

**NZ MINIATURE HEREFORD
BREEDERS' GROUP
NEWSLETTER**



Spring – 2013.

EDITORIAL

Hello Everyone. With a bit (a lot) of fiddling around with my computer I finally got the heading and logo up! Hope I've saved it for future newsletters. As yet I do not have the setting out skills Helen has so have some more learning to do. It is planned for newsletters to feature a breeder profile each time so members can become more familiar with who is doing what in the Group. There will be no particular order to who appears in which newsletter but if anyone particularly wants to get their profile out sooner rather than later then let me know. A 'Stock For Sale' section should help those who want to shift surplus animals and photos to accompany the descriptions will be more effective. Please remember any bulls being sold for service must be DNAd and tested for hypotrichosis. It costs no more to have them also checked out for idiopathic epilepsy and diluter gene. BVD testing and vaccinating should also be done for both males and females. Look at the Health Matters section for a broader explanation of these along with what is involved with this season's work. Entries for the World Champion Hereford and Miss World Champion Hereford are needed by October. More about this later in the newsletter.

2013 AGM

As you should know by now we had a successful AGM in June with over twenty breeders present which made for a lively weekend. Elected Council is now:

Chairman – Graham Hunkin Secretary – Debra Hamilton

Treasurer – Helen Russell Registrar – Dimi Cooper

Editor – Janet Poole General Council Members – Elaine Retter and Stephen Collier.

You are welcome to contact any of these members whose details can be found via the Membership List as seen on the NZHA website in the NZMHBG section.

The 2014 AGM is planned for Ashburton in the South Island which we hope will enable breeders in that part of New Zealand to come along too. A discussion as to whether we should shift the meeting to perhaps the Autumn season found favour with members present.



WORLD CHAMPION HEREFORD AND MISS WORLD HEREFORD COMPETITION

Miniature Hereford breeders from around the world have been invited to take part in the above competition in a section specifically for Miniature Herefords. What is wanted are top bulls and heifers to represent their country. A profile photo (side on – see examples below) along with pedigree details and the owner/breeder name are required. Entries must be in by October. The competition organisers are considering awarding belt buckles similar to those already given for the champion regular Herefords.



Champion of the World



Miss World Champion

You can send any photos you think could suit to riverlets@gmail.com . A Council decision will choose those to go forward to the competition.

Animals need to be clean and tidy but not necessarily in show condition. Here are some examples of good presentation of animals (all taken by amateurs) for such an event with comments for improvement.



Remove background bull



Lighting too dark, remove rails



Better on short grass or bare ground



More light, remove background



Too much background clutter



Nearside hind leg should be back

STOCK FOR SALE

The following animals are for sale:

Riverview Zeuss. Born 06/01/ 2005. Lovely nature as you can see in the photo below and he has left good calves to commercial cows. \$2000.00 negotiable. **Contact Kev. Baines Ph: (09) 420 4320 or 021 171-5439.**



SULLY MINIATURE HEREFORDS

Sully Bartholomew: Born 10/09/2010. Nice looking bull with plenty of potential. \$1200.00 plus GST.



Contact Karyn McNab Ph: (03) 768 9995 or email ki.awsfarm@y7mail.com

GROVENORTH MINIATURE HEREFORDS

Grovenorth Desdemona: Born 12/04/12. PTIC to Ruzak Park Digger (FS 0) Due to calve around March, 2014.

Grovenorth Cleopatra: Born 16/01/12. PTIC to Ruzak Park Digger (FS 0) Due to calve around approximately late April, 2014. **Contact Alistair & Jules Hargrove Ph: (09) 407 1044 or Hargrove@xtra.co.nz**

GLADWYN HEIGHTS MINIATURE HEREFORDS

Gladwyn Heights Nelson: Born 04/09/12 to a FS 0 cow.

Gladwyn Heights Nathan: Born 20/09/12 to a FS 0 cow.

Gladwyn Heights Nero: Born 23/09/12 to a FS 1 cow.

Contact Sharon O'Brien, Ph: (07) 542 0061 or email sharonobrien@kinect.co.nz

TAMERTON MINIATURE HEREFORDS



The five R1 heifers on the left are for sale

Tamerton Cherry 2: Born 08/11/2012 – dam FS 0.

Tamerton Clearbrook 2: Born 19/10/2012.

Tamerton Exmoor: Born 14/11/2012.

Tamerton Fowey: Born 18/10/2012 – dam FS 00 and other small animals in pedigree.

Tamerton Tintagel: Born 08/03/2013 – dam FS 0.

Contact Stephen Collier, Ph: (06) 342 4749 or email colliersinwanganui@hotmail.com

DAIRY BULL DATABASE

Carole Steele (Ruzak Park) has set up a database for Miniature Hereford bulls to sell to dairy farmers after making successful transactions this year (six went down from the North Island to South Island dairy farmers). If you have any surplus bulls you feel would suit this purpose then please contact her at csteele@ruzakpark.co.nz.

