

The Highland HOOFBEAT

MISSION STATEMENT: North Central Highland Cattle Association shall protect the integrity and sustainability of the Highland breed by promoting education and social interactions of its members.

The Recipe Corner

What's for dinner?
Answer, See page: 4

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Halter Training Tips

Halter training always pays off!
Read more on page 8

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Herdsmanship Award

A new NCHCA award
celebrating association members
past and present

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Melinda Cowell

President

Melinda and her husband Shawn own Beyond Hope Farm in Ellendale, MN. Where Melinda is a farm, home, kid and dog manager, and educator.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Signs of spring are popping up all around us. Fat groups of robins gathering and tulips popping through the soil are welcome milestones. Many breeders are in the thick of calving season (my personal favorite time of the year), and cattle will be heading to lush green pastures shortly.

Our spring frozen genetic sale marked the beginning of our sales season at NCHCA. The sale was a great success ([see results](#)), and we are grateful to every breeder who entered lots and purchased from the sale this year. As we look forward to summer, please watch for a summer picnic or two with member host farms. This is an excellent way to get to know fellow breeders and spend some time bouncing ideas off of each other. There will be many opportunities this summer to participate in beef clinics, and Educational opportunities.

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The Juniors

Junior of the quarter

Beretta Semmler is a freshman in high school, from Semmler Farms in Jacobson, MN. She grew up raising and showing highland beef. She exhibits her cattle at 2-3 local county fairs and at many highland shows. In the last several years Beretta has started her farm, Known as BLS Livestock. She does all the daily chores and training of the cattle for the show ring.

She takes much pride in the work she does with her cattle and loves to teach others about highlands. She enjoys telling people anything about highlands so that they know what they are and what they're used for. Her plans for BLS Livestock are to enhance her cattle's overall quality with genetics and improve the breed's quality and future sustainability. Some other ways she'd like to improve her farm in the future is to exhibit her cattle more to get more recognition and marketing for her farm. Beretta plans to farm the rest of her life and is looking forward to her future in the breed.



Save the Date

NCHCA
SUMMER
PICNIC
JULY 14
2024

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FROM THE MOUNTAINS OF VERMONT TO WISCONSIN'S GRASSLANDS



If you go far enough back in the records, you'll find that Anne purchased her first Highland, a bull named Shat-Acres Red Baron, in 1983. Her father bought the cows from Dr. Jim Welch, a neighbor and owner of Owl Rock Farm, and Windemere Farm became home to a herd of Highlands. Dad, Jay Sheperd, wanted the cows to keep the pastures from growing up to brush and liked the hardiness of the Highland breed. They could handle the cold northern Vermont winters using the woods for shelter, a spring for water and make the walk from the hills to the barn for hay. The herd grew to about 35 head and was sold in the late 1990s when Dad retired, and Anne was galivanting around the country with her newly minted Ph.D. in ruminant nutrition from UW-Madison and husband, John Proctor.



Jobs took them back to Wisconsin where they purchased a 40-acre field with a half-finished house in the middle. It was a perfect place to have a horse or two, but horses put you in “recreational use” for tax purposes. A few years and a couple kids later, John had no idea what he was getting into when he casually remarked that maybe we should get a couple beef cattle to save money on the taxes. Of course, there was no question what breed of beef cattle to buy or what our farm name would be!

We started with 2 yearling heifers and a cow-calf pair in 2008. A few months later, we saw notice of a herd dispersal and in the listing was a cow from Owl Rock Farm that caught Anne’s attention and a cow with a rumen cannula in the background of a photo. Who, but a person who did research with cannulated cows, would want a cannulated cow called Stinky?! It felt like fate. John chose a black cow and a deal was made to buy 3 bred cows from Larry Zea who had fact-checked with Dr. Welch before agreeing to jump through the necessary hoops to ship MN cattle to WI.

