



**NZ MINIATURE HEREFORD
BREEDERS GROUP
NEWSLETTER
CHRISTMAS 2014
(DECEMBER 2014)**



At the AGM in Ashburton Helen and I undertook to contact the NZHA with a concern about the high joining fee and how members felt it was discouraging new potential members. We were hoping we could get the fees reduced. The NZHA committee met in November and discussed our letter and decided not to change the fee structure. A letter confirming this and the reasons for the decision are included in this newsletter. I think it is unlikely there will be any change in the foreseeable future so we need to accept the decision and move on. It is up to members not only to sell their stock but also to sell membership to the NZMBG. You need to explain it is a one off cost and there is a real difference in value between registered stock and unregistered stock.

On the 22nd of November I attended a meeting organised by the South Auckland Hereford Club at the conference centre near Hamilton Airport. The main reason for going was to meet some of the other members and hopefully some of the NZHA committee. Donna Abbiss, the General Manager was also there, which was an added bonus. The meeting was about the future direction of the NZHA, voting rights and Governance. The NZHA Red Rag newsletter has been running articles on the subject. There were quite a few different views and the meeting was run very professionally by Colin Corney, a committee member and president of the South Auckland Group. Phillip Shepherd, the President of the NZHA was also present along with Jason Graham, another member of Council. The discussions certainly gave me a much greater insight into the workings of the group and just how serious a business it is. We tend to be hobbyists, these guys are for real. The committee is working very hard behind the scenes to try and add value to the breed and to ensure the financial viability of the group. Jason Graham is a breeder but also works for Silver Farms and his insights into marketing and what the customer wants gave a different perspective to the discussions. I was quite impressed. I think Jason could be a good sounding board for our own efforts and even possibly a speaker at one of our AGMs.

At the end of the meeting Colin acknowledged my presence and invited me to ask any questions or make any comments. I opened up a brief discussion about fees and marketing.

Finally I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year for you and your families. We are looking at holding the AGM this year in the Feilding PBB building, date to be advised. I hope I can get to meet many of you there.

Graham Hunkin

Chairman



Merry Christmas

&

Happy New Year



From the NZMHBG Council - Graham, Helen, Debra, Dimi, Janet, Sharon & Natalie

Well, by now the bulls will either be out with or about to be out with the herds for next year's calves. With the seasons getting a bit out of kilter it's becoming somewhat of a problem as to when you want your calves to arrive. Ideally it should be when new grass growth is becoming established so that by three weeks, or earlier, the little ones have something to pick at as well as getting their milk. It will be interesting to see how many newcomers are on the scene this season. Some breeders have had a good calving year others not so and this is the time to decide what bull goes with which cow with the aim of establishing an easy calving herd. Here's where frame scores are particularly important.

If you are need to dehorn the earlier this is done the better both from the discomfort factor and to prevent regrowth of ugly horns. Once calves are over six weeks of age dehorning becomes slightly more complicated. Technicians should really be removing them using the "ring of confidence" method whereby a circle of hair and flesh around the horn is also removed rather than just cutting out the horns. That is more likely to prevent regrowth. Naturally a local or general anesthetic is necessary. Hot days should be avoided and plenty of shade provided for the calves after the operation.

There are arguments for and against the time bull calves should be castrated. Up to six weeks a rubber ring can be used but make sure you know exactly how to place it. Some advice is to leave the calves until they are around five months of age so they will grow better but then it becomes a job for a vet with anesthetic, antibiotics and so on and obviously more expensive. It depends entirely on your circumstances.



