

The Galloway Dispatch



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN GALLOWAY BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION

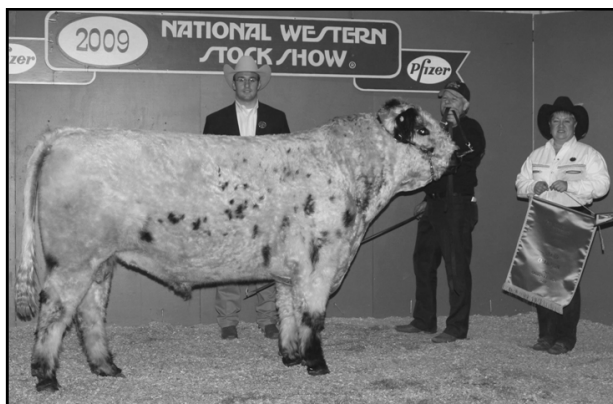
Winter 2008 -09

News from Denver

A report from Gayle Cerullo and Russel Horvey

"All of the Galloway breeders should be very proud of the quality of cattle shown at the NWSS Galloway show. They were all well-fitted and practiced. The Galloway Display captured a lot of interest, and we had a lot of folks coming by to look at and talk about the cattle, right up to the end. It was great to visit with so many prospective buyers. It is important to point out that these prospective buyers were looking for different qualities in cattle, from Club Calf to grassfed beef genetics. This is a reminder that as breeders, we need to all work together to capitalize on the differences we pursue in our breeding programs and celebrate the differences in our cattle.

Galloway fit the bill in all ways! **But**, we need more cattle at the Denver Stock Show. There were a lot of disappointed buyers...*not enough cattle to buy!* Please, everyone mark your calendar for January 2010. Bring



Debra Vance with her Grand Champion Galloway Bull DD Ranch's Steamboat at the 2009 Denver Stock Show.



LeRoy Kindler with his Grand Champion Heifer, K-101PFawn, at the 2009 Denver Stock Show

your Galloway to the National Western Stock Show. We have breeders who are willing to help you fit your cattle, so there is no reason not to come. We must work together to promote our cattle at Denver, or the opportunity will vanish. See LeRoy Kindler's letter elsewhere in this newsletter! Thank you, and see you in Denver!"

"Children should be instructed and educated in the principles of freedom. "

~ John Adams

Inside this issue:

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Galloway: When it has to be the best beef.

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Spotlight on Galloway Breeders

Brad and Leslea Hodgson

Editors note: In an effort to help Galloway breeders get a feel for what their fellow breeders are doing with the Galloway breed, I plan on featuring a breeder in each future issue of The Galloway Dispatch. This month, I am pleased to introduce you to Brad and Leslea Hodgson of Root Prairie Galloways, Fountain, MN.

I am always curious how folks come to discover Galloway cattle. I asked Leslea, and she explains:

"The tip to try Galloways came like this. When Brad and I were in the midst of deciding what the heck to do for some cattle I called grandpa Olson and asked his opinion. Here is his quote..."if I had it to do all over again I'd get some of them Galloway cattle like they have out in Montana, they're supposed to be eeeeasy keepers."

While Brad already had a 'mish-mash' of farm and ranch experience, having worked on some ranches and feedlots in northern Minnesota, Leslea is city raised, but is quick to say that her friends 'always swore I was not a city person! I just love the out of doors and animals so I guess that all works here.'" The Hodgsons had wanted to purchase a farm for quite some time, and were finally able to do so. Once that dream was realized, they signed up for a Beginning Farmers course held in a nearby town one night a week for a winter. "The class was a real good deal, it helped us to meet a lot of nearby established farmers/ranchers (I think we call 'em grazers up here). They had speakers of high quality, lots of emphasis on direct marketing and enterprise plans, some holistic goal stuff... We've been learning a lot about grasses, fertilizer, or lack thereof, Galloways and grass finishing!"

The direct marketing aspect of the class has come in handy as Brad and Leslea produce grassfed Galloway beef and direct market all of it. They received their organic certification two years ago, and the 2008 calf crop will be certified for sale as organic grassfed beef.

