



NZ MINIATURE
HEREFORD BREEDERS
GROUP NEWSLETTER



Spring Addition

Don't forget to like us on



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FARM VISIT AT SPRINGHILL

(Natalie and Steve Fletcher)



We had lovely weather for our farm visit with what we call in Taupo; 'a fresh breeze'!

5 studs were represented and we had a very casual but productive day catching up with each other and learning lots from our visitor Alastair Dagg from Kiwi Fertiliser.

We wandered past our lovely animals to have a hands on look at one of our home paddocks which has been on the Kiwi Fert system for 5 years. Alastair dug a hole & discussed what our paddocks used to look like and pointed out what we could see now; a deeper darker top soil with roots and worm activity 'blending' down into the sub layers which used to be a lot more defined. This supports a nice mix of pasture plants – plantain, grasses, clovers, dandelion, cow parsley to name a few. The paddocks stay greener for longer in the summer (compared to neighbours) and recover better after grazing, although very short at the moment due to lack of growth with the still wintery conditions!

After lunch Alastair discussed the differences with the soil testing Kiwi fertiliser uses compared to Balance or Ravensdown. Kiwi Fertiliser is organic friendly, uses the Albrecht-Kinsey system which uses the Perry Agricultural Lab for testing in Missouri USA. The tests differ from our NZ labs so therefore cannot be compared but are highly accurate and precise after 80 years of research and experience, (the science of which makes a lot of sense to me as a scientist!).

Alastair gave examples of many farms that put a 'regional mix', or are recommended a fertiliser mix that they don't need so are therefore wasting their money and often adversely affecting the environment.

Investing in testing and getting recommended a custom blend that is exactly and only what you need, makes you more productive, healthy & saves you money. It's important to get the sampling correct too for meaningful results.

We looked at our Hills Laboratory test results before we started, then our Perry Lab results over the past 5 years. We learned about 'Total exchange capacity' (the size of the growing engine of the soil), the importance of the Calcium/Magnesium ratio (more important than pH) and trace elements.

We discussed how the chemistry effects the soil structure, which effects the microbial activity and the fertility of our soil. Alastair said that it has been demonstrated that healthy pasture will sequester carbon from the air to the soil, very topical and frustratingly not accepted yet by government!

We discussed the positive benefits of fallowing pasture and the negative effects of cultivation. Also the length of grass needed for good photosynthesis and ideal grazing practise which is not always practical or possible 100% of time for many various reasons.

Alastair also educated us about the succession of plants depending on soil type;

Poor unbalanced soils grow weeds – better balanced soil grows grasses, plantain & some legumes – well balanced fertile soils will grow far more complex herbal leys to forests. Nature prefers & supports complementary mixed plantings than monocultures.

We visited our new property to see our in-calf cows, (learned that bubbles in squirry poos indicated early bloat and that some hay or bailage ASAP will 'bind them up' & release the gas build up, combatting bloat), and dug another paddock hole to reveal a different soil profile. This property has had one Perry lab test and one spread of fertiliser so far. There was a much thinner layer of top soil, very little worm activity & shallow roots. The layers were very defined and not blended, but it had the same 'engine potential' as our home property.

It was then time to farewell the group and wish them all safe travels home! It was a thoroughly enjoyable day.

We have thanked Alastair for his time and freely sharing his knowledge to us. Steve & I have personally found Alastair to be genuinely dedicated to helping us with our business in many ways. If you would like more information, Kiwi Fertiliser have a good website and you are welcome to contact Alastair on 021 607 787, no matter where you are in NZ.

Pictures are form the Natalie Fletcher at her Tutukau farm



Members photos and snippets



Henri and Ingrid Jansen in Nelson sent this photo of their grandson doing early calf training.

Very cute indeed. .



The fabulous view of Kerry and Lyn Sixtus Onawe Stud in Akaroa.

Grovenorth Maggie and her new born calf .



A Ruzak Park Heifer with lovely red colourings belonging to Lyn and Kerry Sixtus





Four little boys at Rocklyn Stud.
Boston , Billy , Barney (SOLD) and Boos bottom.



FOR SALE

Rocklyn Bruce Almighty after weaning.