Our then 6-year-old daughter, Paige, and I had attended a NCHCA show as spectators and decided to give it a try. We showed up in a borrowed truck pulling a borrowed trailer with Paige, her little brother, Nicholas, and 2 calves out of our newly purchased cows. People welcomed these clueless newcomers with open arms and Paige found her passion. We grew the size and quality of the herd



Continue reading on page 7

The Recipe Corner

Highland Beef Sheperds Pie

INGREDIENTS:

FOR THE POTATOES

- 1 1/2 pounds russet potatoes
- 1/4 cup half-and-half
- 2 ounces unsalted butter
- 3/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 egg yolk

FOR THE MEAT FILLING

- 2 tablespoons canola oil
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 2 carrots, peeled and diced small
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 1/2 pounds ground Highland Beef
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons tomato paste
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 2 teaspoons freshly chopped rosemary leaves
- 1 teaspoon freshly chopped thyme leaves
- 1/2 cup fresh or frozen corn kernels
- 1/2 cup fresh or frozen English peas

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Peel the potatoes and cut into 1/2-inch dice. Place in a medium saucepan and cover with cold water. Set over high heat, cover and bring to a boil. Once boiling, uncover, decrease the heat to maintain a simmer and cook until tender and easily crushed with tongs, approximately 10 to 15 minutes. Place the half-and-half and butter into a microwave-safe container and heat in the microwave until warmed through, about 35 seconds. Drain the potatoes in a colander and then return to the saucepan. Mash the potatoes and then add the half and half, butter, salt and pepper



and continue to mash until smooth. Stir in the yolk until well combined.

2. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F.

3. While the potatoes are cooking, prepare the filling. Place the canola oil into a 12-inch saute pan and set over medium high heat. Once the oil shimmers, add the onion and carrots and saute just until they begin to take on color, approximately 3 to 4 minutes. Add the garlic and stir to combine. Add the beef, salt and pepper and cook until browned and cooked through, approximately 3 minutes. Sprinkle the meat with the flour and toss to coat, continuing to cook for another minute. Add the tomato paste, chicken broth, Worcestershire, rosemary, thyme, and stir to combine. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat to low, cover and simmer slowly 10 to 12 minutes or until the sauce is thickened slightly.

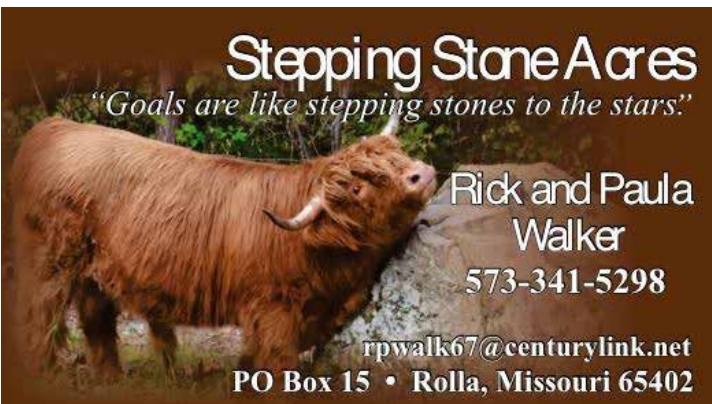
4. Add the corn and peas to the beef mixture and spread evenly into an 11 by 7-inch glass baking dish. Top with the mashed potatoes, starting around the edges to create a seal to prevent the mixture from bubbling up and smooth with a rubber spatula. Place on a parchment lined half sheet pan on the middle rack of the oven and bake for 25 minutes or just until the potatoes begin to brown. Remove to a cooling rack for at least 15 minutes before serving.

Windemere Farm continued from page 5

quickly with the purchase of a couple show heifers from Cobblestone Farm and extensive use of AI for our breeding program and had our first class winner a few years later. I remember that class well; I was standing out there not knowing if I was at the top or bottom of the lineup! We never imagined showing at the national show, but Heather Bailey convinced us that we had animals worthy of showing and connected us with Gary and Emily Krumenauer for our first trip out with cattle. The knowledge we gained and friendships we made were life changing! We have continued to show regionally and at the NWSS ever since and are proud to often have heifers standing for consideration in the final drive.

While it's fun to be at the top of the class, my enjoyment comes from the cows themselves. I love to watch calves grow into quality heifers, teach them to walk on a halter and handle the craziness of the show environment, and see them produce calves either for us or for the people who purchase them. It's wonderful to get messages from people who have Windemere animals many years and ownership changes later! Over the years, I've been President and secretary of NCHCA, an AHCA board member, chair of the NCHCA and AHCA junior committees, and currently edit "The Bagpipe," AHCA's quarterly publication. In my spare time, I'm learning to work cattle and sheep with my (already trained, thankfully) Border Collie, Meg.

I could never have imagined the richness the Highlands have brought to our lives. If you ever question whether you should get a few beef cattle to keep the taxes down, do it!



