

A Publication for The Belted Galloway Society, Inc.

The Belted Galloway

2015

Journal



INSIDE FEATURES:

Jane Faul

2016 Galloway World Congress

The Markegard Family

Chatfield Memorial Scholarship

Mitchell Ledge Farm

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



As I sit and write this message, I am reflecting back to the past year and a half. I am three-quarters of the way through my presidency and look forward to the final months that I will serve on behalf of the Belted Galloway Society membership. There have been challenges, learning moments, and the wonderful support of the membership during this time. This is a volunteer

organization that depends on those willing to put in the hours and time for the benefit of all the membership. I want to take time to thank all of those who donate their time and expertise to the Belted Galloway breed and to its breeders.

First, I would like to recognize our elected and appointed members of Council. These are the people who have been elected by the membership and serve the entire membership during the year. They meet at least twice a year in person and correspond and communicate during the year via email, text, and teleconferences. All of the Council serve on at least one, if not several, committees during their term. They are the governing body of the Society and are charged with the running and decision making of our organization.

Next, I would like to recognize the private contractors appointed by the Council. Our Executive Director and Newsletter Editor are paid positions within the organization but they are the backbone that keeps the membership informed and takes care of the daily business of the Society. The hours worked, and the dedication of these two people, is priceless to our organization and our breed.

After Council and our private contractors, I need to recognize those who serve on our committees and provide us with their expertise. By providing Council with the information and their experience, we are able to make informed decisions on important matters that affect our breed and our membership. Their willingness to volunteer and provide us with their time and knowledge is greatly appreciated.

The regional groups that exist across the country are one of the most important parts of our Belted Galloway family. They are organizations in their own right that provide invaluable support to the members in their region. These groups provide many services and bring together the breeders in the region by providing fellowship, promotion and education. Opportunities are region specific with sales, shows, and field days, and they provide breed promotional opportunities.

Lastly, I want to recognize all those who -through their farm, regional group, Council, or with their personal expertise - showed support or invested their knowledge and time to the Belted Galloway breed. No one person can do all that we need to do to keep the Belted Galloway breed growing! As a community of people, with the same dedication and love for this wonderful breed, we can succeed and move forward into a bright future for the Belted Galloway breed!

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2016 Galloway World Congress



The Galloway Society and the Belted Galloway Society of the United Kingdom and Eire are delighted to invite you to the 2016 Galloway World Congress August 5-10, 2016, in the ancestral homeland of all Galloway breeds of cattle—Scotland and the North of England!

There will be something for everyone—excellent cattle, traditional tartan and castles, spectacular scenery, shopping, and delicious local food. The Congress will consist of official business meeting, the popular county show at Dumfries, three days of farm tours, and a night at the world-famous Edinburgh Tattoo. This will be an excellent opportunity to view some of the very best Galloways in the country and to experience Scotland and the North of England's finest.

Gretna Hall Hotel, www.gretnahallhotel.com, located in the famous border town of Gretna Green, will provide

accommodations for the five-night stay. The oldest part of the hotel was built in 1710 and it is surrounded by 10 acres of beautiful gardens. Gretna Hall Hotel is very historical but has the facilities of a leading contemporary hotel. The Gretna Green village is steeped in history that dates back to the 1700s when young couples from England were known to run away to Scotland to take advantage of different marriage laws. You may repeat history and get married "over the Blacksmith's Anvil" or possibly renew your own marriage vows.

Gretna Green and Gretna are both famous for shopping. There are many traditional and high street stores within walking distance of the hotel. For tartan, there is the famous Blacksmith Shop, where you can buy anything from kilts to cashmere, or bronze statues to crystal. The Gretna Gateway Outlet Village is in Gretna and there are a variety of stores that include classic and contemporary clothing plus homewares. Remember to bring your credit card!

Look for a complete itinerary in the Events Calendar on beltie.org including all information needed for booking the conference and the hotel. The conference is £280 per person. Hotel rates are £70 for a two-person room and £45 for a single-person room at the Gretna Green Hotel. (The exchange rate of one British pound equals \$1.53 US.)

Jon and Sylvia Bednarski of Kentucky have coordinated an email list to provide those who are interested in attending with the most up-to-date information. Contact Jon at pastpresident@beltie.org or by phone (502) 649-8706.

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Reflections of the First National Sale

By Dwight Howard, Retired Herd Manager at Aldermere Farm, Maine

The National Sale was in the planning stages for three years before it began! There had been a history of individual farms holding auctions prior to the first National Sale, but a sale open to all Belted Galloway breeders and endorsed by the Belted Galloway Society was a new venture. Thus, the National Belted Galloway Sale was born. The sale was to be held in conjunction with the Maine Beef Producers who desired to have an all breeds sale.

With the enthusiastic support from the Fryeburg Fairgrounds directors, it was confirmed that the sale would be held at Fryeburg, Maine. They have outstanding facilities and they have supported agriculture throughout Maine for many years. For the entire 25 years that the sale has been held at the Fryeburg Fairgrounds, the fair officials have offered the use of the site for free (with the exception of rental fees for travel campers).

During the first year of the sale, I toured Belted Galloway farms with beef cattle specialists from the Maine Department of Agriculture. We inspected and approved the sale consignments to ensure high quality cattle were available for sale. I was the president of the Maine Beef Producers and I served as the Belted Galloway breed representative for a number of years.

I can recall numerous, diverse breeders who were looking for high quality Belted Galloways which included a farm from the country of Uruguay who bought two cows and a heifer calf. I was involved in getting those animals certified for export. What a lengthy quarantine!



Andy LeMaistre, Dwight Howard, Merle & Loraine Prock, and Mac & Pat McNear, all Belted Galloway breeders from the state of Maine, were honored at the 25th National Sale at Fryeburg, Maine for their foundational support and commitment to the success in the twenty-five history of the National Sale.

National Belted Galloway Sale – April 2015

7 Lots of Semen averaging:	\$66.00 per straw
2 Flushes averaging:	\$2,750.00
11 Embryos averaging:	\$ 586.00
1 Choice of Calf Crop:	\$3,750.00
17 Open Heifers averaging:	\$2,494.00
6 Bred Heifers averaging:	\$3,375.00
3 Bulls averaging:	\$2,500.00

Highest Selling Live Lot – Tyler Cup Award Winner. Driftwood Kristine 40A. Consigned by Keith & Pam Jones (SC). Purchased by Mike & Kathleen Wagner (IA).

Highest Selling Bred Heifer – Marben’s Peanut Butter. Consigned by Jay & Tiggy Gerli (CT). Purchased by Brice & Jane Jackson (IN).

Highest Selling Bull – Magnolia Trace Ginny’s Magic. Consigned by Marty & Janie Tripp (MS). Purchased by Dan, Jan & Ross Kyper (PA).

The Belted Galloway Premium Sale – November 2014

Four Open Heifer Lots – Total Sales	\$18,000
Average/Lot	\$ 4,500

Two Bred Heifer Lots – Total Sales	\$ 9,500
Average/Lot	\$ 4,750

Three Bull Lots – Total Sales	\$10,500
Average/Lot	\$ 3,500

Three Embryo Lots – Total Sales	\$ 6,700
Average/embryo	\$ 609

Two Semen Lots – Total Sales	\$ 750
Average/straw	\$ 37.50

Total Gross Sales	\$45,450
Overall Per Lot Average	\$ 3,030

Premium Sale Top-Selling Bull – HCS Exeter 2A 37389B, consigned by HC Sims Farms (PA) and sold to Curt Larson, Larson Cattle Co, (OK). \$4,250.

Premium Sale Top-Selling Female – Meadowood Annabel 37267B, consigned by Meadowood Farm LLC (NY) and sold to Bob Volk, Bob’s Belties, (NE) and Barney Cosner, (WY). \$7,000.

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Pine View Farm

After breeding polled Herefords for nearly 25 years at Pine View Farm we expanded our horizons at the 9th National Sale where Aldermere Manda and Mitchell Ledge Scarlett were purchased. E & H Cattle Co was started as a spinoff of Pine View. Since that time 5 Platinum Lifetime, 6 Gold Lifetime and 5 Silver Lifetime award winners have been bred or developed here. Seven years ago E & H partnership dissolved and we went back to the Pine View prefix. Here are some of our accomplishments:

- Platinum Lifetime -

E&H Billy (AI)(ET) 9181B
E&H Joshua (AI) 10159B
E&H Newman 10659B
E&H Julia (AI) 21870B
Driftwood Riesling 24810B
(purchased as a calf in Louisville Sale)

- Gold Lifetime -

Pineview Sasha 30922B
E&H Lilly 18884B
E&H Lizzy 24498B
E&H Millie 17604B
Aldermere Manda 13518B
(purchased as a calf in the 9th National Sale)
Ponderosa Wendy 18818B
(purchased as a 2 yr.)

