

**NZ MINIATURE HERFORD
BREEDERS GROUP
NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2012
(AUGUST 2012)**



Hi members,

Well, after a false start and having to cancel our Feilding AGM weekend and changing to a one day AGM event in Rotorua, we had quite a successful day.



There were enough members attending for us to have a good constructive meeting but in a more informal setting. Quite nice really. I hope those who attended had a nice day, it was great catching up with you all.

Along with this Newsletter you will also find attached a pdf file with copy of NZMHBG AGM 2012 Minutes of Meeting.

Matter arising from our discussions.....

- Janet was asked to follow up with John Pickering regarding us being a National BVD Accredited group. Janet has done this and John's reply was "Sorry that I haven't got back to you. I did mention this proposal to our BVD committee some time ago and the consensus was that there has been enough monitoring already done and that there would no additional benefits by using the miniature Hereford breed group resources. Thank you for your inquiry. Regards John"

So that was a good idea but not going to be useful for the National BVD Council. The NZMHBG committee still strongly recommend that breeders do BVD testing on their herds and consider BVD vaccinating so that you can promote and sell your animals with a "point of difference" and safety for the purchasers. It is common to request a BVD test when purchasing a bull but not so many ask about BVD tests for the females - this is very important as they are carriers also!

- Helen was to sort out and finalise with NZHA an application form for "Grading up for Polled Miniature Herefords". This has now been done and a copy is attached also for any breeders interested in pursuing this.

- It was discussed that more breeders could be advertising in their local papers and that often you can get free advertorials just by contacting your local newspaper and telling them what you are up to. Janet said that if we write some small articles and individual breeder profiles then she could help get them put in the appropriate paper or magazine in different areas. Janet is happy to help write these profiles.

Anyone wishing to have help with this please contact Janet Poole - email: riverlands27@ubernet.co.nz or phone: 09/439-2420

- We discussed making a new advert for the Breeders Group to give us a better profile. When members were doing any articles they could let the NZMHBG Council know and we could look at doing an advert alongside their articles. We have made up one which is 1/4 page and a new one which is 1/8 page (business card size). Example below.... I hope you like them.

**NZ MINIATURE HERFORD
BREEDERS GROUP**

**NEW ZEALAND
MINIATURE HERFORD
BREEDERS GROUP**

For more information please contact:
Debra Hamilton-Secretary
P: 06 280 2940 or E: dhamilton@xtra.co.nz
www.herefords.co.nz/miniautres.php

B = Breeding Member



Next year's AGM/Seminar and/or other meeting

AGM meetings - We need to discuss options!! Every year at AGM we talk about what to do next year and everyone is always very enthusiastic... but when it comes to the time very little happens. We need to get serious about this! What do members want and where? **The council is here for you!, we just need your input.**

Tell us - below are some options discussed at the meeting. Can you tell us what is best for you...

- Helen is to put together a 'hand out leaflet' for breeders to use when doing shows and talking with potential new breeders. It was discussed that it needs to contain info that doesn't date too much. The Australian Miniature Hereford Cattle Association had done a similar handout leaflet but it had a list of breeders and contact details which required constant updating. It was decided it would be better to just have general information on Miniature Herefords with the links to the website for a list of members. Maybe one contact e.g. Secretary (which wouldn't be hard to change yearly). It will have a space on the back where each breeder can put their own stamp and contact details if they like. This is nearly completed - will be emailed out and each breeder can print it out themselves as required.
- Also discussed was the possibility of having associate members. A motion had been put forward in this regard (read minutes of meeting). It was decided "that rather than an Associate Membership we have "Friend of the NZMHBG" whereby for half the cost of a full membership a person can receive regular newsletters, have access to information, and attend meetings (with a \$ contribution towards costs) but have no voting rights". The cost would be \$25. Sometimes members have potential purchasers who decide not to join the NZHA until they actually purchase stock, Don't forget they can join the NZHA as an associate also for only \$57.50 gst inclusive, which also gives them access to the NZHA newsletters and information.