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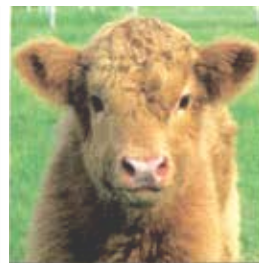
Scottish Highland Cattle



Heather Bailey

EST 2010
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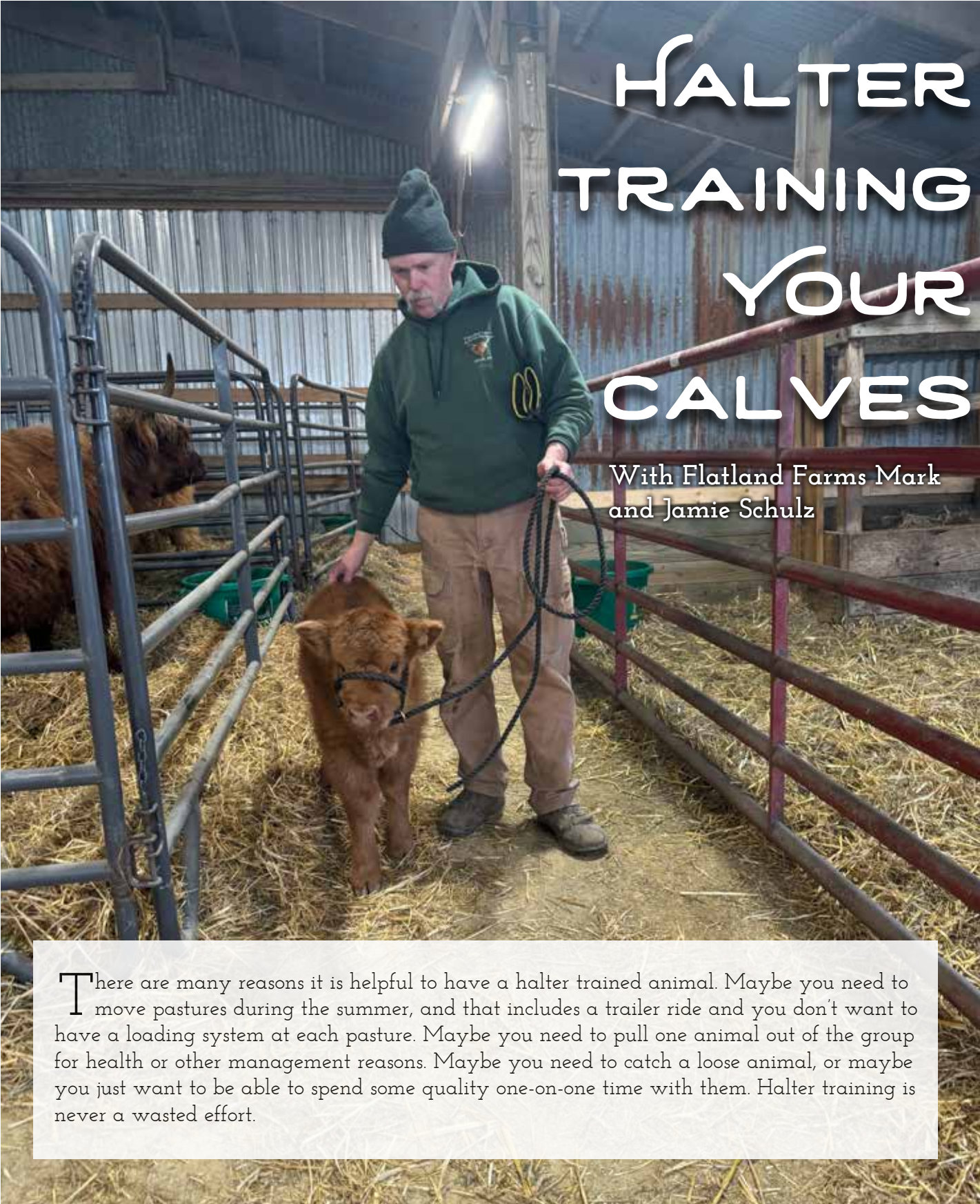
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A man wearing a green hoodie, a dark beanie, and tan pants is leading a small brown calf in a barn aisle. The man is holding a black rope attached to the calf's halter. The barn has metal railings on both sides, and the floor is covered with straw. The background shows the interior of a barn with corrugated metal walls and a wooden beam.

