected animals? To identify these requires a special test performed at a laboratory using a notch of ear tissue. Any animal identified as BVD-PI must be removed from the herd. Ideally this would mean destroyed on the ranch, to prevent its commingling with other healthy cattle at an auction barn.

If you are a Galloway breeder reading this, take it to heart. The genetics you shepherd are without equal, and taking proper protective measures can preserve the health of your herd and also the herds into which you sell your animals.

Discuss a BVD vaccination strategy with your veterinarian. Be clear on what vaccination protocols will offer your herd the most effective and safest protection.

Okay... Class Dismissed.





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

## American Galloway Breeders Association

### Associate Membership Application

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks payable to American Galloway  
Breeders Association (AGBA)

Mail to AGBA,

c/o CLRC

2417 Holly Lane

Ottawa, ON KMV 017 CANADA

Associate Membership Fee: \$20 annually.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Olds College Steer A Year Results

Feed efficiency results are in for the 2007-08 Olds College Steer A Year research project, and the news is great if you are a Galloway breeder. Out of the 17 breeds with pens of five entered in this round of testing, the Galloway came out on top for feed efficiency, with a value of 4.56 pounds of feed per pound of gain.

The 17 breeds ADG's ranged from 1.63 pounds per day (Dexter) to 3.78 pounds per day (Blond d' Aquitaine), with the entire group ADG settling in at 3.38 pounds per day. The Galloway pretty much nailed the average with a final pen ADG of 3.36 pounds per day.

The Galloway, Gelbvieh, Simmental, Maine, Murray Grey and Charolais all checked in with ADG's all within .10 pound of one another, with that subgroup's ADG averaging out to 3.40 pounds per day.

Feed efficiency is a genetic and thus heritable trait. If you're reading this, it is most likely because you already raise Galloway or Galloway-influenced cattle, and you have been reaping the benefits of the breed's built in efficiency for years. But if you're not using Galloway genetics in your program... well, we're sure sorry!

Do your bank account a favor: Go Galloway.



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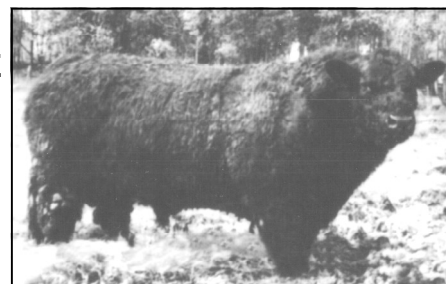


Snapshot of Trapper

**Snapshot of Trapper was herd bull at Brass Ring Galloways for many years where he sired many calves that excelled at the NILE in Billings. This November we will be offering two 3/4 brothers to Snapshot of Trapper, as well as five bulls that are 1/2 brothers to Geordawn Axel.**

**This is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity to secure such powerful genetics for your herd in a single bull. Each of these ET bulls will sire excellent feeder calves for the commercial producer, as well as top notch replacements and 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 September!**





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## Denver Updates



Because the Fall issue of The Dispatch will most likely reach you about the time entries close for the National Western Stock Show in Denver, we're including some pertinent information in this issue.

Premium books will be available online at <http://www.nationalwestern.com/nwss/index>. Look for them beginning in September.

BVD-PI testing was required in 2008, so be prepared to submit ear notch samples to a laboratory for BVD-PI testing well in advance of the January show. The lab results sheet will need to be presented with the cattle at check in. Please check the NWSS website for updates!

Entry deadline will be around November 20th, 2008. Check the website!!

Leroy Kindler is Show Superintendent. **(605) 456-2924**

Show classes are available now from LeRoy, or check online in September.

There will be opportunities to show Galloway and Galloway-cross steers and heifers, as well as a wide variety of Registered Classes. If you're bringing youngsters, be sure and check into the Junior Galloway show. It sounds like the kids always have a great time, and I know the adults get a kick out of watching them show the Galloway cattle.



And of course, if you plan on attending the Denver Stock Show *without* cattle, there will be plenty of opportunities for you to meet fellow breeders and lend a hand to those whose hands may be full of one too many lead ropes!

See you in Denver!



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

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**AMERICAN GALLOWAY  
BREEDERS ASSOCIATION**

c/o Canadian Livestock Records Corporation

The Galloway Dispatch is published quarterly by the American Galloway Breeders' Association.: c/o Canadian Livestock Records Corporation ? 2417 Holly Lane ? Ottawa, ON. K1V 0M7 ? Canada ? Editor: Judy K. Decker ? 1800 E. 18th ? Emporia, KS 66801 ? 620-343-6757