1. **AGM Meeting/Seminar - continue with weekend option with guest speakers.**
2. **Change location every year or keep regular place ie Feilding (this is low cost option for weekend and we have access to all the NZHA facilities)**
3. **AGM Meeting - Just a one day meeting with maybe time for one guest speaker.**
4. **AGM Meeting - Just a one day meeting only.**
5. **Have AGM one day and every second year make it a full weekend with guest speakers.**
6. **If AGM was only one day would members come to other field days?**

All of the above is to get you thinking... we need your input. I will collate any responses and then send you all a more detailed option list.

Please contact

Debra - dhamilton@xtra.co.nz

Graham - hunkin-garden@xnet.co.nz

Helen - helen@amberleafarm.co.nz

NZMHBG BANNER

Don't forget the group owns a large BANNER which is available for members to use at shows or events you may be running to promote Miniature Herefords. It is kept with the Secretary so just ask and we can organise to dispatch to you.

(dispatch/return costs breeders' care)



DID YOU KNOW.....

As members of the NZHA you have access to all their facilities. One of these is the website www.herefords.co.nz

If you want you can put your stock for sale on this by using the Sales Catalogue under Private Treaty Sales. Have a look...

Go to the home page and on the top you will see "Sales Catalogues". Click on this to see a list of sales dates and Private Treaty Sales. There is an example there so click on this - Willowspring Bull Sale. There you will find all the info on their animals for sale and if you click on each animal you will find they even have a photo. If you want to know more talk to Linda Shailer at NZHA (06/323 4484).

The cost of this is only \$3.50+gst per animal and \$5.00+gst per photo.

2012
STEAK OF ORIGIN
COMPETITION



I was interested to read that the winner of the Best of Breed - European (class 1) was a farmer in Pipiwai, Alex MacMillan. Alex breeds a rare European breed of cattle called Hinterwald.

The reason this interested me was I had never heard of these cattle so I looked them up. Hinterwalds are the smallest cattle breed in Central Europe. They are 115 to 125 centimetres high and reach up to 350-450kg in body weight.

Now I'm not suggesting we change breeds, just pointing out that size isn't always the best and justifies why we are breeding **Miniature Herefords - Top quality meat, compact size, easy handling and great temperament.**

Why aren't more of us entering this competition to show we can also compete in the quality meat arena?

NZHA - RED RAG MAGAZINE

If you haven't already read the latest NZHA Red Rag Magazine, there is an article on Diluter and Idiopathic Epilepsy DNA Tests.

I know.... You're saying what ! We just got used to this new test for Hypotrichosis!

The article tells you what these genetic defects are so worth a read **BUT more importantly it states that you will now be getting these two tests done automatically when you do your DNA test for Hypotrichosis.**

As of 1st June 2012 it is now compulsory to have your bulls tested for Hypotrichosis when selling or moving stock. The council strongly recommends that you get this done when you are doing your calf DNA tests. They are also thinking about making this for females as well. Why not do all your herd when doing DNA tests.

Vet Issues

It's calving time...

Know when to call the vet.....

One of the biggest dilemmas during calving season is when to call for assistance for a cow or heifer that is calving. The obvious goal is to get a live calf and a live cow, but there is always the worry of how long to wait and when to ring the vet.

Talk to veterinarians who do a lot of beef work and you'll quickly discover the "calling too soon" is something that seldom happens. "If I was only called a few hours earlier" is a typical response from the vet who delivers a dead calf.

Trust your instinct, if you think something is wrong or it is taking too long then ring for advice.

So when is it time to give your cow or heifer help and when is it time to call for assistance? Let the cow find a quiet place and have some peace to calve. She may spend up to an hour doing this and once the contractions start she will lie down and get up a lot, pawing and smelling the ground where her birth fluids have burst. Don't let her go more than half an hour after this initial stage before finding if there are problems. You may be able to creep up on her in the paddock and if not, you'll have to get her into a yard. In a normal presentation you should see a nose and two front feet coming like a diver. If not then seek some help.

If you see that the calf is stuck and all it may need is a slight pull of the front feet to extend the front legs, then that's fine. If you find that it is going to take more strength to pull it, then seek experienced help straight away. Beware of enthusiastic and willing amateurs who may offer so-called 'help which turns out to be brute force and ignorance. They only add to the delay of getting the vet. If you feel the problem is out of your league, don't delay - call the vet.

You need to have a good set of yards and race, preferably with a head bail. The vet will require a bucket of clean water. The vet will have all the equipment he needs but there are some items which are handy to have in your own vet cupboard for emergencies....