REQUEST FROM TREASURER

The 2013-2014 subscriptions to NZMHBG were due at the end of June. Would you please check whether you have paid these please. \$50.00 per member which can be posted to Helen Russell, 191 Millar Road, R.D.5, Rotorua or paid online to the NZMHBG account:

Westpac 03 0363 0373252 00. Please quote your name as a reference.

Thanks to those who have already paid.

ANIMAL HEALTH

DNA testing of bulls. In order to do this you can request from NZHA a special envelope in which to send the tail hairs. This is an up-to-date copy. Breeders can contact the office directly to obtain envelopes that are pre-printed with their details on the right hand side.



PLEASE RETURN TO:
PBPNZ, PO Box 503,
75 South Street, Feilding 4740



Massey University

Office use only

Animal Name: _____

Animal Herdbook No: _____

Breed: _____ DOB: _____

Sire Ident (Herdbook No): _____

Dam Ident (Herdbook No): _____

Sex: Male Female

DNA Service Required (please tick box)

- DNA Profile
- Sire verification
- Dam verification
- DNA Parentage
- Storage only
- Myophosphorylase
- Hypotrichosis

- Diluter
- Idiopathic Epilepsy
- Mannonidosis
- Red Factor
- Arthrogryposis Multiplex (Curly Calf)
- Neuropathic Hydrocephalus (NH)
- CA (Fawn Calf)

Affix barcode label

Submitters Name: _____

Stud Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: [] _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

For those of you unfamiliar with the procedure you will find instructions on the back of the envelope. Fill in the details on the envelope first so you don't put pressure on the samples inside. This is the method:

It is compulsory to test bulls for Hypotrichosis before transferring them to new ownership whether to a stud or commercial breeder. Included FREE in this test is one for Diluter Defect and one for Idiopathic Epilepsy. A brief description of these conditions follows here:

Hypotrichosis - known as 'hairlessness'. Expresses itself as complete or partial hair loss.

Diluter Defect - causes dilution to any black pigment or hair in Friesian X or Angus X Hereford.

Idiopathic Epilepsy – results in seizures starting from birth mainly in horned Herefords.

For more detailed information on these conditions look under **Genetic Abnormalities** on the NZHA website.

DNA testing is also useful when using Artificial Insemination with a follow-up bull in case there is an overlap of the calving dates.

NB. Do make use of the NZHA website as most of what affects the regular Herefords can be applied to Miniature Herefords.

For many breeders Spring calving is well under way. For those who are new to the 'game' your most valuable contact is your vet if you are not sure how things are progressing during calving.

Other things to look out for are milk fever (sometimes found in cows with their fourth or fifth calving) and spring eczema occasionally affecting some animals.

Make sure bulls have been BVD tested and/or vaccinated before being put in with the cows. BVD (Bovine Viral Diarrhoea) is a nasty disease which reduces productivity and increases death loss. It is probably the most important viral disease of cattle in New Zealand. Another important matter is the state of their feet – bad feet leads to poor servicing.

Once calves are around six weeks old the general recommendation is to give them their first vaccination against such diseases such as pulpy kidney, tetanus, blackleg, black disease and malignant oedema as they will no longer have the immunity provided by colostrum in the first days after birth. This needs to be followed a month later by a second vaccination. Some breeders delay this until weaning but if a calf is not being weaned until eight months of age it is left vulnerable to contracting any of the above.

BREEDER PROFILE



Sharon with one of her placid bulls.



A cow and calf showing the typical stocky build

This newsletter profiles Sharon O’Brien who established her Gladwyn Heights Miniature Hereford Stud in 1999. Prior to that Gladwyn Heights was a registered stud in the Herd Book in 1992 with its first animal recordings in 1993. These were regular polled Herefords. After having the bigger, Herefords which were rather hard on the land and facilities Sharon experimented with red deer but decided they were too much work. She always liked Herefords and after seeing an advertisement for Miniatures got

rid of the deer and changed to the smaller cattle. Her first minis came from the Esprit Stud with Bonnie and Bessie producing 18 calves between them over the years. The first mini calves entered in the Herd Book in 2002 were Gladwyn Heights Cherish and Gladwyn Heights Chardonnay. Sharon's first stud bull was Esprit Earl which sired 26 progeny for the growing herd. Currently she has 10 breeding cows with 8 expected to calve this year, 2 herd sires and 4 yearling heifers. Recently she sold six bulls to a dairy farmer in the South Island and in the past some local dairy farmers have bought R2 bulls to put across their cattle.

Sharon has 80 acres of land – 40 in grazing and the rest in pines. It is mostly hilly country but there is one paddock suitable for hay. Soil type is not heavy and dries out quickly so there isn't much pugging. The property is deer fenced around the boundary with electric fencing for the inside paddocks. Hay and silage are fed out usually from July to September depending on the winter weather. The pasture is kikuyu mixed with clover and ryegrass. Although she does most of the work herself Sharon does employ outside labour at times for the heavier work.

One of Sharon's lifetime interests is working with horses and she has taken part in all the Great New Zealand Treks since they began some years ago.



Sharon on left in a bush ride



Sharon on right during a trek down the beach