

GREAT NORTHERN TEXAS LONGHORN ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2016 NEWS LETTER



Jamakin Eyeliner

Rocky Acres
Bill & Steve Froelich Families

GNTLA Summer Meeting/Picnic

DATE: Saturday, July 30, 2016

TIME: 10:00 Social Time

11:00 BOD mtg

**12:30 Potluck Picnic meal
member meeting to
follow.**

**LOCATION: Rocky Acres
Steve & Bill Froelich
W1966 Hwy C
Merrill, WI 54452**

From the President's Desk,

Well this is turning out to be an interesting spring.

The weather started out in early May with temps in the upper 80's, one week later it's 23 degrees and snowing. One didn't even know what to wear, maybe flip flops, shorts, and a winter coat? Well now the temps have leveled out and hopefully the rain will taper off so everybody can get the hay off.

With the rains we have had this spring it has made the pastures abundant, and the bug population intolerant.

An auction was talked about at the last meeting with good enthusiasm. I believe this would be a good opportunity to buy or sell some good quality cattle.

The summer meeting/picnic is fast approaching and will be held at the Froelich's located by Merrill, WI. Steve and Bill have some good looking cattle, and it should be a good meeting and a good time.

I hope everybody's calving season is going good with lots of colorful calves. Don't forget to be taking pictures, and either sending them to Winston or bringing them to the picnic when you come.

Respectfully your President,
Keith Wucherpfennig

GNTLA SPONSORSHIP GOLD LEVEL

Maurice & Jackie Nolden

Dave & Joan Grosse

Keith & Barb Wucherpennig

Mike & Shirley Thiel

Dan & Denise Huntington

"The GNTLA would like to thank these members for their support of the Great Texas Longhorn Breed!"

How not to sell cattle !!!

As many of you know we cross breed some of our longhorn cattle with commercial beef bulls. I'd like to share with you an experience I had in the search of a bull. I was looking for a certain beef breed to use on my cows but the closest breeders were three hours away on the other side of the state. The only requirement was I wanted a bull at least two years old, old enough to cover twenty five plus cows. So after a few phone calls I located a breeder who told me over the phone for an older bull he would go with beef price plus \$200. To me this was a no brainer so I made arrangements to make the three hour drive and check out what he had. He was a pure bred breeder with close to two hundred cows. He had a few older bulls to choose from. Now over the last couple months since my original call the price of beef had gone up quite a bit in the markets and now he was asking \$2500, which was \$700 or \$800 more for the same bulls. Now I believe you should use the best stock you can afford and this was getting close to my limit so the after pushing the figures to see if this would pencil out I still thought it would be a good investment. This was in late fall and he took my card and said he would call me in couple months when all the bulls had been pulled and brought up for the winter. Well being the patient person I am and waiting for his call after three months I called him. Now over the last three months the price of beef dropped quite a bit and instead of \$2500 he was now asking \$3000. Needless to say I didn't purchase a bull from him and went back to my source I had purchased two other bulls from in the past, although not the breed I would have like to use but have had good success with in the past.

A couple items to think about if you're selling breeding stock or even beef. First know what you have to sell and what it's priced. I know there can be variables, but know basically what you need to get. Secondly, if you say you're going to contact someone do it and do it in a timely matter. It's not just good business sense, it's also common courtesy. Thoughts to ponder.

Summer Picnic Meeting

Save the date, Saturday July 30th for our GNTLA summer picnic/meeting being held at the Bill and Steve Froelich families Rocky Acres Ranch in Merrill Wisconsin. This will be a potluck lunch, so bring your favorite dish to pass and let's talk Longhorn. Check the address on the cover of the news letter for your map quest directions. For info on the picnic you can call Steve at 715-842-4402, Bill at 715-873-4130 or Keith Wucherpennig at 715-207-1042.

Annual Membership Renewals

Annual GNTLA memberships renewals were sent out in February so this will be the last call for 2016 year for renewals. To all who have renewed we thank you for your support of the GNTLA. For all who haven't renewed yet, we look forward to hearing from you. Any questions feel free to call Mike Thiel at 920-595-0336.