Rubber gloves, lubricant, disinfectant, plastic bucket, iodine for calves' navel. Some farmers also like to keep Electrolyte and treatments for Metabolic diseases such as calcium (for milk fever), magnesium (for staggers) or glucose (for ketosis) but if you have to call the vet they will have all this and give you advice on exactly what you need.

Don't leave the afterbirths on the paddock for dogs or cats to eat - use the offal hole. And get some iodine on all fresh navels immediately after birth.

Make sure a calf gets a minimum of 2 litres of colostrum before 6 hours of life.

You can get quite a bit of animal health information from web pages but don't wait until your cow start labour to run off to your computer! Do some study before hand so you know the signs of labour and the signs of any problems.

Disclaimer:

The content of this Newsletter is provided for information purposes only. No claim is made as to the accuracy or authenticity of the content. The NZMHBG does not accept any liability to any person for the information or advice (or the use of such information or advice) that is provided in this newsletter. It is provided on the basis that all persons reading this newsletter undertake responsibility for assessing the relevance and accuracy of its content.

Lifestyle Farmer Magazine.... July 2012 issue

If you haven't already read it there is an excellent article about one of our NZMHBG members, Dimi and Bruce Cooper from Woodville. Excellent photos and we even got some Miniature Herefords on the front cover. Great work Dimi and Bruce! Dimi and Bruce also have other breeds on cattle on their farm but made special emphasis on their Herefords.

This is a perfect example of breeders promoting both themselves and the breed. GREAT WORK!

Lets all see if we can promote in our local papers.



NAIT Electronic Tags

Breeders should now be registered for the National Identification and Tracing scheme (NAIT), which became mandatory as of 1st July 2012. If you haven't yet done this then you need to get on to it !!

How to register:

- Go to www.nati.co.nz and register online, or
- Contact NAIT for registration assistance on 0800-624-843

When you register:

You will need to supply NAIT with some personal information and farm details. During registration, a NAIT number is created which people in charge of cattle will need to use for all their NAIT transactions. The NAIT number links the person in charge of animals with the animals location, and the animals themselves. When creating a NAIT number, have your AHB Herd number handy as you will be asked to provide it.

Once you are using NAIT tags in your animals you will need to go online and allocate the tag number to an animal. Then when selling or moving this animal you will need to register this with NAIT.

You will still need to have an AHB herd number and fill in a TB Form for moving stock.

When purchasing the new tags most people are finding it best to purchase a new tag applicator. The tag should be placed in the animals right ear (in the yards) or looking front on it is the left ear.

Any new stock coming onto or leaving your farm from now on should have a NAIT Tag.

Allflex®

Instructions for application of NAIT Electronic (EID) Tags

Remember: "Right is Right"

NOTE: It is recommended that NAIT tags are applied to the animal's right ear to achieve the best performance on farm.

1 IMPORTANT: Remove/slide black insert out of female jaw.

2 To load, depress spring clip and insert electronic tag, holding raised area between thumb and forefinger.

3 Slip male tag completely onto applicator pin.

4 Dip jaws of applicator holding tag into antiseptic or disinfectant solution.

5 With the correct position located, apply the tag firmly, always with the male tag entering from the back of the ear.

Correct position in the ear: It is recommended that all EID devices for cattle and deer are placed 25mm closer to the head than centre of the ear to allow for future application of visual management tags. It is important that the tag is placed between the two ribs in the ear.

Important "Free Air Space" will aid healing and retention. Inspect placement after tagging to ensure there is sufficient air space between the ear and the EID tag.

Incorrect

Incorrect

Incorrect

IMPORTANT: Failure to read this may result in tag damage. Position the tag so the raised area of the tag is at the front or open end of the Applicator. The raised area of the tag must be at the front of the applicator during application otherwise damage may occur to the tag componentry.

Only the red and green electronic tag applicators can be used to apply Allflex Electronic Ear Tags.

