NZ MINIATURE HEREFORD BREEDERS GROUP NEWSLETTER

Merry Xmas and a Happy New

A calf out of Graham Hunkins Herd from a few years ago.

Don't forget to like us on

December 2019

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From Kim Wright our President

Xmas greetings to all our Mini-Hereford breeders. As we roll into the hot season, we see changes in our grass production, water requirements and various heat-related ailments of our cattle. The optimum ambient temperature for our herds is around 15 degrees C., so shade and shelter from the sun becomes important.

Recently we have been advised of the resignation from the group of Natalie and Steve Fletcher (Taupo). I would like to take this opportunity, not only to wish them well in their new farming ventures, but to thank them for the great contribution they have made to the group. Natalie has been instrumental in organizing our AGM's and farm visits, and keeping the business paperwork under control. All the best to you both.

As a result we have a role to be filled at the next AGM in the mean-time we will manage this within our current committee.

A big welcome to our new members, we hope to see you in the new year where we will be able to share and compare!

All the best for Summer, have a wonderful Xmas and New Year, keep safe and always feel free to reach out to other members.

Meri Kirihimete,

Kim

Founding Member Retiring....

From Helen Russell

Graham & Melanie Hunkin have been members of the NZHA since 2003. When NZ Miniature Hereford Breeders Group was formed in 2004 Graham joined with the committee to form our current strong and enduring Rules & Regulations for the Group.
Over the years Graham has been Chairman on and off for 12 years and on the committee for a further 2 years. Having an excellent rapport with the executives of the NZ Hereford Association he has often acted on the clubs behalf on NZHA Council issues. He has always been a strong and committed member. Graham has hosted many meetings at his farm and has promoted Miniature Herefords at A & P Shows. His commitment and passion for Miniature Herefords and the NZMHBG will be sadly missed as Graham has decided to retire from the group.
We wish him and Melanie well for the future.
……

Thank you Graham for your commitment to the Breeders Group. I didn't get to know you but from looking through all the files etc that have been handed on to me you certainly were w wealth of knowledge and a committed member .
I wish you all the best.
Vicky

Members photos and snippets

Lakelands Stud

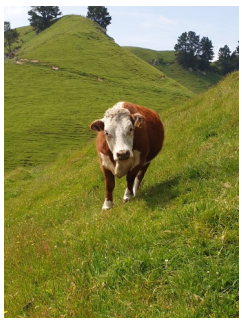
New yards and fences being erected at Paul and Sarah

Dombroski's property in New Plymouth.

Always good to see progress and getting things done around your property.

Springhill Miniature Herefords for sale

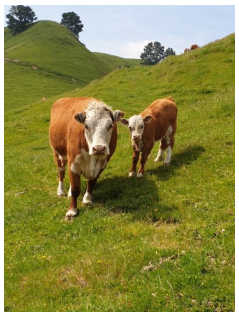
Email Natalie or Stephen fletcher04@xtra.co.nz



Springhill 160013 1781160013

DOB 5/1/16

Price $1700 plus GST



Rosaville Olive

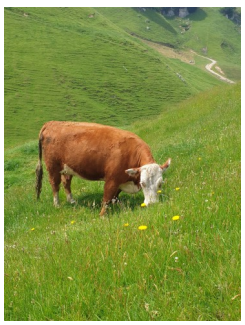
1756120012 DOB 6/11/12 Olive likes a pat &

Price $1800 Plus GST.
Bull Calf $600 plus GST

Carvelli Adrienne

1794140002 DOB 10/10/14

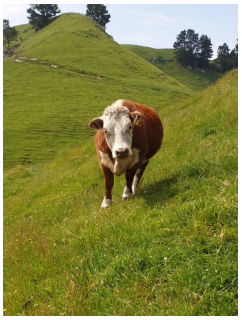
Price $1800 Plus GST
Heifer calf $600 Plus GST



Rosaville Helena

1756150049 DOB 24/11/15

Price $1800 Plus GST
Bull Calf $600 Plus GST



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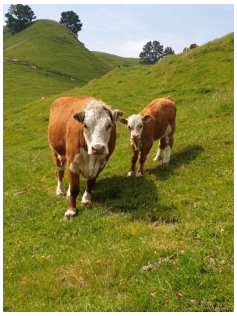

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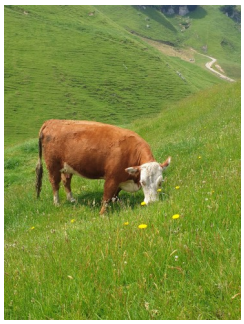