- Silver Lifetime -

Pineview Destiny 34766B
E&H Casey 24496B
E&H Cookie 27668B
Driftwood Tiara 28940B
(purchased as a 2 yr. old)
Mitchell Ledge Scarlett
(purchased as a calf in the 9th National Sale)

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JANE FAUL



In 1976, Jane Faul purchased around 120 acres of bottom ground adjacent to the Ohio River in rural Battletown, Kentucky. But it wasn't until 1981, after a career as an entrepreneur and print shop owner in Barrington, Illinois, that she moved hundreds of miles south to realize her dream to live a rural lifestyle in the Meade County countryside and metro area of Louisville. She named her farm Paradise Bottom Farm because of its geographical location at Paradise Bottom Road.

Her Belted Galloway story began as Society member number 142. With only 50-60 members nationwide, finding Belted Galloway cattle in the late 1970s was not an easy task! Nor was it easy to be a single woman seeking cattle in a male-dominated industry. Her early herd consisted of a few Angus females who were crossed with a purebred Belted Galloway bull. Many of the herds she visited were owned by wealthy members of the Belted Galloway Society and were managed by their herdsman. Jane later wrote about mentors and herdsman who she considered invaluable along with her first experience picking up a breeding bull.

A mentor I especially appreciated was Richard Stein of Swatara in Pennsylvania. Richard said it like it was with no holds barred. He would haul me around on farm visits, offering comments such as, "I wouldn't have that cow on a bet!" without regard to a proud owner's proximity. A bit rude, maybe, but his explanation of sickle hocks would make it clear to the eager student. And a word here (regarding) the excellent cattlemen among the farm managers, I learned more from Leo Shepherd at Stonecroft, Dwight Howard at Aldermere, and Bruce Anderson and Bob Stimson at Anderson Hill than from any other sources. I recall with chagrin arriving at Sleepy Creek in Virginia to pick up my first bull, Georgie Patton. The General assumed the friend accompanying me was a farm manager and said grandly, "Your man can load the bull while we have tea." I had a wonderful visit with Virginia Wells and the General, learned about the Normandy invasion, saving Greece from communism, and had a tour of objets d'art from Korea. When back on the road my friend asked, "What did you learn about these striped cows?" I said, "Uh, nothing." He said, "Well, don't worry, Richard Merica is a real cattleman and he gave me the full course."

There is virtually no part of the Society that Jane did not work tirelessly to promote. Her many contributions are of historical and foundational significance to the Belted Galloway breed. Jane served on Council during 1982-83 and again from 1989 to 1992. She hosted the Annual Meeting in 1984 and was a co-host in 1990.



Her early energies established a 1990 Belted Galloway exhibit at the North American International Exhibition in Louisville, Kentucky and she later organized the NAILE Belted Galloway show which is now known as The National Belted Galloway Show. Jane Faul in her own words:

That first exhibit at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville was fun, as well as hard work; we spent ten 12-hour days tending the pens, minding the booth, and answering questions about



the breed. Jay and Tiggie Gerli from Marben Farm in Connecticut sent down Boeing, a super cow (tag #747). From New York, Robert Blenis of Dolomite brought Aldermere Buell, a 2,300 lb. perfectly marked bull with a mellow disposition. Then-Secretary Mary McClellan sent a few nice heifer calves up from Alabama. Robert Blenis's teen son met me at the door each day at 7 a.m. to help muck out pens and brush animals. On several occasions the overnight security guards reported they'd pushed our 30 feet of pens back to the wall because Buell had hauled them across the aisle to huff and puff at a 3,400 lb. Sennepol. Luckily for Buell, the Sennepol ignored him.

We will always remember Jane best for her love of words. She edited and published the U.S. Beltie News, making it a monthly publication in the mid-1990s. Several editions of the Breeder's Handbook were compiled and abridged solely by Jane. She worked as editor and ad solicitor of the Herd Book III covering the period of 1981-1991 and she was the driving force behind the production of all the early promotional literature for the Society. Jane worked diligently on the project to institute a breed database and subsequently, she worked to establish

*Jay Gerli, Marben Farms, Connecticut
Sunrise to sunset, Jane was constantly promoting Belties—always with a smile and a twinkle in her eye. Her voice, as unique as it was, commanded the attention she got. She was always working, and at the end of the day she was ready to enjoy a Maker's Mark with you. Or for that matter, upon a frigid morning at NAILE, a little Maker's Mark in your morning coffee worked also. I credit Jane's advice and counsel with any of the accomplishments made during my time as President of the Belted Galloway Society!*

the five-generation pedigree printed on the back of the current registration/recording certificate that we enjoy today.

She was a forward thinker! Before the days of social media, she oversaw the Beltie Forum, an independent email discussion group about Belted Galloway cattle. She wrote to me in the fall of 2000 that she was ending her contract as the editor of the US Beltie News. She said that President Marlin Sherbine was looking for someone who would take over her duties. She told me she wanted "more free time to pursue other interests." I mistakenly thought she meant that she wanted more time away from all things Belted Galloway. In January of 2001, I began the monthly production of the US Beltie News while Jane continued managing beltie.org and the Beltie Forum. But Jane Faul's idea of "more free time to pursue other interests" morphed into even grander endeavors to further benefit the Society.

During 2003, she was awarded the Harry T. Burn Award for her outstanding contributions to the breed. She spent most of 2003 through August 2004 working with Lisa Wyman of Connecticut, planning the Galloway Getaway international conference that was held in Milwaukee, WI in late September 2004--all while serving as the secretary/treasurer of the international World Galloway Council. Additionally, in 2004, Council approved the production

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Jane Faul and the Cattlemen

JANE FAUL

from page 9

of our annual magazine known as Belties 2004. And who took on the project? You guessed it –Jane! She single-handedly sold all of the advertising, produced, designed and wrote the whole publication for five years.

After 30+ years as a breeder and 20+ years as a Society contractor, Jane Faul permanently retired from all things Belted Galloway in 2009. And this time, she truly pursued other interests! She was most proud of the cabin that she designed. She supervised the construction of it to overlook the Ohio River. She spent her last years of life enjoying the wildlife that surrounded her cabin, listening to classical music, and watching the seasons change alongside the Ohio. Jane summed up it up best:

It's the workaday worthies who own a dozen or two dozen cows and feel a sincere dedication to the breed that form the backbone of our organization...I've thoroughly enjoyed 30-plus years with Belties; it's been a learning experience all the way!

Marlin Sherbine, Highland Farms, Pennsylvania
In my mind, Jane WAS the driving force in the Belted Galloway Society for quite a few years. And she was the primary reason Janet and I were as involved in the breed. In early 1990 we discovered Belties through a magazine article. We were hooked! But we could not find anyone willing to sell even one animal. We heard about the Belted Galloway exhibit scheduled for Louisville that fall and made the trip. As I remember, we enjoyed the Gerli, Blenis, and McClellan animals (on exhibit) and then we attended the Annual Meeting in a small motel room. Over veggies and dip, Jane and then-Secretary Mary McClellan expounded to us the virtues of the breed, but they knew of none for sale. A few weeks later, Jane put me in touch with Max Porter from West Virginia. Four cows, eventually sold to us by Mr. Porter, led to many, many hundreds of animals



spending a part of their lives at Highland Farms.

Jane was by no means a diplomat, she was a pusher. (Our state and federal governments are jammed with diplomats, we need pushers!) She pushed us to host an annual meeting; she pushed me to accept a Council position; she pushed me to climb to President. Her fundraising, writing, editing, and publishing skills for projects she thought were good for the Society were unequalled! The end results were always perfect (e.g., the production of the annual magazine for five straight years). I feel that she personally hastened the compiling and printing of our five generation pedigrees by eight to ten years. She was the push behind the initial memorial funds raised to establish the Chatfield Scholarship.

I have served on a lot of boards and belonged to many organizations and have never encountered anyone energized or devoted to a single cause as Jane was to our breed. In the early days of faxes and emails, when I was an officer, there was a constant flow of suggestions (95% good) as to what could or should be done, any and all days of the week, timed at 1 a.m., 5 a.m., 11 p.m. and a few during normal working hours. I looked to Jane as a mentor and as a friend!



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Point Show Awards

The Society records placements for each animal entered in a Belted Galloway show throughout the calendar year. Animals that are shown, along with their dams and sires, additionally accumulate lifetime points toward a Silver, Gold or Platinum distinction. During 2014 the following animals and exhibitors are honored for earning the most show points.