Janet Poole

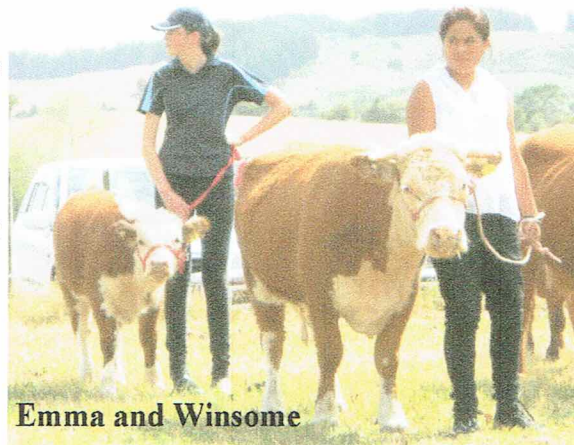
BREEDER PROFILE

Barry Houston wrote his own profile which is much appreciated but the offer is still there if anyone wants one written for them. They will also go into local newspapers to help promote your Stud.

MOUNT MARUA MINIATURE HEREFORDS

In 2000, after completing fifteen years as the CEO of an organisation I became serious about breeding Suri alpacas. A daughter had a lifestyle block and invited me to use it for these animals. The pasture needed some attention so I purchased a Hummel (polled) Highland heifer to help get it under control. Then I heard about miniature Hummel Highlands which sounded interesting. Hummel Highlands are not recognized by the Highland Associations let alone mini ones!

Needing more information about smaller types of cattle the Miniature Hereford Association seemed to be relevant so I joined the Group and before I knew it I was the owner of a Mini Hereford – the greatest thing I ever did. This cow, Hereleigh Winsome, produced a heifer calf which became the first one registered under my prefix and I called her Mount Marua Emma. Tragedy struck when she was four months old as her mother fell over a bluff and was killed. I raised Emma successfully but once she was eighteen months old wanted to get her in calf. Buying a bull was not practicable nor could I find one to lease so she went up to Janet Poole's Northland Stud, Riverlets Miniature Herefords. Emma has now had four offspring including two polled bull calves. She has also been shown and won a number of ribbons.



Emma and Winsome

Why did I get involved with Suri alpacas and Mini Hummel Highlands – the challenge? Running cattle and alpacas together works well. My experience has been that alpacas prefer shorter rather than longer pasture. They eat down very low what they like and only then turn to other grasses. Unlike cattle, alpacas poo in a common area which are known as ‘middens’. Their poo is often referred to as ‘green beans’ that contain slow releasing nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium/potash in small percentages. An adult deposits about half a kilogram of green beans a day. They create middens in various places around the paddock that result in very lustrous pasture. The alpacas will not eat that grass for some months, however, the cattle obviously enjoy it and clean it up. I also use the green beans in my worm bins. The worms love it and produce copious quantities of worm castings which I throw over my paddocks as fertilizer. I also throw excess green beans over the paddocks. It has taken some time but the benefits to the pastures are starting to become apparent.

The alpacas and cattle keep mainly to themselves in the paddock but come together when hay or other supplementary feed is put out. The minis usually dominate the scene but the alpacas learn to cope.



My first Highland bull calf had scurs but I used him over my hummel heifers of which two were minis and two small standards. The offspring were a mini hummel bull, one mini heifer with horns and one FS1 hummel heifer. The second round offspring this year from three heifers has seen a mini heifer and a mini bull but it remains to be seen whether they are polled.

Emma and her daughter, Winsome (named after her grandmother) will return to my place probably next year as Janet is now looking at downsizing her herd having reached the breeding number goal she set. I have appreciated her help and advice and am enjoying my contact with the Miniature Hereford Association. My next venture is to cross my Highlands with the Mini Herefords to produce what is allegedly the best of all beef!