HALTER TRAINING YOUR CALVES

With Flatland Farms Mark
and Jamie Schulz

There are many reasons it is helpful to have a halter trained animal. Maybe you need to move pastures during the summer, and that includes a trailer ride and you don't want to have a loading system at each pasture. Maybe you need to pull one animal out of the group for health or other management reasons. Maybe you need to catch a loose animal, or maybe you just want to be able to spend some quality one-on-one time with them. Halter training is never a wasted effort.

So, what do you need to start?

Four things: You need a small pen - 10' x 10' works great for calves. You need a rope halter - size does matter, so be sure you order that ahead of time. You need a bale or bucket to sit on. And you need some sort of special 'treat'. That can be a different type of hay, maybe some pellets of some sort, a brush. You get the idea.

There are two paths you can take to halter train your calf. Start young, or wait until they are weaned. Starting young has advantages - size and weight of the calf is a big one. Teaching them that they need to stop when pressure is applied at that age sticks with them, even when you don't work with them much as they grow. But you need some sort of enclosed area without Mom hovering to make this work. Waiting until they are weaned means that you can be the sole source of some of the comforts they love (food is the big one), and you can keep them in a separate enclosed area to work with them

Starting Young

I try to get a halter on calves within the first week to 10 days. They are still pretty open to contact with you at this point, and they are easy to handle. They don't have their full running and bucking capabilities. I will put the halter on, and let them feel that and work through it on their own. Once they calm down and stand, I will scratch them and take it off. We repeat this the next night and continue this for as many nights as needed for them to be calm. Then I will move on to me holding the end of the lead rope and following them around. I keep these sessions very short, 3-5 minutes. The calf is young and still learning about its environment. We don't need to be complicating things.

NOTE: The calves will not 'lead' at this point. You walking near their backend will encourage them to move forward, or you can touch them on the tailhead to encourage them to walk. If you get ahead of their shoulder, you are ahead of the drive

line and they will stop. Stated simply - if you are at or ahead of their shoulder, they will turn or go backward. If you are behind their shoulder, they will move forward. If you want more information on this principal, check out Temple Grandin's explanation at <https://www.grandin.com/behaviour/principles/flight.zone.html>



After a few nights of them leading me around, I will start to apply a bit of pressure on the rope to stop or turn. There is a little more art than science at this stage, as each calf is different. Some are very sensitive and need just a little guiding and over a week or so they become pretty confident with the halter on and being led short distances. Some are a bit more resistant to this feel, and it takes a bit of patience and understanding about that resistance. If you resist along with them, you can get into a battle of who will last the longest pulling on that lead rope. If you don't give them anything to pull on, they will generally realize that there is no need to pull. Patience is key. Once they understand the halter, I spend a lot of time sitting with them and scratching them in their 'good spots' with the halter on. We want them to trust us and have a good feeling about being around us. Later in life, that relationship with

them can pay off when they go around you instead of over you if they get spooked.

I don't tie young calves at this age - they are just too immature. We don't want them harming themselves with a lead that is too long/short or twisting themselves around the lead and getting stuck. We don't use a small pen when we start them young - we have the barn, which allows for some movement without them being able to get away from you.

If you do start going on walks with them, having them go in pairs (someone else is leading another calf) makes things much easier.

Starting at Weaning:

When you wait until weaning, you have 2 options. Spend a lot of time in the small pen with them, waiting for them to get curious enough to come up to you and allow brushing or scratching. Once they are consistently coming up to you, you can slip that halter on them. Some will sit there calmly; others will act like they are dying. I wait until they are calm, then take the halter off. Repeat until there is no reaction with the halter on. The other option is to run them through a chute, put the halter on and then tie them to work through understanding that they can't get away from the halter. The key is to have a solid post or tie rail to tie them to. Do not leave them unattended until they can stand calmly tied, and be sure to use a quick release knot. There is a magic amount of lead rope to leave - one where they can't step over it, but they can still lay down if needed.

Rope halters can be a challenge. Older halters can get so they don't release when slack is put in the lead rope, so they will stay tight around their face, which we don't want. We tend to stop using them once they get to this stage. The other issue is that new ones are super slick and knots can easily come untied or the halter itself can come off the calf. Just be aware of this. If your calf is to the point they can be trusted to be tied and left unattended and you need them to stay tied up, a neck rope may be needed.