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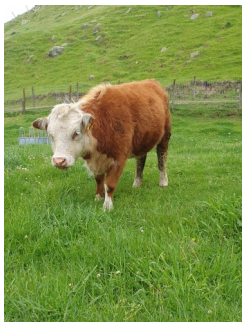
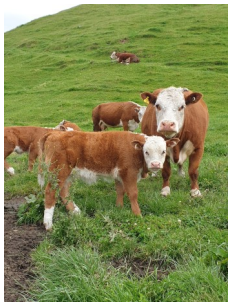
Springhill Cows



Springhill Shelby

1781170038 DOB 8/12/17

Price $1500 plus GST



Rosaville Fleur 1756110001 with her 2019 Heifer calf Breeze. She is super friendly & loves a scratch. In fact will push other cows out of the way & demand one!

Price $1800 Plus GST.
Bull Calf $600 plus GST

Springhill Jade 1781160019.

DOB 29/10/16.

Springhill Beth 1781160023 and a calf she shares with her mate! She calved unassisted to DOB 10/11/16

Price $1700 +GST
Bull calf $600 plusGST

Springhill cows

Tamerton Stud

Cows forsale

FOR SALE

Two heifers

$1000 plus gst to good homes!

The small one in the photo of two is a yearling heifer, the only offspring on the ground from a new bloodline WW Joyful Jude - I'd be open to offers if anyone is looking for a new line in their herd

Contact Stephen Collier

stephen@tamertonstud.co.nz

AI Semen Straws also For Sale: Riverlets

Diamond S Starbuck – 12 straws available $140 00 9 (Plus GST) per straw

CSF Guage – 55 straws available $140.00 (Plus GST) per straw

SSR Cooper – 55 straws available $140.00 (Plus GST) per straw.

This include the realese fee where currently stored

Please contact Gillian McKenzie Home: 099747560 Mobile: 0210479441

Perfect Pasture management

Dr Tim Jenkins, of the Biological Husbandry Unit outlines strategies to develop great pastures

Grazing management can include a regular pattern of shifting livestock onto clean pasture. In some cases this may be as often as shifting each day. This is an effective way of ensuring good pasture diversity too, especially if paddocks can be left long enough for the more preferentially grazed and slower to recover species to recuperate from the grazing. This will involve a high level of permanent and possibly temporary fencing (with back fencing). (A further advantage of such fencing is to reduce losses of nutrients through dung and urine transfer – fewer stock camps etc).

The Holistic style of grazing management provides a framework for making the above ideas of grazing workable. (seewww.succession.co.nz "Grazed and Confused")

Two of the basic methods of Holistic grazing management include not grazing a pasture too hard, and allowing good recovery of all desired pasture species.

1) Not grazing too hard

Grazing pasture lightly by just allowing access for one or two days (in some designs stretching to one week) will reduce the tendency for preferential grazing and the eating out of some favourable grazing species. If pasture is grazed too hard this can result in a loss of root activity and depth.

Moisture and nutrients are then more likely to be limiting to these shallow roots, lowering dry matter production, increasing seasonal feed deficits and resulting in poorer feed quality. With a poor root system, recovery of pasture takes longer and overall productivity will suffer. With good root systems on lightly grazed plants, general resilience is increased and legume nitrogen fixation is also improved.

2) Allowing recovery of species

Some desirable grazing species will take longer to recover than some of the main grasses. For this reason a decision on re-grazing based on conventional ideas of total dry matter measurements or height of pasture are likely to bias against the slower recovering species. It is therefore not uncommon to see chicory, plantain and other herbey components grazed out and outcompeted under conventional systems of grazing hard and not allowing full recovery of these species.

Regrazing time should be judged on when these slower recovering species have grown to a stage that one of their full leaves is dying – indicating a fully replenished root system.

Following these principles, a diverse, resilient pasture can be created and regenerated. The advantages of having diverse species present are manifold including tonic effects, reduced susceptibility to grass grub and other issues, less likelihood of pasture toxicity problems, and generally improved animal health and performance.

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See www.bhu.co.nz for much new information from work supported by SFF and AGMARDT.

From MPI WEBSITE

Farm management for healthy waterways

Keeping our waterways healthy is an important focus for MPI and industry. Find out about stock exclusion, riparian planting and how you can help protect our freshwater resources.

Play your part

Farmers and growers have an important role to play in protecting the quality of our waterways. Stock access, soil erosion, overuse of fertiliser, and nutrients from animal waste all affect water quality and ecosystems.

Some of the ways you can reduce the effects of farming practices on fresh waterways include stock exclusion and riparian planting.