Sire : Riverlets Abernethy 130027

Dam : Raukawa Isabella 2nd 150144

Contact Vicky

vicky@rocklynstud.co.nz



Two babies sleeping are Grovenorth
Maggies and Jeand'arc - Ruzak Park
Charlie heifers



Riverlets Abernethy owned by Rocklyn Stud





FOR SALE

Two 2 year old Heifers

170037 and 170035

Both by Gladwin Heights Orson 0057

\$1500 each plus GST

Contact Stephen Collier

stephen@tamertonstud.co.nz

AI Semen Straws also For Sale:

Diamond S Starbuck – 12 straws available \$100.00 per straw (GST Inclusive)

CSF Guage – 55 straws available \$100.00 (GST Inclusive) per straw

SSR Cooper – 55 straws available \$100.00 (GST Inclusive) per straw.

Straws will also incur a \$40.00 release fee from their current tank location.

Please contact Gillian McKenzie Home: 099747560 Mobile: 0210479441

email_thumper20@ubernet.co.nz



TICKS an article from The Ministry of Health NZ

ticks are parasites that require blood for subsistence and reproduction. They feed off a range of hosts including mammals, reptiles, birds and amphibians.

Types of Ticks

There are 2 types of ticks – hard ticks (Ixodids) and soft ticks (Argasids). Hard ticks are more readily identifiable than soft ticks and also spend more time attached to their hosts than soft ticks, who feed for a short period of time.

New Zealand has endemic ticks (i.e., they occur here and nowhere else in the world). These species are host-specific and infest mainly birds. Endemic New Zealand ticks generally do not transmit diseases to humans.

There is also an introduced species of tick in New Zealand – the brown cattle tick (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*), which can infest warm-blooded mammals (such as cattle or humans). In some parts of the world the cattle tick is known as vector of animal and human diseases, such as tick borne fever, Japanese (Oriental) spotted fever, Russian spring-summer encephalitis. However, these diseases are not present in New Zealand.

The ticks present in New Zealand have shown the ability to transmit pathogens, such as bacteria and viruses. Fortunately, the pathogens are rare in New Zealand and damage is mainly isolated to economic loss caused by heavy infestations. However, since travellers could introduce tick-borne diseases to New Zealand, there is a risk (albeit a very low one) that the ticks currently present in New Zealand could spread introduced diseases.

Where are ticks found?

Hard ticks favour habitats with areas of vegetation, such as forests and fields, where females lay eggs on the ground. They may also be found in urban areas if there are unoccupied patches of grass.

Soft ticks generally favour sheltered habitats and will hide in the nests of hosts.

How ticks feed

Ticks are known for latching onto their hosts and feeding off them, resulting in a wound.

Both sexes feed on blood, but only the female becomes greatly distended during engorgement.



Health risks from ticks

Diseases from ticks



During the feeding process ticks extract the blood of their host and regurgitate excess water from the blood back into the wound. This process enables diseases to be transmitted between a tick and its host.

In some countries ticks have transmitted diseases such as:

- Theileriosis, caused by a protozoan pathogen (*Theileria sp.*)
- Lyme disease, caused by Borrelia bacteria, and
- Spotted fever, caused by Rickettsia bacteria.

Transmission of disease does not occur immediately, usually the infected tick does not begin to transfer diseases until it has been attached and fed for 24 hours or more.

The Ministry reiterates that these diseases are NOT actually present in New Zealand at the current time.

Additionally, the one strain of Theileria (*T. orientalis*) found in New Zealand has not been shown to be pathogenic in humans.

The risk of getting a disease from a tick bite in New Zealand is therefore very low, but there is the potential for this to change – for example, if disease carrying ticks arrive on travelers to New Zealand who have been in countries where they are present.

For more information I have attached a another PDF with the news letter.

We have a tick problem in Taranaki as well.

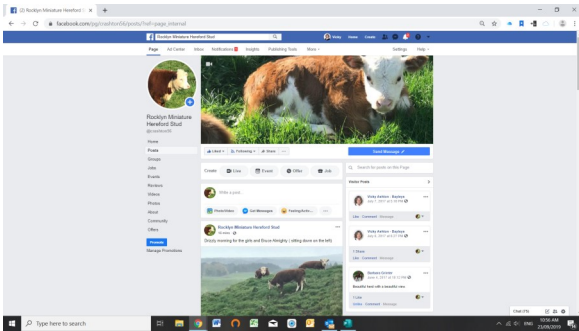


Marketing your Minis.

Here's a few ways to get your Miniature Herefords out to the public.