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SHOW FEMALE OF THE YEAR, PCSC STEP ASIDE 5A (AD) (ET) 36320B, is owned by Matt Thurston and Jade Gianforte, Pine Creek Show Cattle, Rumford Corner, Maine and bred by Aldermere Farm, Rockport, Maine. Matt and Jade attended the 2012 National Belted Galloway Sale and purchased the right to flush the 2011 Belted Galloway Show Female of the Year, Aldermere Xanderlee 32345B. Matt and Jade chose to flush Xanderlee to Platinum Lifetime and three-time National Champion Bull, Anderson Hill Bop Man 10516-D. Step Aside's five generational pedigree is filled with noteworthy Scottish lineages used in the Anderson Hill and Aldermere farms' breeding programs. She has been described as an attractive profiling, powerfully made, deep-bodied heifer with a wonderful expansion of rib. Step Aside's impressive show career includes being named the 2014 Grand Champion Heifer at the Fryeburg Fair in Maine. *Runner-Up: Meadowood Abbey 111A (AI) 37497B*

SHOW BULL OF THE YEAR, COUNTYLINE CONNOR 37033B, is sired by the two-times Show Sire of the Year Southdown Unique 11781B, and out of Rolling Acres Delores 31318B, the 2013 Show Dam of the Year. Connor is owned by Sunnybrook Farms, Belvidere, Illinois. Connor was bred by Jay and Liz Dausman, Countyline Belties, Pierceton, Indiana. His full sisters are Countyline Anna who was the 2012 runner-up for Show Female of the Year and Countyline Billie Jo who was the 2013 Show Female of the Year. Connor had an exceptional 2014 show season where he was champion bull at all the shows he attended. He concluded the year by being named the National Reserve Champion Bull at NAILE. His exceptional muscle, bone, and freedom of movement, have been commented on by many judges. The Willis family would like to thank the Dausmans for making Connor available to them. They also wish to recognize junior member, Adam McConnell, who had the most difficult job of all, at the halter showing and presenting a yearling bull that was "feeling his oats." *Runner-Up: Moonshadow Kahlua 35947D*



SHOW COW/CALF OF THE YEAR, SUNNYBROOK ALEXIS 29180B, is bred and owned by Sunnybrook Farms, Belvidere, Illinois. She is sired by the Platinum and two-times Sire of the Year, Linetree's Pistol Pete 9535B. Her Platinum awarded dam, Sunnybrook Elaine 24684B, was the past Show Female of the Year. Alexis is remarkable in that she is the only female in the breed to be Show Female of the Year out of a Show Female of the Year. She was also named the 2013 Show Cow/Calf of the Year. At seven years of age, she easily maintains her soundness and eye appeal. She has transferred these traits to her offspring. All five of her calves have competed at the national level. A son, Sunnybrook Cruise, was runner-up for Show Bull of the Year. Alexis has also earned Platinum Lifetime status. She is pictured above with her calf, Sunnybrook Alexander, who was Reserve Bull Calf Champion at NAILE. Alexander is sired by the past Show Bull of the Year and is the 2014 Sire of the Year, Sunnybrook Valor. *Runner-Up: Dickinson Acres Zarha (AI) 34551B*



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Point Show Awards

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SHOW SIRE OF THE YEAR, SUNNYBROOK VALOR 33432B, is the first offspring of the 2009 Show Bull of the Year and 2012 Sire of the Year Stonesthrow Umbro 11941B. Valor is out of a first-calf female and a Linetree's Pistol Pete daughter, Sunnybrook Legacy 29178B. He is bred and owned by Chris and Steve Willis, Sunnybrook Farms Belvidere, Illinois. Valor is the result of a pedigree whose first three generations boast a two-time Sire of the Year, two Dams of the Year, and four Platinum Lifetime Award winners. He was named Show Bull of the year in 2011. His first offspring have been successfully shown at all levels and he has achieved Sunnybrook's most valued recognition as Sire of the Year. Sunnybrook Farms thanks the Eric Finholdt family of Medford, Minnesota for their purchase of Valor. *Runner-Up: Anderson Hill Bop Man 10615D*



SHOW DAM OF THE YEAR, ALDERMERE XANDERLEE 32345B, continues to build her legacy as one of the signature females at Aldermere Farm of Rockport, Maine. After being undefeated in 2011, her final win was the National Grand Champion Belted Galloway Heifer at Louisville, KY and later named Show Female of the Year. Aldermere Farm certainly values her success in the show ring but is more excited about the genetic potential she offers them and the breed. After two successful flushes, including the flush that Matt Thurston bought in the National Sale that produced this year's Show Female of the Year, Xanderlee will have multiple progeny in Aldermere's 2015 show string. They are anxiously awaiting the arrival of her natural calf in January 2015. It will be the first calf to hit the ground in the United States from the award-winning Scottish bull, Southfield Major Ronaldo. Xanderlee is the daughter of Gold Lifetime Award winner, Aldermere Shoshanah 27238B, and previous National Grand Champion Bull and Platinum Lifetime Award achiever, Aldermere Lance 8071B. Aldermere Farm is owned and operated by Maine Coast Heritage Trust.

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Runner-up: Meadowood Welwyn 64W 32216B

BREEDER OF THE YEAR - SUNNYBROOK FARMS. Over the past 15 years, The Willis Family, Sunnybrook Farms, Belvidere, Illinois have produced numerous show animals of the year. The farm has implemented the use of production records, DNA trait identification, and carcass results from the use of ultrasound and slaughter data to further the predictability of the offspring from their herd. The cattle who have won awards have produced progeny who have continued the tradition of winning the same awards as previous generations, thus creating breeding cattle with generations of predictable performance packed into their pedigrees. The end result is a uniform and consistent calf crop that is successful and performs for the Willis family as well as other cattle breeders. The Willis family stated, "Being named Breeder of the Year is the ultimate praise for a breeding program and we appreciate all of our present and future customers."

EXHIBITOR OF THE YEAR - SUNNYBROOK FARMS. Sunnybrook Farms is located in Belvidere, Illinois and owned by the Willis family. With their extensive Angus background they breed their Belties for the combination of quality, carcass, and conformation that will perform in the show ring and in the pasture. They shared, "This is not just a fancy saying for marketing, but the foundation we have used for developing our herd over the years." The farm is based around 20 proven Belted Galloway females that have produced or developed four show females of the year, five show bulls of the year, three dams of the year, six sires of the year, and three cow/calf pairs of the year. The Willis family recognizes the support they have received. They stated, "This award is almost impossible without the help of our awesome customers and Beltie friends. We would like to sincerely thank all our Beltie friends who have helped us throughout the show season. And thank you to all of our customers, especially the juniors, from coast to coast that have had confidence in our program."



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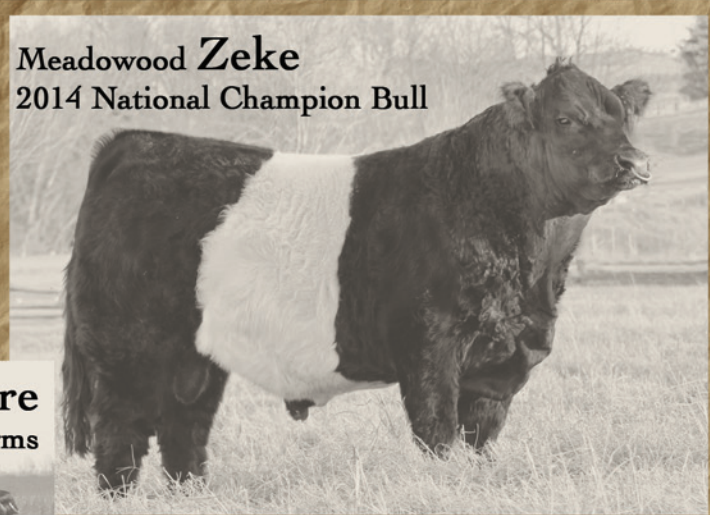
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Contact entry office at (413) 205-5011 or aginfo@thebige.com.

FARMINGTON FAIR

September 20-26, 2015. Farmington, Maine.
Contact Neal Yeaton (207) 778-6083.

WORLD BEEF EXPO

September 25-27, 2015. Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
Contact Julie Willis (815) 547-6912 or sbfarms@hotmail.com.

EAST TEXAS STATE FAIR

September 30, 2015. Tyler, Texas.
Contact Dawson Masters. (972) 465-0339 or dawsonmasters@energytransfer.com.

WESTERN BELTED GALLOWAY ASSOCIATION

October 2-3, 2015. Annual Meeting at Reno, Nevada.
Contact Ken Bajema (360) 837-3273 kbajema@pacifier.com.

FRYEBURG FAIR

October 4-11, 2015. Fryeburg, Maine.
Contact the fair office (207) 935-3268 or info@fryeburgfair.org.