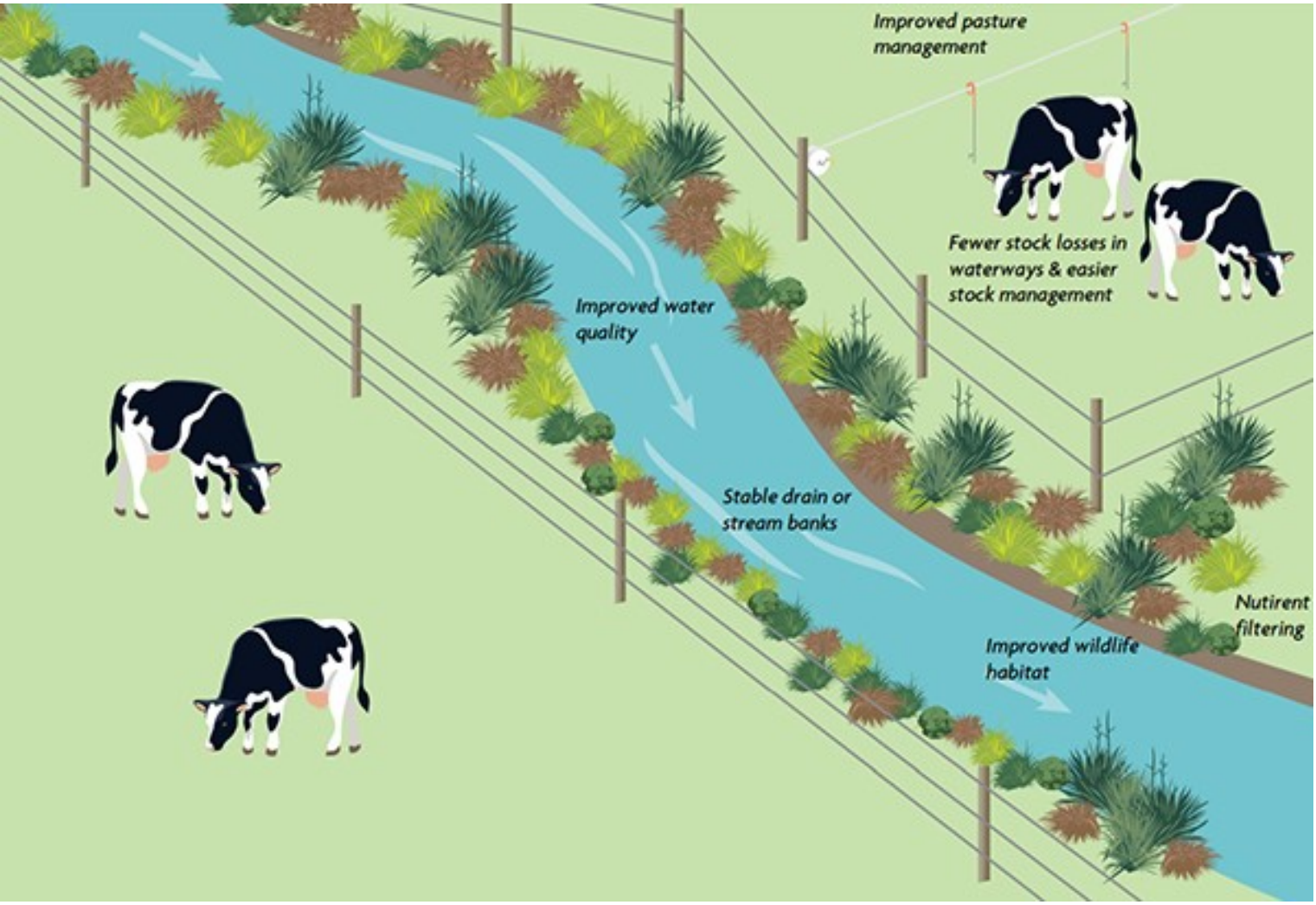
Excluding stock from waterways

Stock can cause serious damage to waterways. They:

- damage riparian vegetation
- defecate in waterways – a direct source of pathogens (bacteria or other microorganisms that cause disease)
- damage breeding grounds and habitats of native fish and aquatic insects
- spread weeds
- increase sediment which smothers stream beds
- increase nutrients such as phosphorous and nitrogen which can promote algal blooms.

Excluding stock from waterways is also beneficial to stock. It can reduce occurrences of injury, sickness and death related to waterway access – especially during times of bad weather.

DairyNZ's website has useful resources and tips for fencing farm waterways.
Fencing waterways, planting, and stock exclusion – DairyNZ website



Riparian strip planting

Riparian zones are areas of land bordering freshwater areas – lakes, streams, wetlands and rivers. They are a transitional link between dry and damp areas of soil. If you have waterways on your farm, fencing stock out and planting in riparian zones is a great way of improving water quality and enhancing habitat.