Their pastures are fenced in long strips through which the cattle are rotated. They are making a conscious effort toward raising soil fertility on all of their grazing lands. They have planted a wide variety of forages including a small field of big bluestem, a warm season native grass. They also utilize pasture mixes comprised of Timothy, brome, and orchard grass



Continued page 3



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Hodgsons, cont. from pg 3

intermixed with red and white clovers.

Leslea believes Grandpa Olson's recommendation of Galloways was right on the money. The cows are outwintered, and though they have the choice of using temporary windbreaks created by big round bales, as often as not they weather the storms out on the hills. The Hodgson's have been pleased with the efficiency of the Galloway, something that became evident the first few winters when the only hay they had available was the stuff the neighbors were giving away, "year old stemmy, dusty junk," as Leslea puts it.

"... (It) looks to me like the Galloways are a good healthy bunch. We don't do much for them but kelp & salt, some other free choice minerals now & then."

A big 'Thanks' to Brad and Leslea for taking the time to share a bit about themselves with all of us!

www.hodgsoncustomcabinets.homestead.com/index.html

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



MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Lapsed Memberships will be Deleted from the AGBA website Breeders Directory Effective March 15th.
Not sure if you are current?

**Check your address label on this edition. If it doesn't have (2009) after your name...
You are not current!**

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Excellent opportunity to outfit your operation with quality Galloway genetics

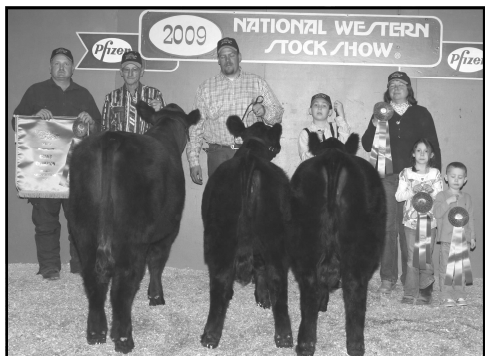
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K Galloways
three entries
at the 2009
National
Western
Stock Show

Reserve Winners At Denver:

Reserve Champion Female:
DD Ranch's Tundra

Reserve Champion Bull:
Decebe of Trapper

Club Calf Notables

Those close to the Club Calf world tell me that the trend is toward more hair
and less frame.

Hmmm. Galloway have been doing that for 500 years!

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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.

President's Box

Hi All - Me again,

Here is a quick summary of activities in your Association in the past few months: The new web site is up and running. CHECK IT OUT. We have been having a flurry of new inquiries, which may likely be attributed mainly to the look and functionality of the new web site. In December your Board of Directors had their first teleconference meeting. There were a couple of hiccups but overall it functioned fairly smoothly. We voted on moving the web site to a new host. This was accomplished the second week of January with a \$892 savings over 2 years to the Association. We also voted on the AGBA hosting a Bull pen show once again at the Denver Stock Show. So next year things will be roaring at Denver with the Galloway Show and Bull pen Display. This is the largest cattle show in the US and a great opportunity for the Galloway breed to promote it many attributes to the main stream cattle industry.

Since the meeting there has been discussion on expanding the number of people that receive the Dispatch. The Spring issue will be sent out complimentary to past members as well as to cattle producers whose names and mailing addresses you supply. We will also send the Spring issue to people that have bought Galloways in the past. Please supply your customer's names and addresses in Microsoft Excel spreadsheet form. Remember that I am a volunteer and would prefer not to sit at my computer and enter names and addresses if you could do that before sending them! (I will make exceptions to those that don't have computer access if you plead to my good nature! LOL!!!). Also you all might want to think about your advertising needs in this special issue. Get them in early so we can make room for all.

In this issue, and no doubt in every issue in which I write a letter, I will again appeal for more people to become involved with the promotion of Galloways and the growth of the Association. Get involved! **Show at Denver!** Share your story about your cattle and your customers. What is working for you and the selling of your cattle? To facilitate this we now have a new spam proof group email contact. Send to galloway-breeders@yahoo.com. You must be a full annual member in good standing. If you are, and have not received a few group emails from other breeders, send your email address to renfarms@osprey.net to receive your invitation to join.