- Set up a Face Book page dedicated to your herd and whats happening at your stud . This is free to use and you can invite your farming friends/ family or anyone you know to like your page.

You need to keep your content current and use plenty of picture's of your stock etc. Put your cows you are selling on your page as well , you will be surprised who might contact you. You can also share your content to other groups on Face Book



This is a screen shot of my Face Book page. I have a FB page set up for our Miniature Hereford Breeders Group as well so please let me know if you would like to put your cows on which you want to sell or other interesting topics such as Cows/calves with your grandchildren, children or something that looks cute, funny or different.

- Articles in the local news papers. I have contacted numerous magazines to do an article on our Minis however this isn't being too well received at present. You may know some one that could do an article for publishing?
- The local Stratford A & P has contacted me to see if I am interested in showing some of my minis. They have contacted me through my Face Book page. As much as I would like to do this I have no halter trained cows so this would not be good for me to even attempt it.

Has any one else had their local A&P contact them? Maybe we should be revisiting exhibiting our Minis?

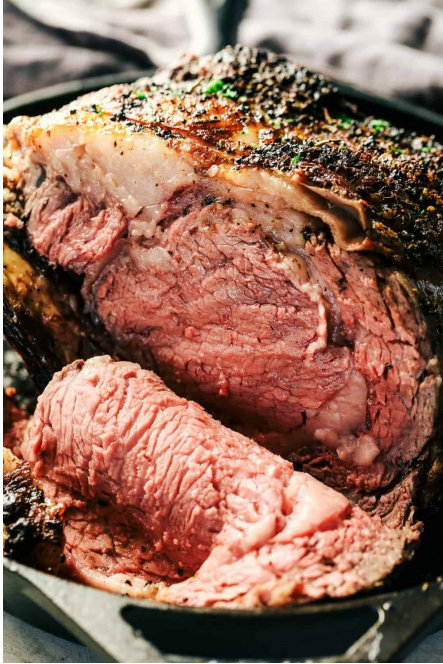
- Trade Me to sell your minis. I have found this very successful and I can link this to my face Book page.

New member

Welcome Dwight Gray at Sunny Bank Stud to the NZ Miniature Hereford Breeders Group.

Herb Prime Hereford Rib Roast

Garlic Butter Herb Prime Rib is melt in your mouth tender and juicy prime rib that is cooked to medium rare perfection and marbled with fat. The seared garlic butter herb crust is incredible!

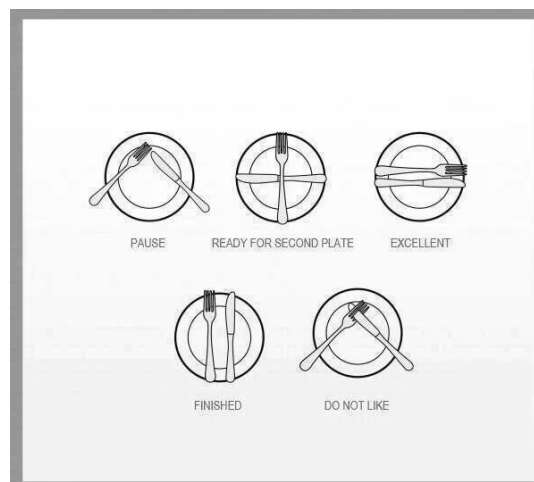


- 2-6 pounds bone prime rib boned and tied
- 1 cup butter softened
- 5 cloves garlic minced
- 1 Tablespoon thyme finely chopped
- 1 Tablespoon oregano finely chopped
- 1 Tablespoon rosemary finely chopped
- 1 Tablespoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper

Remove the prime rib from the refrigerator at least 30 minutes before to bring it to room temperature. Preheat the oven to 450 degrees.

In a small bowl mix butter, garlic, thyme, oregano, rosemary, salt and pepper. Rub all of the butter on the outside of your prime rib and place in a roasting pan with the fat side up.

Cook for 15 minutes and reduce the temperature to 325 degrees. It is about 15 minutes per pound of meat. Bake until it reaches an internal temperature of 110 degrees.



YARD BASICS from an article from <https://www.lifestyleblock.co.nz/>

If you are going to have livestock on your lifestyle block - you'll need pens or stockyards. Stock handling facilities aren't something that belong on the "would be nice to have" list, they're essential. You'll need them to deal with sick animals, drenching, eartagging animals if they're going to move off your property, mandatory TB testing when required ... all the things that you can't do with an animal in the middle of a paddock.