Your biggest advantage is going to be patience. If things seem to be going poorly, you can never go wrong by slowing down. There will be as many ways to halter train a calf as there are people doing it. Don't be shy about asking people how they do things - there is always something that you can learn and implement to make things easier for you.



Items that we use.

There are many options out there to choose from:

Slide Ring Rope Halter for small calves

Slide Ring Rope Halter for larger calves

10' Corral Panels - lightweight panel that is easy to move around, but will work well mild mannered and small animals.

Online resources:

[Flatland Farm, LLC FaceBook page - March 13, 2024](#) video of calves in the barn with halters on, and a video in the comments of Jamie removing the halter

Temple Grandin has tons of resources available on animal behavior - videos and written. Check them out!



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THE HERDSMANSHIP AWARD

IN HONOR OF DAVID LARSON AND ROGER WEIDEMAN



Jamie and I are honored to have our farm name on the **David Larson and Roger Weideman Memorial Herdsmanship Award**. These two men played a vital role in developing their Highland herds, but also provided vital leadership through our regional and national associations. Both men promoted the breed no matter what in cost of their own time or money as they believed in strong foundational and educational programs along with social activities that allowed others to learn and interact around the common theme of Highland cattle.

Dave Larson had a mellow personality, always positive and either smiling or laughing his infectious laugh. He was a good listener and easy to talk to. He loved finding a good deal at an auction even though it may take a bit of work to get something functional for the farm. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather - who else would go through the crazy maze at the World Beef Expo just to lead all the "kids" through. He was always will to talk cows - which Dave and I usually did at any regional events as we both shared the fact that we were early risers.

Roger Weideman was sometimes very quiet, but that did not mean the wheels weren't turning - if you looked close enough you could probably see smoke coming out of his ears. He was a genius at making something work out of a little bit of nothing or working without all the tools he needed. I remember one show in Austin where he either had a starter or alternator go out on their camper. He asked where the nearest parts store was and he proceeded to get parts and have the camper up and rolling by the time everyone departed on Sunday. He did this along with helping with the show and showing their own cattle. At regional meetings he only spoke when he had something important to say and it was not hard to follow his logic as he used solid reasoning and his historical perspective of association activities. Our old NCHCA promotional display took some knowledge and gentle care in getting set up at all of the events we attended and Roger was usually the one I asked to set up and tear down the display which he did without question.

Both of these men were mentors to Jamie and I and our farm. They showed us the meaning of herdsmanship, breed promotion, how to encourage our young juniors, how to be patient, yet passionate when needed and how to make a stand with sound logic to support it. They showed us how to be leaders and how to love the breed. They are gone from this world too soon, but not before creating a last legacy in the Highland world and in many people's lives.

The Hoofbeat Sponsors



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COAL VALLEY
Highlands



SCAN ME

President's message continued

Please remember that we do offer educational scholarships to member farms who share their newly found knowledge with the membership. We are looking forward to a great year with many opportunities to volunteer and be involved in the North Central Association. Please feel free to contact myself or any board member regarding how you can become involved. Wishing you a busy but successful spring and summer season as you promote and raise the Highland breed.

-Melinda Cowell



SEPT 20, 2024

FEMALES OF FALL SALE

BY NCHCA

ACCESS TOP QUALITY HIGHLAND FEMALES
ALL CATTLE ON THIS SALE WILL BE
HALTER BROKE AND READY TO HANDLE.

SALE IS BEING HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE
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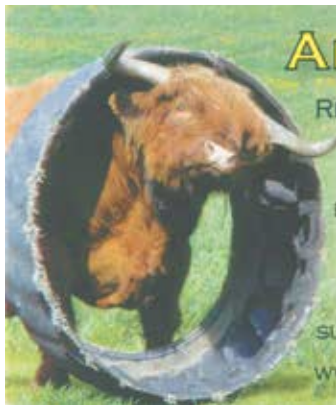
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The North Central Highland Cattle Association (NCHCA) was formed in 1982 to promote Scottish Highland Cattle, form a marketing unit for breeders, and to provide a local organization closer to home. The organization has done this and provides opportunities for youth and families to have fun with their Highland cattle. Our association provides networking and educational opportunities for its members, has an active junior program for youth, and provides a local voice to the national organization, the American Highland Cattle Association.

Board of Directors

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