Happy Calving... Stay Warm!

Sarah Bowman, President

American Galloway Breeders' Association

AGBA 2008-09 Calendar

**March 15 - Updates to
online breeders direc-
tory due**

**May 1... Submissions
for additions to
Dispatch Mailing list
due**

**May 1... Advertising
deadline for Dispatch**

Happy Calving



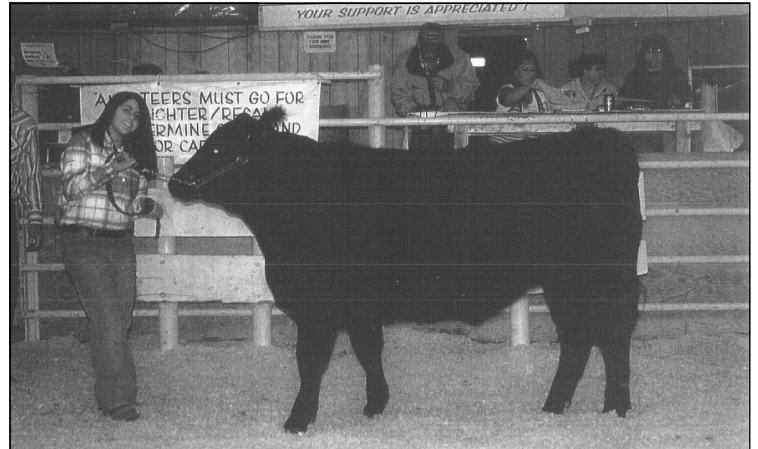
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Galloway Carcass Scores Big

Stephanie Sanchez purchased this purebred Galloway steer in December 2007 from *Grant Galloways*. She showed the steer in the 2008 Twin Falls, Idaho County fat steer show. This is one of the largest fat steer shows in the Western United States. (In fact, its open to the world!) All steers must go to slaughter. Stephanie's steer's carcass placed a whopping 7th out of the 211 entries. Stephanie has purchased another purebred Galloway steer from Grant Galloways for her 2009 4H project. Go Stephanie!

Steer Places in top 3% in Carcass Competition



Stephanie Sanchez with her *Grants Galloways* purebred Galloway steer in the show ring.

Got a website? Continued from pg 13

beef or one extra bull, you've recouped your initial investment in spades. The Galloway breed as a whole gains much greater exposure with every additional breeder website that goes live. Check into it... I promise you it's a lot easier than going to the dentist!

Pruitt on Hides, continued from pg 7

life when worn by women...just add a black Galloway muff or gloves and the look is stunning!

If you should choose white from mature animals, it is difficult to eliminate all existing stains from urine, manure, etc. Tanners are sometimes a bit reluctant to bleach white hair. This may be due to the natural black freckling that most whites have, even though it is not always very noticeable on the live animal. You also want to find a tanner that can produce a nice soft, supple hide, and the skinner must be very cautious when removing the hide so that there are not holes or thin areas created from haste or carelessness.

When measuring for a coat, vest or jacket, be sure to allow for generous sizing so that you can move around easily and not feel as if you are in a straight jacket. In the winter time allow for sweater room underneath. You will be warm, I can assure you. I wore mine at the National Western Stock Show and it was 12 degrees...I was plenty warm."

~ *Patricia Pruitt*



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A Word about Galloway Hides from Patricia Pruitt

(See related story on Galloway Hides beginning pg. 8)

"I think that anyone entertaining the possibility of having a Galloway coat, vest or jacket made, should first contact potential manufacturers such as Frank Markay. Manufacturing of coats is nearly a lost art; and it is an art to be sure. There are many things to be considered. In the instance of the full length coat, very young calf hides should be utilized because they are lighter in weight, the color is usually blacker and the curliness more consistent. It will take several hides at least. Even then a lined coat can weigh in the neighborhood of 12 pounds. Speaking from experience, this is a bit of weight to pack around. Robes used for sleighs, etc., can be selected from mature animals because one hide should suffice and the weight would not be such an issue. Jackets and vests could be constructed with fur on the inside or outside. I don't think the former appear as novel as the fur on the outside. Originally, I believe the Galloway hide coat was primarily worn by men; today, however, women would wear them as well. I even wore mine to the Governor's Ball one time and I felt pretty classy in doing so. The coat takes on a whole different