Riparian strip planting is helpful for:

- erosion control
- wildlife habitat maintenance
- water filtration and pollution control.

DairyNZ and Landcare Research have developed a riparian planner tool to help farmers plan and budget for riparian planting. The tool covers most forms of farming, including dairy, sheep, beef, deer, forestry, horticulture and cropping.

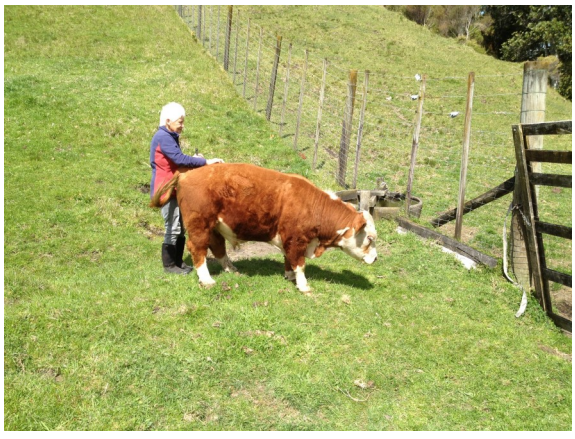
MEASURING MINIATURES AN EXTRACT FROM THE AMERICAN MINIATURE HEREFORD NEWSLETTER.

Measurementof yourminiatures can be taken straight across the hipbones. The hip height can vary an inch or so depending on whether the animal is standing correctly on its back legs or keeps its back straight (not sagging or humped up) For the past few years, here at the Point of Rocks Ranch, we have taken both the hip and shoulder height of our Miniature Herefords. The hip height is defi n itely the more accu rate of the two measurements. This is reinforced by the fact that the standard sized cattle go by the hip measurement. Also the shoulder height can increase after 3 years of age, where the hip height will usually stabilise at that age. There are several instruments made for measuring cattle height. They are usually made of metal with a sliding tube inside a larger tube and a level mounted on a horizontal arm atthe top. Anothertype resembles a regular tape measure with a level attached to a bar for placing on the animal's back. An inexpensive home made measuring stick can be made from PVC pipe. We use a reamed out T to slide up and down a pipe with a horizontal piece glued to the leg of the T. This is then placed over the back of the animal. Make permanent marks on the pipe for a quicker reading. When using the frame height charts to predict the future height of a calf it must be remembered that many factors influence the growth rate. The primary factor is genetics. Some calves grow

quickly when they are young then taper off at eighteen months, maturing an inch or so shorter than expected. Other calves grow slowly and continue to grow after they are two, maturing out an inch or so bigger than you expected. Anotherfactorthat changes the groMh rate is nutrition. Of course, if a calf does not receive proper nutrition it can become stunted, therefore having a deceptive reading when you use the chart to estimate the mature height. On the other hand a mature cow can measure a couple of inches taller than her actual frame score if she is excessively fat. Six months of age is the earliest you should begin measuring your calves. By the time they are twelve months old you can get a better projection of their mature height. It's pretty standard knowledge in the cattle industry that if you wait until a heifer is three years old before she has her first calf, then she will grow a little bigger than a heifer that has calved at two years old.

Mature Cow – 3 years plus			Mature Bull – 3 years plus		
Frame Score	Height		Frame Score	Height	
	(cm)	(inches)		(cm)	(inches)
1	114	45		119	47
0	109	43		114	45
00	104	41		109	43

Some photos of Sharon O'Brien's herd I found in Archives. I thought they looked lovely .



CALVING BEEF HEIFERS AS TWO YEAR OLDS

Russell Priest – Meat & Wool Innovation Beef Genetics Co-ordinator

Calving heifers for the first time as two year olds, as opposed to three year olds, has the potential to markedly increase the output and financial returns of a beef-cow herd. However in stating this there are no 'free lunches' and the impact such a decision has on other enterprises on the farm must be taken into account otherwise the benefits can be overstated. A number of farmers over the years have been disappointed with the results of heifer mating simply because they thought it presented them with an opportunity to get something for nothing. Many others, on the other hand, have been well rewarded, with their success being based upon well-established management practices.

The following are generally accepted benefits of two year old calving:

A lower ratio of non-productive to productive females in the herd

Beef-cow herds (with a 25% replacement rate) in which heifers are first calved as three year olds have one dry replacement heifer for every two cows. Calving at two years of age reduces this ratio to 1 in 4. This means that more of the total feed eaten by these females goes towards pregnancy and lactation (i.e. calf production, creating **income**) and less to maintaining the herd (a **cost**).