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

Janet Poole - email: riverlets@gmail.com

Post: 738 Oparakau Rd, RD 2,

Matakohe, Northland 0594

Ph: 09/439-2420

FOR SALES

Tamerton Miniature Herefords – contact Stephen Collier at Email: stephen@tamertonstud.co.nz or Ph: (06 342 4749 or Mobile: 021832965

Tamerton Monachorum, (proven sire) d.o.b.06/09/11. Sire: KNF Cibolo FS 0 Dam: Qtaz Cindy FS 00

Tamerton Cherry 2 d.o.b. 08.11.12. Sire Raukawa 090022 Dam Tamerton Cherry 1021 FS 0 G'dam FS 1



Tamerton Exmoor d.o.b. 14/11/12. Sire Raukawa 090022 Dam Esprit Holly FS1 G'dam FS 1

These two heifers should measure FS 1 or just under. Stephen is prepared to run them with Gladwyn Heights Orson whose grand sire was KNG General Stan Watie or they can go to a prospective owner's bull.

Sully Miniature Herefords - contact Karyn McNab Email: kj.awsfarm@y7mail.com or Ph: (03) 768 9995 or Mobile 021 0225 2216

Sully Davidson d.o.b. 20.01.13 Sire Gladwyn Heights Harley FS 0 Dam Esprit Angela FS 1



Ake Ake Tahi Mary d.o.b. 14/12/12 Sire Raukawa Noddy FS 00
Dam Awanui Poppy FS 00. (In calf but not tested)



BULLS FOR SALE

Sharon O'Brien - Tauranga - Ph: 07/542-0061 or email: sharonobrien@kinect.co.nz

Sharon has three outstanding bulls for sale.... 2 are yearlings and the other is 2 years.



Gladwyn Heights Oscar - 0057

Yearling

Gladwyn Heights Oben - 0060

Yearling



Gladwyn Heights Nathan 0051

2 years

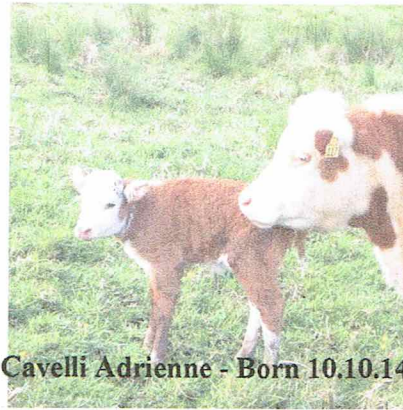
BREEDERS' GALLERY

Most of us delight in showing visitors our minis so here is a section in the newsletter where you can do just that.

Newish breeder, Dale Sutherland, Carvelli Miniature Herefords, had a wonderful Spring with the arrival of her first mini calves.

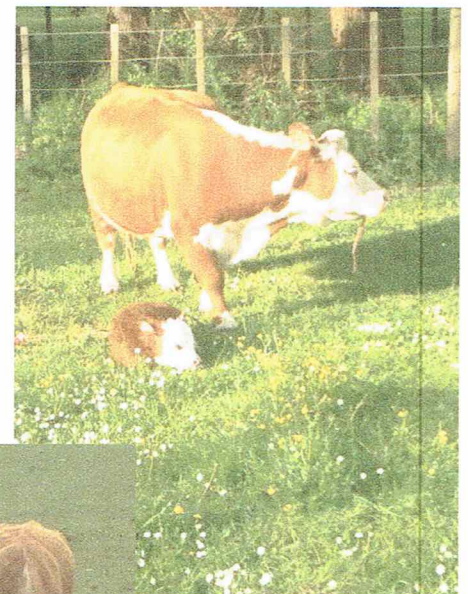


Cavelli Apple - Born 25.08.14



Cavelli Adrienne - Born 10.10.14

Denise Warner of Paragon Miniature Herefords from Western Australia sent over these. The first one shows a good idea for a scratching post. Denise thinks the brush came from one of the sweeping machines used by the local Council. The second one is a calf at the Perth Royal Show which won the dressing up competition as "Tinkerbell" while her handler was dressed as Peter Pan. A fun element we could use in New Zealand.



Doug and Kim of Kiri Point Miniature Herefords have more than doubled their herd this season with all cows calving successfully. The calves were sired by Ruzak Park Digger.