THE NATIONAL KATHI JURKOWSKI JUNIOR SHOW

November 17, 2015. 10 a.m. at the North American International Livestock Exposition, Louisville, Kentucky.
Contact Michelle Ogle (908) 419-9677 southdowncattle@gmail.com

THE BELTED GALLOWAY SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND DINNER

November 17, 2015. Hilton Garden Inn, Louisville, Kentucky.
Contact Executive Director Vic Eggleston (608) 220-1091 or executivedirector@beltie.org

THE BELTED GALLOWAY PREMIUM SALE

November 17, 2015. Hilton Garden Inn, Louisville, Kentucky.
Contact Michelle Ogle (908) 419-9677 southdowncattle@gmail.com

THE NATIONAL BELTED GALLOWAY OPEN SHOW

November 18, 2015. 11 a.m. at the North American International Livestock Exposition, Louisville, Kentucky.
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THE GALLOWAY WORLD CONGRESS

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Contact the Galloway Cattle Society info@gallowaycattlesociety.co.uk

Belted Galloway Cattle

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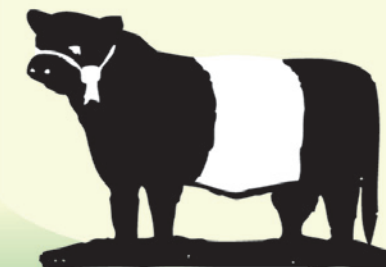
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Belted Galloway Junior Association



By Leanne Fogle

Page sponsored by: Vintage Cattle Company

Skylar Godeaux

Skylar Godeaux of Bon Weir, Texas worked with and mentored a group of his fellow Newton High School FFA members during the fall of 2014. He evaluated, selected and broke cattle to lead for the group to show. They ended their three-week circuit at the East Texas State Fair in Tyler, Texas. Skylar later traveled to the National Show in Louisville, Kentucky and showed a bull. During 2015, Skylar has been involved in preparing Belted Galloway heifers for junior shows at the South Texas State Fair, the Newton County Fair and the SBGA Show in Tyler, Texas. Skylar graduated from Newton High School in June 2015 and he is planning to attend Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas. Robert Harrison, representing the Southwest Belted Galloway Association stated, "Skylar exemplifies the type of dedication, drive and vision the SBGA strives to instill in our junior members who will become the future leaders of our associations. We are very pleased to have the opportunity to share his accomplishments."



Jake Keller

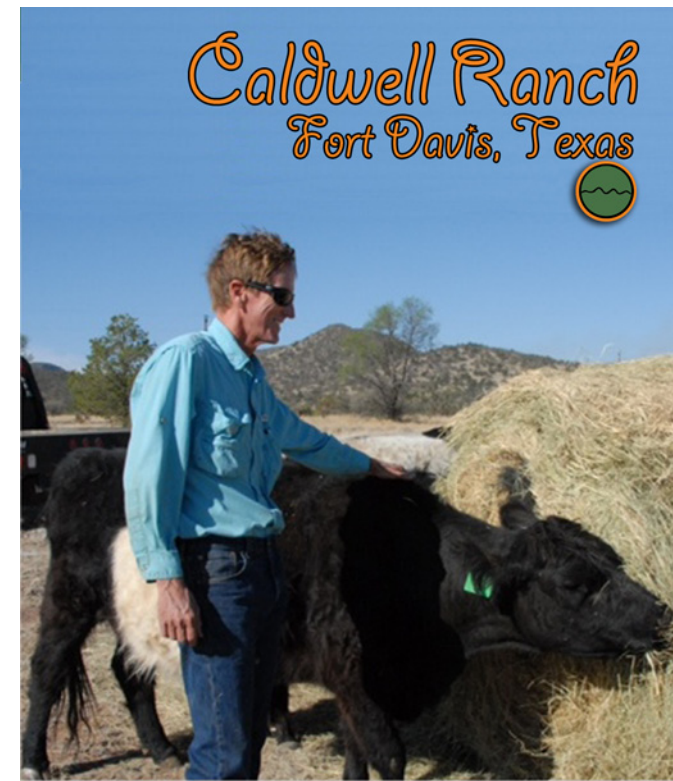
Jake Keller from Durand, Illinois has been raising Belted Galloway cattle for 19 years. He began showing his cattle at age five both locally and nationally. The farthest he has traveled to show Belted Galloway cattle was to the state of New York. Throughout the years Jake has participated in many Belted Galloway events. Camps at Martin, Tennessee and Joliet, Illinois along with many years of showing at World Beef Expo in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and the National Belted Galloway Show in Louisville, Kentucky have given Jake experiences



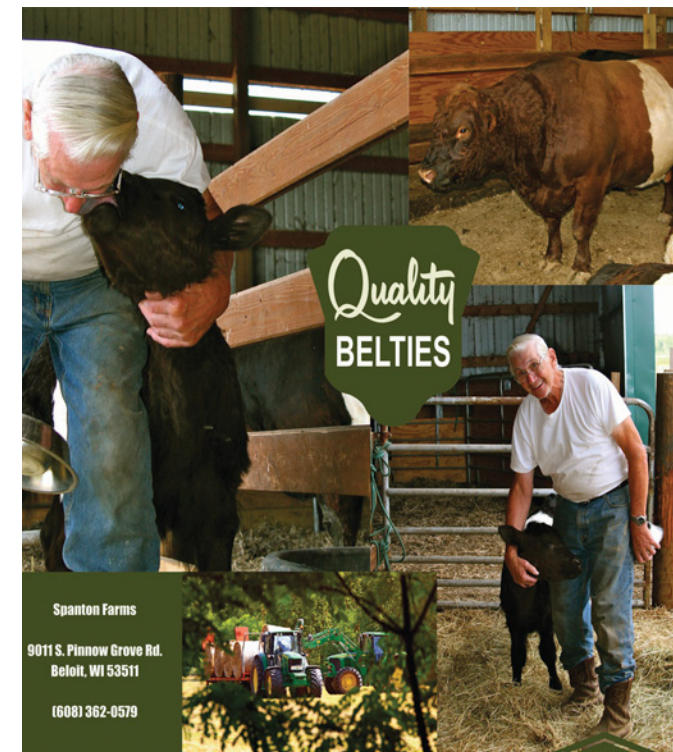
that he will never forget. Jake feels that there have been many people who have mentored him. He considers Kathi Jurkowski from Rockton, Illinois as his constant source of support. Jake is known for his positive attitude and his willingness to help everyone. He has been charitable by donating the sale of his animals to benefit the Belted Galloway Junior Association. During high school, Jake has also participated in 4-H, football and wrestling. He graduated from Durand High School in May 2015. He is enrolled at Iowa Central College, Fort Dodge, Iowa and is anticipating a career in agriculture. Jake communicated that he is very proud of his accomplishments and the herd of cattle that he and his family have built over the years.

Sophia Romani

Sophia Romani is eager to begin high school at the LaSalle Academy in Providence, Rhode Island. Her ambition in life is to become a large animal veterinarian. Sophia is most excited to become involved in the after school clubs that include agriculture. Sophia has a passion for photography, she plays the clarinet, and she will consider participating in soccer and track during high school. Sophia's family began raising Belted Galloway cattle in 2007 and Sophia showed an animal for the first time in 2010. She frequents shows at the Fryeburg Youth Show, Maine; Washington County Fair, Rhode Island; Woodstock Fair, Connecticut; and The Big E, Massachusetts. Sophia's mentors include her dad, Dan; the entire Oatley family (all who live in Rhode Island), plus Scot and Chris Adams from Maine. She respects the Oatleys' cattle and their skills. She admires the Adams family because of their work ethic, knowledge and involvement in the breed. Sophia was recently presented the Haley Walsh Award during the Fryeburg Youth Show in Maine because she exemplifies a positive focus on life and outstanding leadership qualities.



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David Spanton, owner of Orchard Ridge Belted Galloways, is not new to farming. He was born and raised on a farm, in fact he holds many awards as a young boy with his dairy cows and pigs in the 1940's. He began raising Belted Galloways in 2009 and found his true love, the Belties. He sells his meats at the local farmers markets, and his breeding stock by phone order at (608) 362-0579.



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By Kara Keeton

Photo credit Federica Armstrong

Feature

The Markegard Family Bay Area Belties



HALF MOON BAY, California – Erik and Doniga Markegard are passing on the rich ranching tradition of the Markegard family to their four children, Lea, Larry, Quill, and Quince, who work with them daily in their family ranching operation, Markegard Family Grass-Fed. The ranching operation spans almost 10,000 acres in San Mateo and Sonoma counties, and is focused on providing customers in the Bay Area with local, sustainably raised livestock – grass-fed beef, sheep, pasture-raised pork, and dairy.

The Markegards believe in not only passing down the love of ranching to their children, but that they are instilling the need to develop and educate consumers about the importance of an integrated food system in the next generation of ranchers.

“We are teaching our children that we love our animals and we love our wildlife,” explained Erik. “We want them to see that you can be responsible ranchers by caring for the animals that are raised, the animals that live on the land, the environment all while producing healthy foods for your local community.”