Continued pg 6

J-7

Grant Galloways

Blacks - Reds - Duns

J-7

**Proven on
Grass**

**Proven in the
Feed Yard**

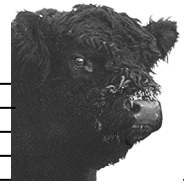


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That Incredible Galloway Hide

"The present day Galloway breeder of the American continent has a much more serious defect to contend with, if the present system of judging is maintained. I refer to that peculiar and unique characteristic of the breed, the lovely coat of hair. In recent years it has been rare to see a judge run his fingers through the coat and feel its texture and examine closely for the indispensable undercoat, in fact the character and quality of the coat has had very little if anything to do with the placing of the awards. If the coat is of no value to the show animal it will soon become of no value to the breed and Galloway cattle will then have lost the principal point wherein they differ from other breeds, and breeders of them will be denied the satisfaction of being able to say, that their cattle always carry their covering with them. Let there be long and weak backs or short and strong backs, but do not let there be any short and hard coated Galloways."

~ W.H.B. MEDD, Noble County, MN November 27, 1901

The Galloway's luxurious coat was at one time an item of economic importance, for both man and beast. The Galloway had long held the esteem of its herdsmen in its native Scotland and surrounding regions, being known as the breed of cattle that could be left largely to its own means year round, needing no shelter and being a resourceful grazer and browser, requiring minimal supplements.

Once the breed was imported to the United States, its hardiness won over many cattle producers, in part because of the animal's ability to grow that impossibly heavy winter haircoat that enabled it to survive blizzards, and then subsequently to shed it for maximum comfort in the heat of summer. "The Galloways are covered with a thick coat of hair, that enables them to withstand the cold almost as well as the buffalo. It is seldom that you will see a Galloway with his back humped up, in fact we never did, even in the coldest weather," writes J.C. Kirkpatrick, in an article for the Wisconsin Farmers Institute in the late 1880's.

The renowned pioneer of the 'beefalo', originally called 'cattalo' by their creator, Charles Jesse "Buffalo" Jones, was compelled to create the hybrid after surveying thousands of cattle killed by the harsh blizzard in 1886 that wiped out herds from Texas to Canada. Accord-

Hides, continued pg 9

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Hides, continued from page 8

ing to boldventure.net, a site devoted to beefalo, Jone's maintained that the finest cross for producing the ideal range cow was the bison-Galloway cross, 'whose black hides made beautiful robes.' "And not to be overlooked by any means was the fact that this (Bison-Galloway hybrid) meat was delicious." (Zane Grey, The Last of the Plainsmen).

Now the original king of hides on this continent was the bison, whose sheer abundance made the harvesting, shipping and manufacturing an early primer in the economies of scale. But with its demise, progressive thinkers began looking for an alternative furbearer to fill the void. A certain F. B. Clark of Missoula county, MT, could speak with some authority as to the suitability of using Galloway hides to replace the bison robe, as he had, "in the ten years between 1873 and 1883 tanned nearly 200,000 Buffalo hides into Buffalo robes..." and stated unequivocally that "...the Galloways and their grades furnish robes that are equal to the famous Buffalo robes of years ago." (Breeder's Gazette, Jan. 9, 1895)

At the beginning of the 20th century, the problem with Galloway hides was the want of more

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We sold hundreds of these coats last season at \$16.00, because the price is lower than a good Galloway robe could be gotten for anywhere else. By giving the largest value for skins with the highest quality, it is a coat that will last for years. It is made of the finest Galloway skin, and is a better coat than any other robe made in this country. The coat is made of the finest Galloway skin, and is a better coat than any other robe made in this country. The coat is made of the finest Galloway skin, and is a better coat than any other robe made in this country.

