



# NZ MINIATURE HEREFORD BREEDERS GROUP NEWSLETTER

May 2018 Issue

## AGM

### New Elected Council

Chairperson : Stephen Collier

Secretary : Natalie Fletcher

Marketing : Kim Wright

Correspondence / Newsletter  
Vicky Ashton

Registrar : Jim Haliburton

Treasurer : Anne Smal



### Special points

#### of interest:

Look out for the survey that Kim will send out to your email addresses.

A new Facebook page to be set up for NZ Miniature Hereford Breeders Group.

Farm visits to catch up with other breeders.

## Chairman's Message

"The new executive committee got together after the AGM and agreed the various roles:

These people are mentioned above.

While ideas were bubbling, it was agreed to survey the members to ensure we did not go off track or put effort into projects that were not going to be supported, so keep an eye on your in box for a Survey Monkey questionnaire to help us ensure

we focus on the issues that are important to you.

While we look to the future it is important to recognise the substantial effort that has been put in over the years by previous committee members. We particularly recognise and thank Helen and Graham.

We look forward to analysing the survey results in due

course and formulating an action plan for the future."

Best wishes - Stephen

# Vicky Ashton

Hi, Well I am new to the breeders group and I have to admit I have a lot of learning to do. I have 9 heifers plus a bull and only 2 calves.

We have just under 24 acres and live in New Plymouth. My real passion is horses and now its Miniature Hereford's.

I sell real estate for a living and own my own company with a business partner.

Not much to tell you really however most of you won't know me so please feel free to contact me. I would love you to email me with photos, any info , cows or farm machinery you want to sell. This I can put

in the newsletter and FB

I will set up a Face book page for the group and this will be a great place to see what is happening,

If you have cows for sale all you need to do is send the info to me with pictures and price and I will load up and share out.

I know some of you won't be FB savvy , that's ok I can talk you through it or you can get your kids or grand kids to set you up.

My email is

[vicky@urbanstudio.co.nz](mailto:vicky@urbanstudio.co.nz)



More of my  
COWS

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# Rye Grass Staggers

## What is it?

A neurological disease of cattle, sheep, horses, deer and alpacas.

When and where does it occur?

It occurs commonly throughout the North Island and as far south as North Otago.

It is most common in summer and autumn.

What is the cause?

The disease is caused by the ingestion of a toxin produced by a fungus (or endophyte) in perennial ryegrass. The highest concentrations of toxin are in the leaf sheath and seed head. The toxin has a specific damaging effect on the cells in the cerebellum of the brain that coordinate movement.

## What are the signs?

The signs are most obvious when affected animals are disturbed and forced to move.

Affected animals become anxious about being approached.

In mild cases there is slight trembling of the head and of the skin of the neck, shoulder and flank.

More severe cases show head nodding and jerky movements, swaying while standing and staggering during movement.

In the most severe cases, they have a stiff legged gait, short prancing steps, and may collapse with rigid spasms that last for up to several minutes.

## What happens to affected animals?

The disease itself is not fatal, but there is a real risk of injury or death as a result of accidents.

Affected animals lose weight as they don't graze as much.

They may not be able to drink sufficient water.

They can become caught up in obstacles like electric fences.

They can fall into holes and ditches, and over bluffs.

They can drown in creeks, dams, drains and swamps.

## What can you do?

Remove stock from hazardous pasture if you can.

If safe pasture is not available, put the stock into yards and feed them hay (or silage/baylage) and plenty of clean water.

Handle affected stock quietly.

## Has this happened to you???

Don't disturb affected animals unnecessarily. The best long term solution in areas where the disease is a problem is to replace the affected ryegrass pasture with endophyte-resistant grasses.

If you have problems with ryegrass staggers, contact your veterinarian.

Commercial products available

A mixture of magnesium sulphate and sodium chloride has been found to be effective by VE Vets in Te Awamutu who have made up the mixture to treat affected stock. Phone (07) 871-3091

# Cooking that delish beef! Try Italian Beef Casserole

- 1 kg chuck or boneless shin/gravy Quality Mark beef<sup>1</sup>

large onion, diced

- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 each red and green capsicum, chopped
- 2 tablespoons plain flour
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 cup beef stock
- 400g can diced tomatoes
- 1 tablespoon dried oregano
- 400g can cannellini beans, well drained

## Method

Cut beef into 2.5cm-3cm pieces and season the beef with salt and pepper. Brown the meat in a frying pan over a high heat and transfer to a slow cooker.

Scatter in the onion, garlic and capsicums. Stir the flour, tomato paste and beef stock together to make a smooth paste and pour over the beef. Add the tomatoes, scatter in the oregano and cover.

Cook on low for 6-8 hours or high for 3-5 hours. Add the cannellini beans, stir to mix and allow to heat through before serving.

## Oven Cooking Instructions

Prepare the casserole as above, adding an extra 1 cup of beef stock. Cook in a lidded ovenproof dish at 180°C for 120 minutes.