Tradition in Transition

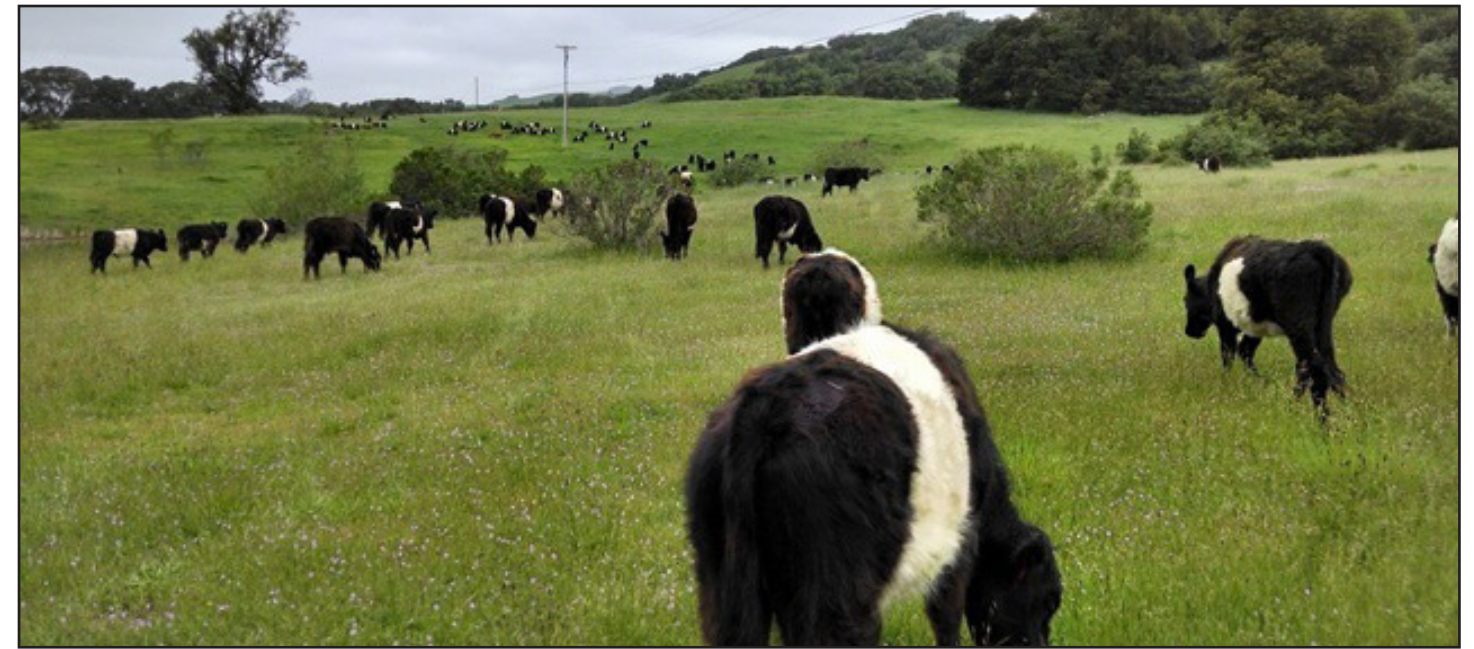
Erik grew up on a 2000-acre cattle ranch in San Mateo County helping on the ranch his father managed. He

knew early on that he had a special relationship with the animals and the land. In 1994, Erik continued the family tradition when his father became ill and he began taking over the management of the ranches. This sixth generation cattle rancher soon decided that his path in the ranching world would be one less traveled.

“I went through a stage when I was young where I questioned why we were raising these animals only to kill them,” said Erik. “I would go to the auctions and I would see ranchers mistreat their livestock. The cattle were going to a feedlot, only to live in their feces until slaughtered, and I really didn’t want to be a part of that type of business.”

Yet, Erik knew that Americans were not going to stop eating meat. So instead of leaving the life and animals he loved, he decided to work toward developing an operation that would give the animals an incredible life until the very end. When his wife Doniga joined him in the operation, her love of wildlife and her passion for the conservation and restoration of the rangelands took the ranching operations in a new direction.

“Soon after we married, Doniga and I began working together to transition our cattle operation to



100% grass fed,” said Erik. “We have worked together through the years to develop an operation that can sustain our family financially, but also a business that reflects our beliefs about how all ranchers should care for the animals and the land that we have the privilege to manage.”

Erik explained that today the ranching operation is 100% grass fed with grazing methods focused on improving the biodiversity of the land. The ranches they manage are free of pesticides and chemical fertilizers. The cattle and the sheep are never fed grain or given synthetic hormones or antibiotics. The cattle are not sent to a feedlot; rather they are finished on grasslands and taken directly from the field to an area USDA facility for processing.

“We are actually one of two grass-fed operations in San Mateo County, and the only one that is a family ranching operation,” said Erik. “We have been working hard on our breeding program to develop the best herd suited for our grass-fed operation, and that is what got me interested in the Belted Galloway breed.”

The Foraging Belties

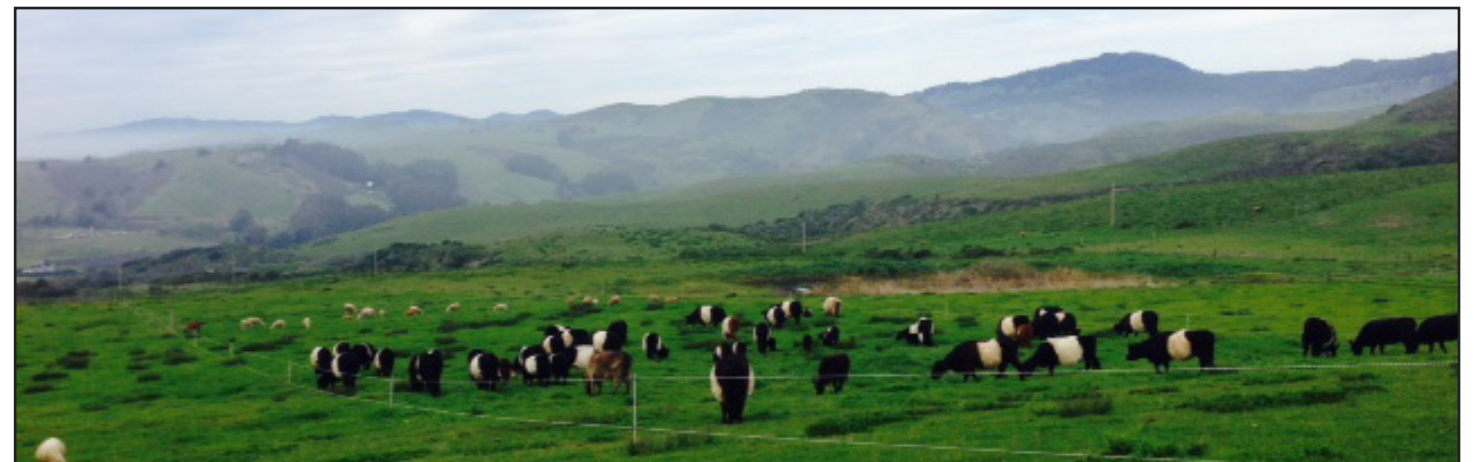
Erik laughs when he recalls how his Belted Galloway herd began, almost ten years ago, on a ranch he was leasing in Bodega Bay.

“A neighbor had four Belted Galloway cows and one bull. She called one day and told me her bull got in with my Angus cows,” explained Erik. “The following year I had several calves that were half Angus and half Belties. They were really nice, so I started researching the Belted Galloway breed.”

Erik quickly learned that the breed had much more appeal than just its unique white belt. Like the Bison or Longhorns and Watusi cattle that had foraged on the ranches his father managed when he was a kid, the Belted Galloways were known for their ability to thrive on forages. He was also impressed with the breed’s docile nature, the double hair coat, the mothering qualities, plus the quality marbling in the meat.

“We were already working to transition the operation to grass fed and Belties were a great fit for our climate and our land,” said Erik.

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The Markegard Family

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As Erik began reaching out to the few Belted Galloway breeders in the area to purchase cattle, he soon realized a Beltie herd might be more of a challenge than he had anticipated.

"I started calling breeders in the area to see about buying animals, and they would only have four or five for sale that year," laughed Erik. "I would tell them I'm doing it for the quality of the animal, not the perfect belt, and that helped me secure a few more animals each year."

Erik continued to add purebred Belted Galloways into his Angus herd over the years. They now have a purebred Beltie bull in their operation and they are breeding the Angus genetics out of the herd. Erik has focused his attention on building a herd that has good dams that forage and milk well, have acceptable birth weights, instead of focusing on building a herd of purebred Belties with the perfect belt.



"We've had a closed herd for now about two years," said Erik. "We have numerous ranches, so we have several herds, and we do both spring and fall calving. Herd size is about 500 brood cows plus all the calves that we finish. So we have retained our calves from two years ago, last year, and this year."

