

What's New in GRAZIER'S GEAR

GENETICS

Galloway

The American Galloway Breeders Association continues to grow. Much of the growth is due to this long-established breed's popularity in the ever expanding grassfed beef industry. The demand for Galloway females can exceed the supply. There is also a growing interest in crossbred animals as the public becomes aware of the hybrid vigor gained by using this purebred in a cross. These crossbreds exhibit added hardiness, maternal traits and carcass quality—all packed into a sturdy, moderate sized frame.



This September Galloway returned to the World Beef Expo in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The annual meeting of the AGBA was held October 14, 2017, in Billings, Montana, during the Northern International Livestock Exposition. There were Galloway cattle on the grounds and many breeders present. As usual, it was a good venue for people to get to know the breed. The Galloway show at the National Western Stock Show in Denver will be on January 15, 2018. This is another great opportunity to see the cattle and meet the breeders.

You can read more about this unique breed on the website at Americangalloway.com. Contact any of the breeders listed there for more information or reach the AGBA at agba@midrivers.com. Phone 701-219-4815.

American Highland

Unlike other breeds, Highlands are slow maturing making the meat tender, flavorful and succulent. In a study at Manyberries Research Station, Canada, groups of Hereford, Highland and Highland/Hereford crosses were tested. The Highland group produced 2000 pounds more beef than the Herefords. The Highland/Hereford crosses produced 6000 pounds more than the purebred Hereford group.

Highland cows will average 900-1200 pounds when mature. Bulls will average from 1500-1800 pounds



depending on forage conditions. A study by the Scottish Agricultural College determined that Highland beef is lower in fat and cholesterol and higher in protein and iron than other beef breeds.

Not needing a heavy layer of backfat for insulation (due to their double hair coat), they marble on low input forage while producing lean, low fat, high quality beef cuts. Highlands shed out earlier and produce less hair in warmer climates. Due to small calf size (60-70 pounds), calving difficulty is uncommon. Cows may produce into late teens. American Highland are excellent browsers.

For more information, contact Ginnah Moses, info@highlandcattleusa.org, 303-659-2399, Historic City Hall, 22 S. 4th Ave., Ste. 201, Brighton, CO 80601-2030 or visit www.highlandcattleusa.org.

Red Angus

An exciting opportunity exists this fall for special pricing on the Red Navigator genomic test for commercial Red Angus females. Producers who

use this test, developed by GeneSeek, will be able to compare their commercial Red Angus females against the entire commercial heifer data set on file with the Red Angus Association of America. This provides percentile rankings for each EPD in the Red Angus suite, an excellent tool to make keep-cull decisions more logical and more scientific. Normally \$25 per head, however, through Nov. 30, 2017, the price is reduced to \$19. Ranchers can order the Red Navigator test by contacting Fallon Flick, RAAA DNA programs coordinator, at 940-387-3502 or fallon@redangus.org. Analysis will take 2-3 weeks. Females must be 75 percent or greater Red Angus bloodlines for accurate test results. The interpretation of Red Navigator data is simple, and Commercial Marketing Specialist Katie Ochsner will call producers to walk them through their results.



If a producer has 100 heifers from which to choose, he could select the top 50 based on phenotype that he wants to retain in his herd. This reduces cost of the test by half while still identifying his elite replacements. At the special price, the cost to test 50 head is \$950—a small investment in identifying which females will be profitable additions to his herd.

Producers can use the HerdBuilder index to select which heifers to retain as replacements. As a keep-cull determinant, HerdBuilder evaluates difference in profit potential between two animals. It is a dollar-indexing tool including income realized through stayability, heifer pregnancy, calving ease and calves that will excel in final product quality. There is no time like the present to invest in genomic progress.

For more information, contact: Brandi Buzzard Frobose, 940-387-3502 x 17, brandi@redangus.org or visit www.RedAngus.org.

Red Devon

Red Devon cattle excel as the "gourmet" grassfed breed. Their mixture of docility, excellent maternal traits, productive musculature, and exceptional flavor fit the high-quality grass fed market like a glove. Red Devon enjoy the reputation as the "butcher's breed" for high-yielding cut out percentage and delicious, fine-textured meat.

Red Devon arrived in the New World back in 1623, brought by settlers for their ability to convert very rough forage into quality beef. George Washington had a sizable herd.

The adaptability of the breed has been proven for centuries, from the heat and humidity of the deep south to the cold, snowy, dry range of the northwest. There are Red Devon breeders across USA, Mexico and Canada.

As the grass fed beef sector continues to gather momentum, so do Red Devon cattle. Quality bulls and females can make a major positive impact in phenotype in your herd, even in the first Devon-influenced generation.