The unproductive life of each female is reduced

If beef cows, on average, are culled at eight years of age, then heifers as three year olds will have been non-reproductive (dry) for 25% of their life in the herd. The figure for heifers calved as two year olds is only 15%. Again, this increases the percentage of feed eaten that goes towards production and decreases that going towards maintaining the herd.

Lifetime output of cows is increased

The lifetime calf production (total weight of calves weaned) of a beef cow is influenced more by the number of calves she weans than by the size of the calves. Research has shown that the lifetime production of cows, first calved at two years of age, is 0.7 of a calf or 150kg of calf weight (10%) more than cows calved first as three year olds.

Good basis for selecting replacements

The performance record of a two-year-old heifer (eg. has reared a heavy calf and is back in calf) is an excellent basis on which to identify three-year-old cows to retain in the herd. This option is possible if more two year olds are calved than are ultimately required as replacements.

Other small benefits of two-year-old calving:

Slightly faster genetic gain

One less dry stock mob

There are a number of reasons why farmers may be unable or unwilling to adopt two-year-old calving. These include:

Insufficient well developed country

Heifers mated at 14 months, along with their first calf, have a greater demand for energy (quantity and quality of feed) if they are to reach minimum mating live weight and re-breed after calving. On harder hill country properties, this additional requirement for feed needed to grow heifers well enough may not be able to be met.

Loss of a mob of dry stock

Traditionally, non-pregnant 1-2 year old heifers have been used as a "buffer mob"; gaining weight when feed is plentiful and "taking a pinch" during feed shortages. Mating them to calve as two year olds greatly limits their use for this purpose.

Bull selection

More care needs to be taken over the selection of a bull to join with 14-month-old heifers than for those one year older.

Mob of smaller calves at weaning

Calves from two-year-old heifers are 10-15kg lighter than those from three year olds and may not fit as well into lines of calves for sale.

A lower pregnancy rate as three year olds

One of the costs of two-year-old calving can be a slightly (5-10%) lower pregnancy rate as three year olds, because the heifers have been rearing a calf while still growing. This reduced pregnancy rate is more than compensated for over the lifetime of the cow, but must be accepted as a feature of two-year-old calving.

Adoption of a management package

Successful calving of two-year-old heifers requires a higher level of management skills.

On-farm, where increasing the productivity of the beef cowherd is a high priority, most of these potential disadvantages can be overcome and the benefits of two year old calving captured. In my next article I will consider management practices that can be adopted to improve the profitability of calving heifers at two years of age.

I found this in my NZMH Group files. I haven't put the contact numbers in as this was from 2012.

Xmas Prime Rib Beef

- boneless prime rib roast
- 2 tablespoons prepared horseradish
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 2 teaspoons coarsely ground black pepper
- 2 teaspoons dried thyme
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- 2 stalks celery, cut into 2-inch pieces
- 1 carrot, cut into 2-inch pieces
- 1 small unpeeled onion, quartered and separated
- 2 teaspoons concentrated beef base (paste)
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 1 teaspoon cornstarch
- 1 teaspoon water
- Add all ingredients to list

Directions

1. he day before serving, remove the roast from the package, and dry thoroughly with paper towels. Set the roast on a baking sheet, and place in refrigerator overnight. Remove from refrigerator 1 hour before cooking time to allow meat to reach room temperature. Rub the roast all over with horseradish and Dijon mustard. In a bowl, mix together the kosher salt, black pepper, thyme, and garlic powder; sprinkle the spice mix over the roast.
2. Preheat oven to 450 degrees F (230 degrees C). Place the celery, carrot, and onion pieces into the bottom of a roasting pan. Place the roast on top of the vegetables.
3. Roast in the preheated oven for 30 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C), and roast until the meat is browned and an instant-read meat thermometer inserted into the thickest part of the roast reads 130 to 135 degrees F (54 to 57 degrees C) for medium-rare. Remove from oven, transfer roast to a platter, and cover with a tent of aluminum foil. Allow to rest for 30 minutes. Temperature of the meat will rise about 10 degrees during resting time.

To make au jus sauce, skim excess fat from the pan drippings in the roasting pan. Place the pan over a burner set to medium heat, and stir in the beef base and 1 1/2 cup of water. Bring to a boil, scraping and dissolving any brown flavor bits from the bottom of the pan. Strain out and discard the vegetables. Combine the cornstarch and 1 teaspoon of water in a small bowl, and whisk the mixture into the sauce. Allow the sauce to thicken slightly (sauce will be thin), pour into a gravy boat, and serve with roast.