Erik admits that being the largest Belted Galloway producer in the area does help draw attention to his grass-fed beef operation but the quality of the meat is what brings his customers back each week.

"The Belted Galloway breed, with their amazing foraging ability, has allowed us to develop a herd of cattle that allows us to stay true to our mission of creating an integrated food system on our ranches," said Erik. "We are providing high-quality; marbled, grass-fed beef that our customers know has been raised in a sustainable program. Not only have we created an ideal life for the animal, but we have focused on conservation and renovation of the land on which the animal was raised."

The Buying Club

Consumers can find the Markegard Family Grass-Fed line of grass-fed beef and lamb, pasture-raised pork, pasture-raised chicken, and dairy products in a variety of restaurants in the Bay Area, as well as, on sale at several area farmers markets. The Markegards also sell their products through their online store, and through their Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) club with over 300 members. Doniga estimates that they have a customer base of over 3,000 individuals in the Bay Area.

"I have to give the credit for all of our marketing efforts to Doniga. She takes the lead on developing that aspect of our operation," said Erik. "She also developed our CSA, which is not a traditional CSA, but it is more like a buying club based on the CSA format."

Erik explained that CSA members pay \$300 and they order their products each week. The customer's CSA bag is available for pick-up at the farmers market, at select drop-off locations, or it can be delivered to homes in the Bay Area, if the order for the week is over \$100. Once the CSA member's balance reaches a low level, they receive an

email notification to make their next payment of \$300.

"With most CSA programs, if tomatoes are in season, half of your box is tomatoes. We didn't want our members to get product they didn't want or couldn't use," explained Erik. "The way our CSA is structured, it allows our members to get what they need without waste and they have several product options."

CSA members also get the first pick of cuts of meat after each harvest and they receive special updates from the ranch. The members are invited to have hands on experiences at the farm, such as feeding the pigs and milking the cows when the family holds their monthly Ranch Days. Erik pointed out that this relationship with their CSA members helps to educate consumers on the importance of an integrated food system.

They focus on what a difference it makes when buying local and in season with the flavor of the meats and the impact it has on the environment and local economy. In keeping with their integrated food system approach to ranching, they have chosen not to ship product beyond the Bay Area.

"We decline to ship our product anywhere. We developed our market to focus on buying local and buying in season," said Erik. "It is amazing to see at our Farm to Table dinners people eating a meal out

in the field with the Belted Galloway cattle grazing nearby. We host events like the dinners to help people make that connection between the food they eat and how it was raised."

Conservation Education

Ranching is the Markegard family tradition, but developing their integrated food system with a strong conservation focus is this family's mission.

The Markegard family has developed a grazing and conservation management plan for each of the ranches they lease in the Bay Area. Erik and Doniga are dedicated to taking care of the watershed that supports not only the animals and wildlife on the ranch, but provides water for all the family's needs on the ranch.

They have also focused their attention on finding ways to regenerate lands by building soil, sequestering carbon, capturing and purifying water, and enhancing wildlife habitats on the ranch.

"We have adopted a holistic grazing plan for our livestock on the ranch so that we never overgraze and area, but stimulate growth and grassland health through properly timed grazing," explained Erik. "Our watershed stewardship practices are at the forefront of our management practices on the ranch."

Doniga's work in conservation management goes *continued page 24*

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The Markegard Family

from page 23



left to right - Doniga Markegard, Erik Markegard, Ranch Hand Sue Hall

beyond the ranch. She is actively involved with policy issues and is an advocate for the large-scale restoration of Western Rangelands through cattle grazing.

The Mackegards also believe in sharing with their community the importance of conservation and agriculture. Along with Ranch Days for their CSA members, they host school tours on the farm and they have special ranch tours for the general public.

"We had a school tour one time and a little girl was under the milk cow pulling on the teat. As the milk came out, she asked, is this soy milk?" laughed Erik. "They really don't know that food comes from the farm, how we raise the food, and how care for the land has an impact on the environment. We are doing what we can to help make those connections to help explain that the food they see on the grocery shelves began with an animal like that cow or that pig out grazing on the grass in the fields."

Erik and Doniga also offer consulting services to other ranchers and conservationists to share the knowledge they have gained in their ranching and conservation experiences. The consulting services they provide include: ranch management, permaculture design, holistic management and land planning, erosion control, fence building, invasive species management, and much more.

"I am a realist. I live in an area where my neighbors are billionaires. I will never own a home. But that doesn't mean I cannot create a lasting impact on the lands we love," said Erik. "It is so important to us that we raise our kids with the experience of caring for the earth, so that when they find their passion in life, that they have strong grounding in nature, and an understanding of where their food comes from."

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www.newenglandgallowaygroup.com



Formed in 1995, this regional group plans two or more informal meetings annually featuring educational clinics and potluck lunches. Their emphasis is on providing support and encouragement to youthful breeders and showmen, and they have instituted a Heifer Project to encourage youth interest in the breed. They are also responsible for the National Belted Galloway Sale held in April at Fryeburg, Maine.

GREAT LAKES BELTED GALLOWAY ASSOCIATION

Kathi Jurkowski - PR
Director
5418 Yale Bridge Road
Rockton, IL 61072
815.629.2306
kathikowski@gmail.com
www.greatlakesbeltie.com



The GLBGA, formed in 1992, holds an annual field day, exhibits animals at many fairs and expositions in the Great Lakes region, and sponsors the Belted Galloway Show at World Beef Expo in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in late September. The GLBGA also sponsors the annual Midwest Classic Show in northern Illinois in early July. The Belties Unlimited Show is held semi-annually in Iowa. A newsletter called Great Lakes Belted Galloway News is published quarterly.

SOUTHWEST BELTED GALLOWAY ASSOCIATION

Gary Marshall - President,
404 Oak Ridge Trail
Kingsland, TX 78639
830.613.8091 or 325.388.6840
glmarshall5609@gmail.com or
glmars@moment.net



The Southwest Belted Galloway Association (SBGA) is made up of breeders and Beltie fans from all over the Southwest. The SBGA holds an annual meeting for members and serves to introduce the Belted Galloway to other ranchers and interested parties in that region.

WESTERN BELTED GALLOWAY ASSOCIATION

Mac McConnell
1348 Nashville Rd
Eddyville, OR 97343
541.875.1519
macmcconnell@peak.org
www.beltedgalloway.org



Westerners formed their regional group in early 1995. The group meets annually, usually in October, promotes the breed at various Western shows and exhibits, publishes a quarterly newsletter called The Belt-Line. Beltie facts, a member directory, current events and membership forms are available on the regional website.

Regional groups of Belted Galloway breeders and others interested in Belted Galloway cattle were formed in support of the Society. Each of the groups welcomes new members interested in the breed.

Chatfield Memorial Scholarship

By Jane Jackson, Chairman of the A.H. Chatfield, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

This year, the Belted Galloway Society's Scholarship Committee fielded three very strong candidates as winners of the A.H. Chatfield, Jr. Memorial Scholarship. Their backgrounds and their interests are very different, and so are their goals. One of the scholarship winners plans to become a veterinarian technician. Another intends to become an attorney who represents farmers and ranchers, and the third plans to become a youth educator/coordinator who is involved with agriculture. The one common thread that ties these three young people together is the enthusiasm they all have for Belted Galloway cattle.

These scholarships –three are awarded each year – are offered to deserving students who are interested in pursuing a career related to beef production. The A.H. Chatfield, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund was established shortly after the Aldermere Farm founder's death in 1999, and it is in his memory that each winner is awarded \$1,000.

We are delighted to announce the winners of this year's A.H. Chatfield, Jr. Memorial Scholarships: Alexandra (Allie) Abney, Elliot (Ellie) Pendleton, and Audrey Wagner.

Allie Abney

Allie Abney is a student at Purdue University, pursuing a BS degree with a double major in Agribusiness with a concentration in Marketing and Agricultural Communications.

Since the summer of 2010, Allie has worked with her family's Red Barn Meats LLC in Bargersville, Indiana. She promotes and sells their Beltie beef to the public.

While she was in high school, Allie was in 4-H, serving as secretary, then vice president, and then president. She was Miss



Johnson County 4-H and Agricultural Fair Queen in 2014, and the following year, she was Indiana's First Runner-up for the 2015 Indiana State Fair Queen.

The year after she graduated from high school, Allie served as Indiana's FFA Association State President. This involved managing a seven-person officer team that staged eight conferences and over 50 workshops, as well as giving speeches and writing articles and representing Indiana as vice president on the National Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Committee. The next summer, Allie served as Communication Intern for the Indiana State Department of Agriculture.

Now in college, Allie was named the Purdue University Outstanding Rising Sophomore within Agricultural Communications.