For more information, contact Jeff Moore, 229-300-1312, 107 Cardinal Ridge Rd., Thomasville, GA 31792 or email dixiedevons@gmail.com. Visit RedDevonUSA.com, and find a breeder near you. Pick up photo from Nov. 16 Gear



MINERALS

Conditioner

Recent research at West Virginia University showed Redmond Conditioner to be equal to sodium bicarbonate in rumen buffering capacity. Why is that significant? Because Redmond Conditioner does more than simply buffering. The study also found that when using Redmond Conditioner: forage digestion was increased—which means better feed conversions; rumen ammonia was better reduced—which means less urea nitrogen in the blood and milk for better health, feed, and repro efficiency; another study found that



Redmond Conditioner helps with toxin control in feeds.

Redmond Conditioner does all of these things for the same cost as bicarb—or less in some parts of the country. It's also a natural product direct from the earth and qualifies for organic production.

Happy customers are constantly saying that their animals are transitioning better after calving, showing stronger heats sooner, and breeding back better. They also report animals that are more calm, with shinier hair coats and better body composition.

You could pay more for less, but why would you? For more information, contact Redmond Agriculture, Box 219, Redmond, UT 84652-0219, (866) 735-7258 or Email: hello@redmondagriculture.com.

PRODUCER PROFILE...

T & T Cattle and Lost Wells Cattle Co.

Name: Bobby and Erica Thoman, Brendan and Kira Thoman
Telephone: 307-850-2129
Ranch: T & T Cattle and Lost Wells Cattle Co., Riverton, Wyoming
E-mail: rthoman@wyoming.com
Website: www.lostwellscattle.com
Acres in pasture: 350+



Grass farming: In the cattle business for four generations, but we started our grass-fed business in 2009.

Centerpiece Operation: Cow/calf and grass-finished beef operations. On the main ranch, grassfed steers run in a series of 2-3 acres paddocks, rotated every 2-5 days May-September. Management strategy is "take half and leave half." We usually get three rotations per season, with 6-8 weeks rest on irrigated grass/alfalfa pastures.

In the arid west (about 8" annual precipitation), we have to irrigate after every grazing rotation. Main ranch is about 1200 acres, with 350+ irrigated acres in alfalfa hay production. The poor yielding alfalfa fields were selected for grazing. The grazing pastures are retired alfalfa fields with volunteer grass (mostly brome, timothy, crab grass). Soils here were typically poor. Since grazing, the pastures are developing a "litter layer" and increased organic matter. Testing with the Haney method, we've found soil organic matter/soil health have increased every year since grazing.

Our cow/calf pairs are split into breeding groups during the summer, after a 2-week period of natural heat detection and AI. Bulls are turned out in mid-June. Summers are spent in high-mountain meadows/range (7000+ feet). Breeding groups are rotated between small pastures every 1-2 weeks. After 60 days, bulls are pulled, and herds mixed, rotating through larger pastures until late fall, when brought to the main ranch. There, the pairs graze on hay ground aftermath. Calves are fence-line weaned in mid-Dec. and put on stockpiled alfalfa regrowth. No hay is fed until low temperatures or deep snow. March, calving begins on stockpiled pastures, with some hay.

Marketing: We sell bulls and breeding stock, and market our steers and culls as grassfed beef. Our steers finish out in 18-20 months, with target weight of 1150 lbs. One of the keys to getting our steers to finish is Apple Cider Vinegar.

Goals: We have the age-old problem of new gen-

eration (us) trying to convert older generation (our dad) to sustainable farming practices, while maintaining crop production. Our goal, then, is to aid in this transition from chemical inputs (mostly fertilizer) to sustainable, cost effective methods. End result is to have fertile, mineral rich soils to grow healthy crops and cattle.

Family involvement: Many of our large family, 12 siblings, are involved. We could not do it without their help.

Favorite Resources/Practices:

Breed of Cattle: Our competitive advantage is raising cattle that stay fat on pasture with minimal inputs, requiring moderate, low-maintenance cattle. (3-5 Frame, 1100-1300 lbs) Red Angus with some Fleckvieh Simmental crossbreeding for heterosis. Red color helps reduce heat stress. Red

Fertilizer: For hay ground, we fertilize with Humic Acid, Kelp and Vitazyme from Stable Soil Matrix, Boise, Idaho.

Apple Cider Vinegar: Improves gains in finishing steers and stretches poor pasture in the winter. ACV is from Triangle C Cattle (Steve Campbell), Parma, Idaho.

Cattle Mineral: Kelp-based—imperative for herd health. (Iodine is the key.) Our mineral program is robust, with mineral from Wick's Livestock Supply and Nature's Best; salt and clay from Redmond Agriculture, and baking soda from Natural Soda (reduces bloat on high energy spring pastures). We use Multi-Min for our calves at birth, weaning, for older cows—or if mineral deficiencies show up. We do not use vaccines, chemical wormers, pour-ons, or insecticides.

Cattle detox: Redmond Clay, Diatomaceous Earth—for improved immune system function
Newborn calf health: CW Lactic Culture, Nature's Best, probiotic blend helps newborn calves.

Injectable Minerals: Multi-Min, limits sickness from stress (shipping, weaning, etc.).

Fencing: American GrazingLands (Jim Gerrish). They have been a great help.