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Continued from pg 9

of them. In spite of tanneries being willing to pay a 20 to 30% premium for the hide of the purebred Galloway, 'they cannot even secure all of those that they need. So this industry may be greatly aided by breeding strictly the pure-breds.' (Kansas State Board of Agriculture, 13th Annual Biennial Report, Part 3).

Primarily the hides of Galloway were being fabricated into high quality robes and coats, with trimmings sorted off and sold to makers of leather mittens and gloves. The Montgomery Wards and Sears catalogues of the day regularly featured drawings of men sporting the full length Galloway coats.

Cattle producers of old knew intuitively that a warm dry cow used less energy and stayed healthy compared to a cold wet one, and the Galloway and its cross were custom made for the job. Today cattle producers have access to all manner of charts and figures courtesy of the Land Grant University system that prescribe specific increases in TDN and CP as temperatures fall, and icy rains and snows move in on the heels of howling winds. For serious cattle producers the opportunity to have their cattle grow their own shelter each year warrants consideration. The cow/calf enterprise invests a considerable amount of its budget in the maintenance of the cow, and every opportunity to reduce feed costs translates into increased profit. Just as we would not in this day and age plan to build a house without excellent insulation, neither does the thinking cattleman ignore the opportunity for the significant energy conservation afforded by the Galloway's winter haircoat (and coupled, no less, with its proven feed efficiency!) Neither is the significant financial contribution lost on them.

So, what about it? Got Hair?

Thank you to Patricia Pruitt, keeper of the Galloway Historical Library (GHL), who provided much of the contained in the preceding article from the GHL's archives. Patricia was at one time the editor of the Association's newsletter, and I asked her to share her perspective on the use of Galloway hides today. Her comments follow on page 7.

Continued pg . 7



David Pruitt models the Pruitt's authentic full length Galloway coat. Patricia purchased this in an antique store several years ago.

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Urgent National Western Stock Show News

from LeRoy Kindler, NWSS Galloway Show Superintendent

What direction does the future at the National Western Stock Show in Denver hold for the Galloway Breeders? It depends on the breeders entering cattle for the show.

A half Galloway bull that has been on display for the last two years in Denver has started a small wave and whispers. As Galloway breeders, this bull has given us an opportunity to capitalize on all the good public relations this bull has given us. Good Galloway cattle need to be fitted to look nice, but not necessarily the same to make this wave bigger. If you are really interested in selling club calf type calves, they may need to be fitted more.

We need around forty head of cattle in order to have a show. As long as cattle are paid for they count. A real opportunity exists for the breed to move to the forefront. The smaller framed grass cattle fit the type of cattle being shown now.

In order to continue the show, **we need to have cattle already committed by April for the 2010 show.** I suggest people plan to pay for a certain number of cattle. Personally, I will commit to five head and my nephew's son, Spencer will commit to one. That is what I need for the show to continue or we will only be allowed in as an exhibit. The show would certainly benefit the breeders now more than ever.

Deb Vance started the show in Denver and continues to do so much for all the Galloway Breeders. The party in the pen has been and continues to be a real plus.

Clay Salter has been a big plus for the show. Salter's had cattle entered this year which we get credit for even though they were unable to be there. I want to also thank Harley Blegen for his entry who was also unable to be there due to weather related conditions.

The Grand Champion female was sold and could have been sent to other club calf folks. She probably had the best personality of any of my Grand champions to date. A small amount of time needs to be spent on the calves at three to six weeks of age. I personally spend very little time on my show cattle and would gladly give you all the little secrets I used to make a BIG difference.

Hopefully, the message is clear: Breeders you need to do your part! I myself, as well as others, have personally spent a lot of my time and money. Now is the time for you to do something for the breed. Celebrate differences among breeders and start doing something for the breed!

(Call LeRoy at 605-645-5970 if you have questions!)



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

American Galloway Breeders' Association

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Make Checks payable to American Galloway
Breeders Association (AGBA)

Mail to AGBA,
c/o CLRC
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Ottawa, ON K1M 017 CANADA

Full Annual Membership Fee: \$80 annually OR **Associate Membership Fee: \$20 annually** (Please circle one)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

New Website is Live!