She has exhibited her family's Belted Galloways at the Hoosier Beef Congress and she has been a speaker at the Great Lakes Belted Galloway field day. Folks at Purdue call Allie "the Beltie Girl." Allie's goal is to graduate from Purdue and then pursue a law degree, so that she can represent farmers and ranchers in legal matters. She also intends one day to own her own farm, raising Belted Galloways.

Elliott Pendleton

Elliott Pendleton hails from Rockport, Maine, and attends the University of Maine, Orono where she is double majoring in Animal Sciences and Education. Her goal is to be a youth educator/coordinator involved with agriculture. In addition, Ellie is currently designing a program which she plans one day to implement—an agriculture therapy program for youth with special needs.

Ellie's high school career was outstanding academically, and she participated in a variety of activities, from singing in the chorus to playing tennis and field hockey. She was a member of Peers, as well as the Gay Straight Alliance, the International Club, and also the Photography Club.

Ellie has been very active in 4-H as a member of the Aldermere Achievers. She has served as their secretary and later, as their president, and she has also been the club's steer manager. In 2013, Ellie was Maine's delegate to the 4-H National Congress in Atlanta, Georgia. She has exhibited Belties for several years, and also has competed in showmanship



several times, often winning first place. She also works with younger students, coaching them in field hockey and mentoring younger 4-H members. Ellie has exhibited Belties at the National Belted Galloway Show at NAILE with her 4-H club, and also has participated at the Big E with the Maine Beef Team.

When she's on college breaks, Ellie returns to work at the Aldermere Farm, caring for the animals, maintaining the equipment, haying, doing record keeping and community outreach. While she's at UMO, she works at Witter Farm, milking, caring for the calves and doing general farm work.

Unlike most other Chatfield Scholarship recipients, Ellie does not come from a farm family. All she has learned about agriculture and beef cattle comes from her experience as a 4-H'er at Aldermere Farm. Ellie plans one day to own her own farm, and continue her involvement with Belted Galloway cattle.

Audrey Wagner

Audrey Wagner comes from Tipton, Iowa. She graduated in May 2015 from Iowa State University, where she received her BS in Animal Science. In the fall of 2015 Audrey will be attending Kirkwood Community College to become a certified veterinarian technician.

Audrey has been a member of the Belted Galloway Junior Association since 2007. She manages her Wagner Belties' farm breeding program as well as the daily care of the purebred cow/calf herd. She also assists with her parents' business, Wagner Farms, in both their Beltie herd and the row crop operations. These experiences fostered her passion for beef and livestock reproduction.

Audrey has worked as a veterinary assistant intern, and she has been on the student barn crew of a veterinary medical center in Ames, where she handled both bulls and stallions. Select Sires has certified her in artificial insemination.

Audrey has also interned at Westwood Embryo Services, handling embryos and assisting with flushes.

In March of 2014, Audrey worked to help local farmers in her area study abroad in Ecuador, and in November of 2014, she worked with Agricultural Systems of New Zealand.

Audrey raises and sells her own Belted Galloway breeding stock and freezer beef.



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2015 JOURNAL REPORT

– Vic Eggleston, Executive Director



The year 2014 was another record-setting year for the Belted Galloway Society, Inc. Our membership topped 1060 with interest in Belted Galloway cattle continuing to rise. We welcomed 175 new members into the Belted Galloway Society during 2014. The Council voted to continue the marketing campaign that offers a complimentary membership to new members who either register or transfer animals at the time they apply for membership throughout 2015.

Earlier this year, we published a retrospective article about the past 20 years of the Belted Galloway Society in the *US Beltie News*. Some of the notable events include the Council approving the admission of red Belties into the Society's registry in 1995. The number of registered red Belties has been increasing significantly since that time. Animal registration was also revamped in 1995 by adding the letters B, D or R after the registration number to identify the color of the animal as black, dun or red. An A was added in front of the recordation number of all animals recorded in the Appendix. The base cows used in breed-up programs were defined as solid-colored, beef-type, and naturally polled. There has been a significant increase in the number of registered Belties in the western states in the past 20 years, with an increase in cattle numbers in nearly every state. Notable trends have emerged. The number of bulls registered as of January 2015 is four percent less than 20 years ago. The number of Appendix animals recorded has decreased by 67 percent during that same time period. The number of purebred females registered has increased by 55 percent. The total number of registrations has showed an increase of 10 percent. The first Belted Galloway Society Breeders Manual was printed in 1995 and it has become a significant asset to the Society. The handbook provides new members with basic cattle husbandry information plus the Society's history, rules and By-laws. It has been reprinted and revised several times and is currently available on CD to all members free of charge.

The 2015 calendar photo contest was won by Double B Ranch, Dodgeville, Wisconsin. Second place went to Casa Cattle Co., Corrina, Maine. The Advertising and Promotions Committee sincerely

appreciates the time and effort devoted by our members who submitted their photos.

The 2014 Annual General Meeting was held for the third year in Louisville, Kentucky in conjunction with North American International Livestock Exhibition. Activities at the NAILE included The Kathi Jurkowski National Junior Belted Galloway Association Show and the National Belted Galloway Show. And the Premium Belted Galloway Sale, which for the first time was in the form of a video presentation, was held after the Annual General Meeting with the sale animals on exhibit prior to the sale.

Printing the *US Beltie News* in color began in May of 2014 with a significant increase in the cost of production. However, the Council feels that the positive response from the membership justified the investment.

The National Belted Galloway Sale in Fryeburg, Maine celebrated its 25th year this spring. The sale has been the premier sale of Belted Galloway cattle since its inception, and continues to set the standard for all Belted Galloway sales. In addition to the sale, the event included the first Northeast Regional Junior National. The activities for the youth included a bake-off, a photo contest, public speaking opportunities, team marketing, showmanship, plus a show. A total of \$3,375 was raised through the auction for the benefit of the Belted Galloway Junior Association national account.

The Belted Galloway Society has enlisted the EDJE Technology to redesign and maintain our website beltie.org. EDJE has many years of experience in the cattle industry and website development. Noticeable changes and enhancements to the site will be seen throughout the year. Council approved a new logo for the Belted Galloway Society that represents all three colors of the breed.

The World Galloway Congress will be held in Greta Green, Scotland August 5-10, 2016. The itinerary and further information regarding the Congress is available on beltie.org under the Events Calendar.

Livestock Records

Canadian Livestock Records Corporation



By Vic Eggleston, Executive Director

The Canadian Livestock Records Corporation (CLRC) is a non-profit corporation, established under Canadian federal legislation, The Animal Pedigree Act, to provide registry services to incorporated breed associations. The CLRC acts as a neutral third party between the associations and their members. CLRC is governed by a Board of Directors composed of representatives of the breed associations who have been elected by their colleagues to serve in that capacity. CLRC provides its services to 53 Canadian breed associations, also providing services on a contract basis to three bovine associations based in the U.S., including the American Galloway Breeders' Association.

The CLRC is responsible for enforcing the rules and procedures determined by The Belted Galloway Society, Inc. and for collecting the proper fees.

The CLRC currently has a staff of nine persons under direction of General Manager Ron Black. The staff has many years of experience and knowledge to offer. Two members of the CLRC staff, Betty Foti and Lisa Hutt, are assigned to members of The Belted Galloway Society.

In addition to the above services, CLRC also maintains a section of its website on which it posts a listing of members and the pedigrees of animals for each association that chooses to participate. The site is updated frequently from the main database.

CLRC SERVICES

The core registry service provided by CLRC is a complex service consisting of the following basic elements:

- ~ Printing and distribution of application forms.
- ~ Receipt and deposit of all fees.
- ~ Entry of information from applications into database.
- ~ Manual and computer checking of data and approval of applications, ensuring adherence to rules of eligibility as set down in Society by-laws and to recognized biological parameters.
- ~ Recording of DNA test results.
- ~ Issuance of certificates, in a format approved by the Society, and membership cards.
- ~ Mailing of documents, including all envelopes and postage.
- ~ Invoice with completed documents that accounts for fees received and charged.
- ~ Contact with breeders to resolve problems.
- ~ Acquisition of necessary computer hardware and software and upgrades to same.
- ~ Scanning of all source documents into database, with offsite storage of backup material.
- ~ Reporting to the Society office, including several routine reports, as well as any custom reports that may be required.

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By Tim Thornberry

Feature



Mitchell Ledge Farm

FREEPORT, Maine. – There are few places that match the beauty of the Maine coastline. Adding to the picturesque surroundings in Freeport is the Mitchell Ledge Farm, home to Andy LeMaistre, his wife Mary, and their Belted Galloway herd.

Describing the place as a typical coastal Maine farm located a half a mile from the seacoast, LeMaistre said that the main farm property is comprised of 200 acres and of that, there are about 50 acres of fields and the rest is woodlands and managed woodlots.

While the timber is certainly a part of the farming operations, it is his purebred registered herd that gets much of the attention.