Before you rush off and build a set, if you don't need to use yards very often, and your neighbour has some - negotiate access to their yards. We used to do that at our last property before we built our own. Some etiquette for using neighbour's yards - check with them every time before you use them, clean up after yourself, repair any damage, leave gates as you found them, and drop a thank you in after every use (bottle of wine, box of beer, chocolates). A little gift goes a long way - and believe me - it's cheaper than building your own yards if you're only using them 3 or 4 times a year.

If you have to build your own, the good news is that yards don't have to be big, flash or expensive. They do however need to be safe for you and the animals. Getting it right isn't that hard - it just takes a little thought.

If you're not planning on trucking animals off your property - your yards don't need to include a loading ramp. If you're only likely to truck 1 or 2 head away a year - the cost of building a ramp is really hard to justify.

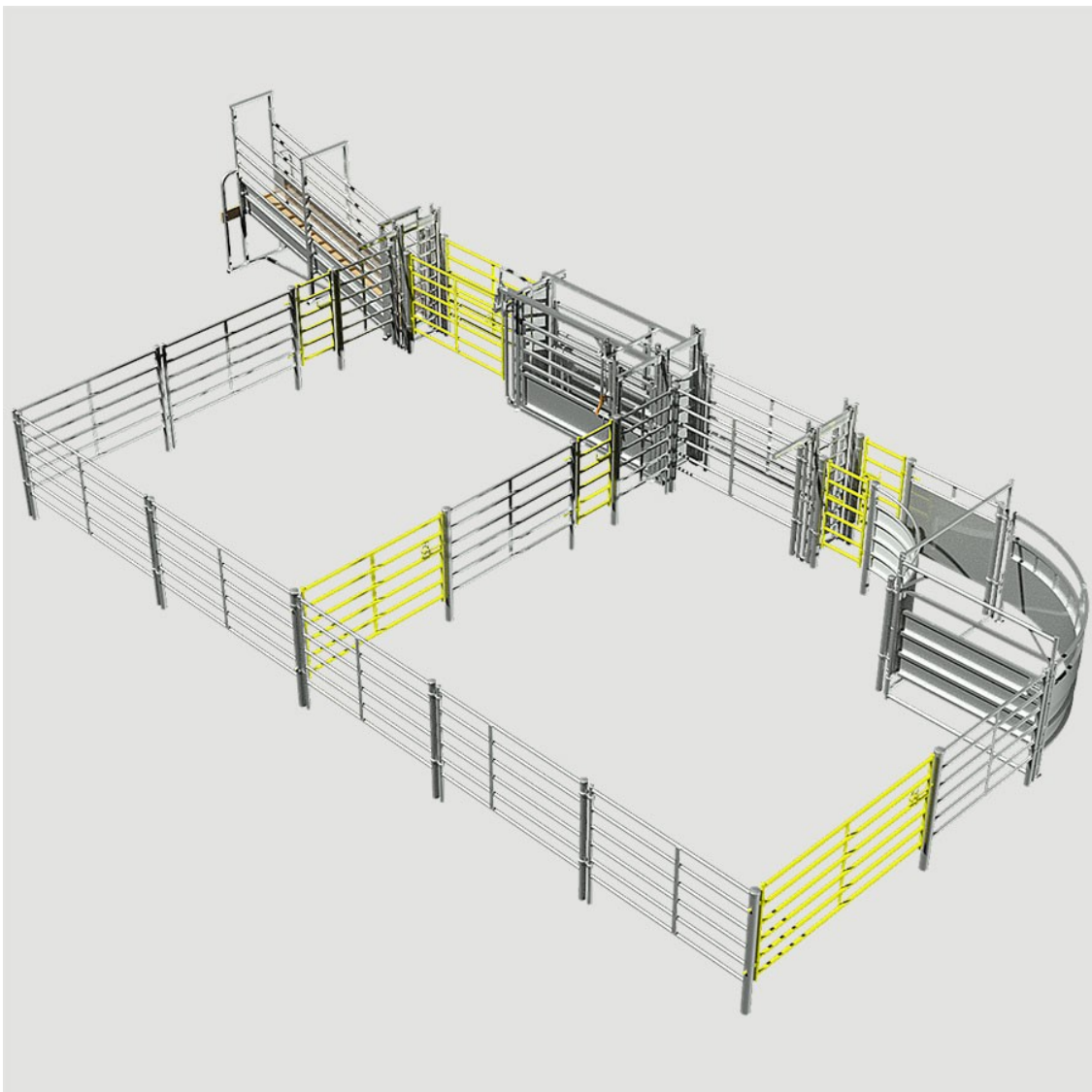
There is always the option of portable steel yards. Some people like them, some hate them - but they are a practical solution worth consideration on a small block. You can shift them if you need to, take them with you if you move, or sell them if you decide to get rid of all your animals.