Allflex New Zealand Limited, Private Bag 11003, Palmerston North • Customer Services 06 356 7199
www.allflex.co.nz

North Island: John Rutherford 0274 465 508 Mark McManaway 0275 176 693 South Island: John Morris 027 5602 699

Any information, articles or photos that you would like to put forward for the next Newsletter please email or post to Helen Russell.....thanks

**Helen Russell
191 Millar Rd, RD 5,
Rotorua.
Ph: 07/362-8030
Fx: 07/362-8040
Email: helen@amberleafarm.co.nz**

MINIATURE HEREFORDS FOR SALE

Below is a list of stock for sale by members. Please contact them directly or ask Helen for more information and photos of any of these animals.

- **Memories Peggy - 08-0002 (3 yrs) Has had one calf and should be in calf again (not tested yet)**



- **Coats-Arnold Bella - 10-141 (17 mnths)**



Contact - Paul Arnold - Oamaru
 Email: paul.arnold@xtra.co.nz
 Ph: 03/434-1184

Unfortunately Chris & Eric need to move their herd on so have 4 x cows, a bull and some young stock for sale. Contact Chris for more info.

- **Mt Barker Anna & Anton**



Contact Chris Thomson
 - Wanaka

chookthomson@xtra.co.nz
 Ph: 03/443-8735

Kruger Park Max

Herd No. 1592040002 - DOB 25/02/2004
 Frame Score 0 (measured by laser beam) Proven sire with 22 progeny - Good conformation and wonderful temperament carried on to progeny.
 POA to Carole Steele - Ruzak Park
 csteele@ruzak.co.nz
 03/431-3737



- **4 x rising 2 year old heifers - Ready for bull this season.**
 Contact - Elaine Retter - Matamata
 awanui@orcon.net.nz - 07/888-4389

Photos of just some of the bulls available on next page.....



BULLS! BULLS! BULLS! - FOR SALE



IT'S TIME TO BE THINKING OF WHAT BULL YOU WILL USE FOR THIS SEASON - GET IN EARLY FOR THE BEST STOCK

Below is a list of stock for sale by members. Please contact them directly or ask Helen for more information and photos of any of these animals.

- **Yearling and 2 year old bulls for sale and/or lease**
Contact - John Long - Hawkes Bay - gayandjohn@xtra.co.nz - 06/879-5942
- **Coats-Arnold Bo 11-030 - DOB 04.04.11**
Contact - Paul Arnold - Oamaru - paul.arnold@xtra.co.nz
- **Akatea Lord Jonny 03-011 - DOB 08.09.03**
- **Gladwyn Heights Lennix 10-034 - DOB 04.02.10**
- **Gladwyn Heights Marcus 11-040 - DOB 18.02.11**
Contact - Sharon O'brien - Tauranga - sharonobrien@kinect.co.nz - 07/542-0061
- **Grovenorth Alfie 07-003 - DOB 31.10.07**
- **Riverlets Patrick 10-0004 - DOB 22.10.10**
- **Riverlets Evan 10-0005 - DOB 16.11.10**
- **Grovenorth St Nick 10-00016 - DOB 11.12.10**
- **Ruzak Park Dusty 09-0005 - DOB 29.11.09**
Contact - Janet Poole - Northland - riverland27@ubernet.co.nz - 09/439-2420
- **Hurworth Henry Tudor 10-0001 - DOB 18.04.10**
Contact - Paul Pritchard - New Plymouth - psprit@clear.net.nz - 06/753-6039
- **Lil Boy 08-119 - DOB 23.08.08**
Contact - Graham Cammell - Clevedon - graham@cammellshoney.co.nz - 09/292-3010
- **Awanui Adam 1054 - DOB 29.08.10**
Awanui Clifford 1056 - DOB 01.09.10
Contact Elaine Retter - Matamata - awanui@orcon.net.nz - 07/888-4389
- **Lorre Bullseye - DOB 10.08.10**
- **Lorre Baxter - DOB 20.08.06**
Contact - Debra Hamilton - Feilding - dhamilton@xtra.co.nz - 06/328-5976
- **Sully Alexander 10-004 - DOB 17.11.10**
Sully Bartholomew 10-037 - DOB 10.09.10
Contact - Karen McNab - Greymouth, South Island - kj.awsfarm@y7mail.com - 03/768-9995
- **Lil Sir Alfred 07-0114 - DOB 18.08.07**
Contact - Christine Turner - Hamilton - nmrstnz@xtra.co.nz - 07/824-1946

Helen has photos of most of these bulls on request..... Or talk to breeder direct.....