“We concentrate on black, belted cattle. We have had duns and we have had reds and we usually have one or two reds a year because we have the gene pool in our herd, but we have a predominantly black Belted Galloway herd,” said LeMaistre.

The cow-calf operation is comprised of about 50 to 60 head at any given time with a goal of having 50 calves a year.

“It’s maybe a little different from other operations but we have two herds: one which calves in the spring from March 15 to the end of May and a fall calving herd that begins September 1 through the end of October,” said LeMaistre. “That works out very well for us in terms of supplying our customers with cows.”

The high prices most cattle producers have enjoyed is true in the Belted Galloway market, as well. LeMaistre said that that goes both from a breeding stock perspective and for feeder calves.

The farm sells to both markets with a number of large feeder calf operators as customers along with those who market their product through Community

Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs.

“Our principle interest as a purebred, registered cattle operation is to sell breeding stock because we want to perpetuate the breed. That’s one of our goals and we want to make money at it, obviously,” said LeMaistre. “But many of the cattle that we have every year just don’t make the cut, so those go into our feeder calf program, the commodity side of the business.”

That’s not to say that those that don’t make the cut are not good animals. It just means that they are not of the stature LeMaistre wants to send on as breeding stock.

Making sure the breed remains at an optimum level is something Beltie producers strive to do and LeMaistre has been doing it since 1978 when he bought his first two bred cows from famed breeder Albert Chatfield.



It was Chatfield who helped get the breed established in this country and more specifically in the northeastern part of the country.

LeMaistre said that because the breed originated in Scotland, the cows are well suited for the long winters experienced in New England.

“They are easy survivors and we don’t do any elaborate housing. Their trait is the double coated hair which has been bred off a number of the other breeds particularly Angus because it not’s compatible with feed lot operations to have long hair,” he said. “But to survive and be warm, insulated and continue to gain weight in an environment like we have, that extra coat makes it real easy. The weather doesn’t bother them at all.”

Hearty as they are, the breed is also quite the sight for those unfamiliar with their markings. LeMaistre refers to the animals as “front pasture cattle.”

“It’s very enjoyable and for those of us who like cattle, it’s quite a sight,” he said.

As nice as the Belted Galloway looks, LeMaistre goes back to the quality of breeding stock associated with



this breed of cow as being one of the most important aspects of Belted Galloways.

He said the yields on many cattle breeds are tremendous compared to what they were 30 or 40 years ago.

“Most breeds however, have been tampered with or genetically changed or selected a lot more than Belted Galloways have,” said LeMaistre. “The Belties still retain a lot of their fundamental traits which I think, personally, is a good thing.”

From a local foods perspective, he said that most of the CSAs he sells to are all pasture-based operations and don’t have a type of confinement feeding, something that makes the product quality increase.

“Customers are just absolutely delighted with the quality of the meat product they get at the end. They just can’t believe how good it is,” said LeMaistre.

While selling directly to the CSA market has proven to be lucrative for the LeMaistres, their cows are also sold at a couple of big time events: the National Belted Galloway Sale held in Fryeburg, Maine each spring and the sale held every fall at the North American International Livestock Expo, held in Louisville, Kentucky.

LeMaistre said he is proud to have been involved in the spring event for 20 years and the Louisville sale is one that brings buyers from the southern part of the country.

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“We participate in both of those sales and think that’s a really great mechanism the Belted Galloway Society has put together,” he said. LeMasitre’s philosophy is to be selective about what you do with cattle. For instance, he said that semen has been collected on most of their bulls but natural insemination is preferred. “I’m very selective about trying to find bulls that I think are the best quality bulls around,” he explained.

“Once I get them, I use them for an extended period of time. They might have 500 or 600 calves. From that, we can really tell whether we’ve made any adjustments in the breed and whether or not our efforts using the same bull and getting all these results across a wide spectrum of cows has made any improvements.” Like so many Beltie producers, the LeMaistres have found just the right markets in which to sell their cattle in an environment that has seen many market changes. “I’ve seen a big change in our markets here in Maine, which is kind of on the forefront of organic farms, and most of our operations are what I would call natural operation and mostly pasture based,” LeMaistre noted. “Fortunately, in the Northeast we can grow tremendous forage even with a fairly short season. We can still grow and put up a ton of good forage so those cattle, right through the winter, can get really high levels of input.” With that growth in local markets and the care LeMaiste puts toward breeding stock, Mitchell Ledge Farm’s sustainability seems to be as assured as the breed itself. To learn more about the farm, go to their web site at www.mitchellledgefarm.com.

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Mitchell Ledge - Feature
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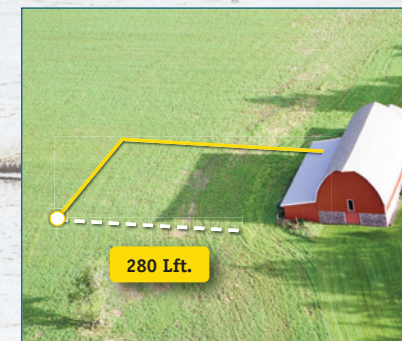
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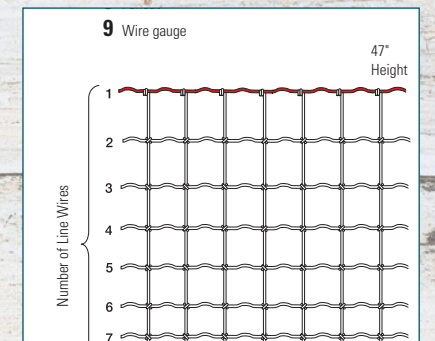
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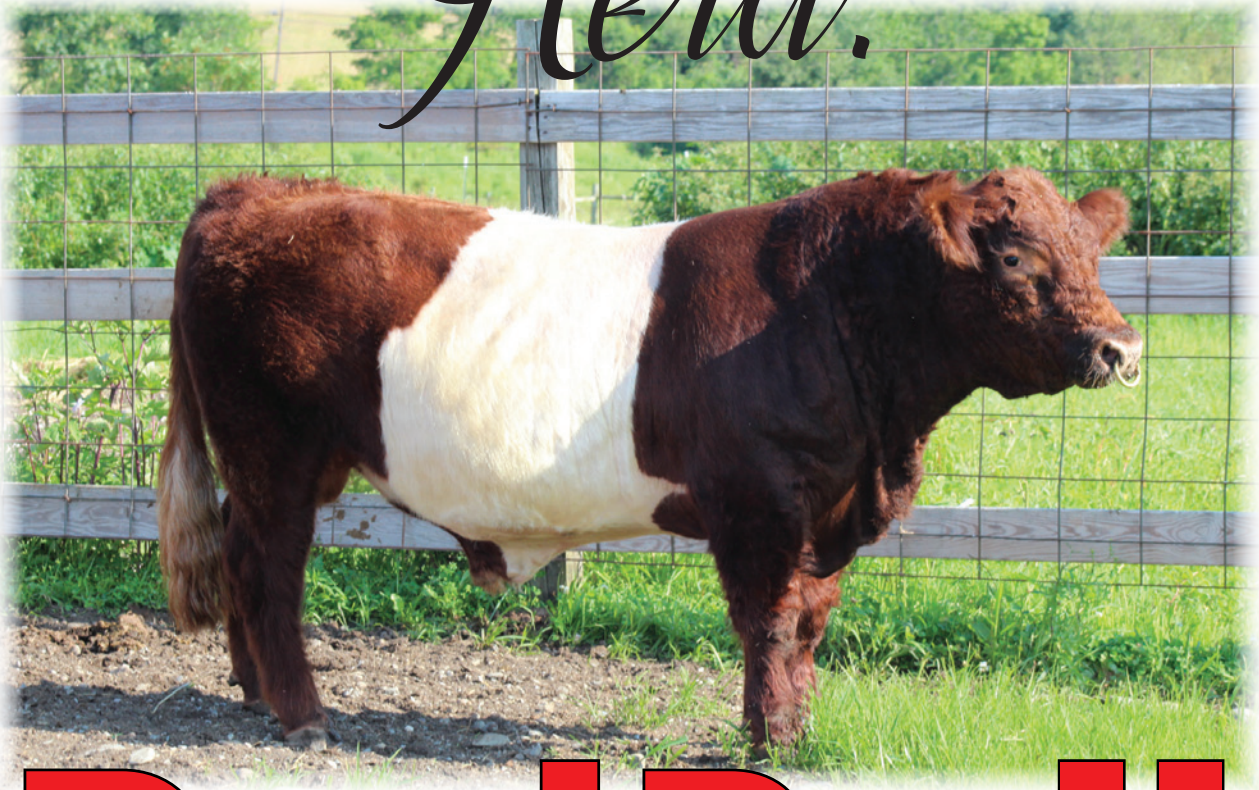


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