There is no perfect or completely safe set of yards, but there are a few simple tips worth following:

- If you are building new yards - it doesn't cost any more to build yards that work well - the secret is getting the dimensions and the design right
- If you are building new yards - don't make them up as you go along, get professional advice, put plans on paper, double check dimensions, measure twice - cut once
- If you already have a set of yards that aren't working well - get some professional advice on what needs changing - from a fencing contractor, your vet, or a stock agent
- Don't skimp on materials, 100x25 might be OK for sheep, but 150x50 is the minimum for cattle yard rails
- Circular or semi-circular yards are very effective, a dream to work in and can easily be increased in size to cope with larger herds
- Build yards on level ground or slightly uphill - cattle resist moving downhill
- Make sure your yards are well drained - spend 5 minutes in winter in knee deep mud in a pen with cattle to appreciate why drainage is so important. If your budget will allow it, put down metal, 100-150mm thick with weedmat under it to stop it sinking into the mud
- If you're building a loading ramp as part of your yards - allow for a stock truck actually being able to back on to the ramp
- Build the loading ramp with a slight fall in the ground towards it - so the stock truck can roll back into it - rather than having to power uphill in reverse into it (crunch!)

- Gates should swing freely and preferably have self-closing latches so you don't have to put your arms through gaps trying to hook a latch. If cattle push against the gate while you're hooking a latch or your arm is through it ... you could break an arm or lose a finger
- Reverse or pin gudgeons so that animals can't lift gates off hinges
- 20mm ply makes brilliant personnel or race gates in stockyards - double up 2 sheets cut to size and bolt together with 600mm galvanized hingestrips - you get a 40mm thick near indestructible solid gate
- The race and head bail should give the appearance of a clear view to open space or other cattle beyond - which will encourage cattle to move freely along the race or shute
- The design of the pen leading to the head bail, crush or loading ramp is important for good flow. With solid sides to the pen and no visual distractions cattle will think the exit is the only escape route
- Board up corners in pens to eliminate cattle bunching or facing away from you. Narrow pens allow you to put pressure on cattle. Cattle can avoid you more easily in large pens
- Make sure there are plenty of access ways and emergency escape gaps between pens
- Don't underestimate the speed, reach or accuracy that cattle can kick with. The safest places to stand are either well back or right in close. Always wear steel-capped boots in the yards

Always have an escape route planned when you get into a pen with cattle



From MPI ___New rules for de horning your calves

From 1 October 2019, new rules require people working with cattle to use local anaesthetic when dehorning and disbudding.

Veterinarian and director animal health and welfare Dr Chris Rodwell says, “Removing horns or horn buds is necessary on the farm to keep animals safe from each other, as well as for human safety. These regulations highlight that removal is painful and those carrying it out need to reduce the pain experienced.”

“Veterinarians and industry organisations have been encouraging the use of pain relief for many years, and we know a lot of people are already using it. The new rules will bring everyone up to the same standard, and improve the welfare of cattle, by making it clear that local anaesthetic, prescribed by a New Zealand veterinarian, must be used and applied correctly.”

These rules apply to all cattle, regardless of age. Failure to abide by the requirements from 1 October 2019 is a criminal offence. A prosecution could result in a criminal conviction and fine under the regulations.

“If you’re not already using local anaesthetic, talk to your veterinarian about training and the supply of local anaesthetic,” says Dr Chris Rodwell.

“Whether they’re beef or dairy, whether you have 2,000 cows or just 2 friendly steers on your lifestyle block, make sure you’re up to speed with the new requirements.”

“The same applies if you’re purchasing calves to rear or finishing your spring calving. If you’re using a disbudding contractor, make sure they follow the requirements too.”

There are 2 new regulations, both part of the Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Regulations 2018, issued under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 and first announced in 2018.

MPI developed these working closely with veterinarians, the livestock sector, National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee and SPCA.