The AGBA is now the proud owner of a completely redesigned website, located at its familiar www.americangalloway.com address. It sports an entirely new look, is tested in several browser and operating system platforms, and uses cutting edge web design tools for smooth, effortless functioning. In December, the first full month after launch, the new site was visited nearly 1500 times.

One of the features that should be of keen interest to breeders is the Advertising opportunities. There are two possibilities. 1) Buy a small display ad that tells your ranch name, contact info, and a brief description of what you can offer, i.e 'grassfed genetics', or 'quality show stock since 1905'. This small ad can have a hot link that takes the reader directly to your website and/or to an email contact. 2) Classified ads. Use up to 50 words to offer specific animals for sale. Maybe you've got a dozen bred heifers to offer, or a dozen coming 2-year old bulls. Or you may be looking for something specific. This is a very affordable means of finding what you want in a lot less time! The ad stays up for 3 months for a price of \$30. Your association wants you to succeed, and this opportunity for exposure on the Internet is a step in that direction.

The new website also has a very functional breeders directory listing full annual members whose memberships are current. Finding you has never been easier! Ready to Join AGBA? Visit www.americangalloway.com/agba.php for a downloadable membership application. Or use the form above to get things started.

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What? You're not on the World Wide Web yet?

For some folks, the thought of using the internet has all the appeal of going to the dentist. And while the dentist's chair may be stressful for the moment, it can contribute to tooth longevity. Likewise, having a web presence will contribute to the profitability of your operation if you have breeding stock or butcher steers for sale. Consider this: Suppose you hire a web designer to make a simple website for you. You supply a few photos and a few paragraphs about your ranch's philosophy, environment, genetics and management. For a few hundred dollars you end up with a website that is out there working for you 24/7, including holidays. Hosting costs are pretty nominal these days, with great deals to be had for around \$6 per month. If your website sells one more side of

Continues pg 6

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Glennfiddich Finance Plus was named Overall Grand Champion for two years in Stodl Paura, Upper Austria, Europe's top beef show.

Glennfiddich Finance Plus

Decebe was the **Reserve Grand Champion Bull & Grand Champion Bull Calf** at the 2009 Denver Stock Show! He is almost a full brother to Glenfiddich Finance Plus, and is for sale along with three other bull calves bred almost the same as him.

These calves are great prospects for herd sires or to breed crossbred carcass cattle. Inspections are invited at any time.



Decebe of Trapper

Videos of ET Calves
Available Now!



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Party in the Pen



The 4th Annual Party in the Pen was held on Sat. Jan 17th in the Yards. The NWSS folks were kind enough to once again announce over their PA system that "the Galloway Breeders invite you to *Meet, Greet & Eat*". Temperatures were unseasonably warm with a high of 68 degrees. The Yards were a flurry of activity and visitors to our booth. It was good to see our fellow breeders and meet some new ones (hopefully!). It is a unique opportunity to visit with cattle people, 4-H families and the general public.

For those of you who have not yet attended the NWSS, the Yards are the "old original Denver Stock Yards". This is an area that is all outdoors and displays are within the original cattle pens. We were located once again this year on the Main Isle - just below the cat walk (overhead walk way used to count cattle inventories). From the 1st Wednesday thru the 2nd Sat. the Yards are in full swing. For those of you who are thinking of showing, I can't stress enough how important it is to be up and on display as early as possible as the yard traffic dies off on Sunday. *Keep us in there Leroy!*

A special Thank You to Joan Hoffman and **Stoney Acres Farms** for their continued support for the event. We had a nice spread of nibblin's & beverages again. See you next year at the "Party in the Pen"!

Congratulations to Scott Olson of Mofatt, CO, winner of 5 straw; from a DD Ranch bull, courtesy of the DD Ranch!

Editors Note: A big **thank you** to Deb and Dene Vance for their continued outreach to beef producers at the Denver Stock Show. If you want to drop them a note of thanks, their email address is debvance@theddranch.com.





Galloway: When it has to be the best beef.

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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