New Memberships

Over the last year we have had a few new memberships I'd like to mention. Over the last months the Wucherpennig boys have invested in some Longhorns currently located at their dad Keith's farm. Brandon and Leslie have been members and now Ryan and Logan have become members. At the December meeting Paul and Karen Heier purchased an annual membership for a young couple they know. Joe and Jessica Thoe have a small farm working to sell grass fed beef. No longhorns yet but hopefully they will in the future. Lastly Darwyn and Renee Klarenbeek of DK Longhorn Ranch in north west Iowa have joined our GNTLA. You can check out the Klarenbeek's DK web site at www.heartlandhorns.com and then click on DK Longhorns. We welcome each of you to the GNTLA and thank you for your support.

" Marriage is like a deck of cards. In the beginning all you need is two hearts and a diamond.
By the end you wish you had a club and a spade!!!!"

Down by the Corral

With the first week of June winding down at Church View Cattle Co. we are about three quarters of the way done calving with twenty two calves on the ground. So far with a couple minor glitches everyone is doing fine. I've had some great luck this year with my longhorn calves. I had five cows bred for longhorn calves and in the end we had five heifer calves born, talk about luck. I guess a person should just enjoy it in the moment because it probably will never happen again.

This past spring I saw a posting on Face Book about a man from some southern state killed by a longhorn bull. According to the post the man was working on a fence with the cattle around. It sounded like he was caught off guard and somehow the bull actually crushed him to death. The post said the bull had always been friendly and that his wife got the bull away from him by giving him some treats. I may be making an assumption but after reading this post my guess is this bull was treated like a pet if the wife could use treats to lure the bull away. Disposition in any animal is important and especially when we're talking about a bull. I've seen a few bulls where they would let you pet on them out in the middle nowhere which I guess is great but I personally have never been a fan of that because people tend to let their guard down and like the man in the post lost his life because of it. A couple things to remember when working around bulls. **Respect him.** He has a job to do and you're in his territory when you're by his girls. **Be aware of your surroundings,** know where he is when you're in the pasture, be attentive. If for some reason you have to work your cows with a bull in the herd **have a plan** and be safe. In our herd we try to have the calves all tagged, banded and our crossbreds dehorned before the bulls go out with the herds so other than weaning we haven't had to work around the bulls. So have a safe and successful breeding season.

On another note, at our spring meeting we discussed the feasibility of having a longhorn consignment sale next year in Wisconsin. At the meeting a committee of Winston Nelson, Keith Wucherpfennig, Dave Bilgrien, Dan Huntington and myself was put together to explore some options if an event was held. Two hundred and five introductory letters and surveys were sent out to longhorn breeders in the states surrounding Wisconsin and another twenty were filled out by our own GNTLA members. A rough run down on the survey results.

About 225 surveys sent out.

19 came back address changes

206 surveys made it to breeders

74 returned

36% response rate (which I think is very good)

18 retired or no longer have cattle

20 no, not interested

25 possibly interested

11 yes, interested

So how do you interpret the results? First off other than one negative reply, a large number sent words of encouragement for success, even for those that weren't interested in a sale. There were many replies that said they'd be interested in attending if a sale was held. Many noted the reality of promoting longhorn cattle in the Midwest. In the survey we asked if breeders would be interested in selling in a cataloged sale, commercial cattle or ropers. We had a very high amount of breeders interested in selling commercial cattle and ropers which leads to the question do we have a market here to support that type of cattle? In my opinion that would be a very tough sell. Over the last nine years I've been to numerous longhorn sales in Missouri and Kansas (the middle of cattle country) that have sold these types of cattle and I just don't see that market in America's Dairyland. So this would have to be a consideration on the type of sale that would be held. In the surveys there were questions on location, health requirements, catalog fees, dates, breed registries all items that would pertain to any sale. Communication has been going on between the committee members over the last weeks and will continue up to our meeting so we hopefully can give some sort of recommendation on what route we should take as the GNTLA. Options: drop the idea, modify the idea or go on with the idea.

On a lighter note, with the passing of Mohammad Ali I was checking out some of the things he said throughout his life. Here are a few quotes.

"The man who has no imagination has no wings."

"Silence is golden when you can't think of a good answer."

"He who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life."

"It isn't the mountains ahead to climb that wears you out; It's the pebble in your shoe."

"If they can make penicillin out of moldy bread, they can sure make something out of you."

Hope to see you at the summer picnic. Have a great summer!!!

Happy Trails,

Mike Thiel

Church View Cattle Co.