

Altum RedRag

THE NEW ZEALAND HEREFORD ASSOCIATION MEMBER NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2012

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Diary Dates

26TH - 28TH OCTOBER 2012
WAIKATO ROYAL SHOW

14TH - 16TH NOVEMBER 2012
CANTERBURY SHOW



NOMINATIONS WANTED Honda Motorcycles Herd of Excellence 2013

The Honda Motorcycles NZ Herefords Herd of Excellence is again open to nominations from clubs or individuals for the 2013 round. Breeders from anywhere in NZ can make a nomination, but the nominee must be a South Island breeder.

The 2013 competition is open to any NZHA South Island breeder – irrespective of herd size. The overall winner will be deemed a ‘quality Hereford operation’ over and above other operations entered in the competition, regardless of herd size differences.

A panel of judges will be invited to review all entrants based on the written farm profile submitted by all entrants. Depending on numbers, finalists may be selected based solely on the written profiles. However if small numbers (ie less than five) of nominations are received it is likely that all entrants will be visited. The winning Herd of Excellence will be announced in conjunction with the NZHA meal at Beef Expo 2013.

Nominations:

All financial NZHA members are welcome to make a nomination. A nomination can be undertaken by an individual, syndicate or affiliated Hereford club. Breeders are also welcome to nominate themselves. A nomination form has been included with this edition of the RedRag for convenience. If nominating another party, it is crucial the nomination form be signed by the breeder being put forward.

When considering breeders for nomination please keep in mind the following aspects; quality of the Hereford herd, performance of the herd, marketing, overall farm performance, farm presentation, sustainability (both financially and environmentally), the breeders' contribution to Herefords and their own community. Once nominations have been received by the close off date, Friday October 26 2012, (see time line) all nominees will be provided with and asked to complete a written farm profile within a given time frame and return it to the NZHA office.

The judging process:

The judging panel, appointed by the NZHA Council and office will be provided with copies of all written profiles from which they will select the herds and properties to be visited in person in late summer/early autumn. That same judging panel will visit all those finalists in consecutive

OFFICE ENQUIRIES

Donna Abbiss- Acting NZ Hereford Manager, is available between 9.00am - 4.30pm, Monday and Wednesday OR

Megan Ellett- Tuesday and Thursday 8.30am - 5.00pm. hereford@pbbnz.com

Natalie Campbell- Phone: 0277 323 448 or herefordprojects@pbbnz.com

Linda Shailer- Hereford Registry, is available to assist with your Hereford registry enquiries between 8.00am - 4.00pm, Monday to Friday. lindas@pbbnz.com

DNA Services- Sharyn Anderson, 8.30am - 4.30pm, Monday to Friday. sharyn@pbbnz.com

Tag ordering- through the PBBNZ office, Monday to Friday. tags@pbbnz.com

Pivot Design- Adele Gray, 9.00am - 4.30pm, Monday to Friday. adele@pivotdesign.co.nz

EDITOR: Donna Abbiss, NZHA
Megan Ellett, NZHA Assistant

ADDRESS: PO Box 503, Feilding 4740

PHONE: 06 323 4484

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EMAIL: hereford@pbbnz.com

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www.herefordprime.co.nz

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visits before making their final decision for the category winners and the recipient of the Herd of Excellence title.

Public Event:

A public event recognising and celebrating the achievement is to be hosted by the recipient/s of the Honda Motorcycles NZ Herefords Herd of Excellence title. All entrants are asked to indicate an approximate time of hosting such an event at time of entry.

Time Line

August 2012

Call for nominations.

Friday 26 October 2012

Nominations close.

Monday 5 November 2012

Written profiles sent to entrants.

Monday 10 December 2012

Deadline for return of written profiles.

Early January 2013

Copies of written profiles sent to judging panel for consideration.

Late January 2013

Judges lodge list of herds to be judged with NZHA office and all entrants to be notified of outcome of first judging round (if applicable)

February-April 2013

Judging panel to visit finalists at a time convenient to all parties.

Late April 2013

Judges to have lodged final decision with NZHA office.

May (Beef Expo) 2013

Winner announced!

Testimonials from past entrants:

“Entering the Herd of Excellence Award has been a great experience, not only the satisfaction and pride of winning the award, but also the benefits we have captured from the process. The judges made a real effort to understand the objectives we have with our Hereford herd and how they contribute to our whole farming system. The judging process proved to be very enjoyable, and through their discussions also very beneficial to us. The three judges, all successful in their own businesses, were always very positive and provided some really interesting and valuable ideas for us to consider.

Cath and I recommend breeders to put any initial apprehension aside, and seriously consider entering the Hereford Herd of Excellence. At all levels and whatever the outcome, the experience can only be positive and beneficial for those entering.”

Mike and Cath Cranstone, Riverton Herefords 2012 Honda Motorcycles NZ Herefords Herd of Excellence Winners.

“The Herd of Excellence competition is a robust and valid competition which we would highly recommend breeders enter. The judges were outstanding doing a great job extracting meaningful information from our business model. The commercial reality of the competition gives it real credibility and we certainly learnt a lot from the process. We thank the sponsors for contributing to the success of the competition and we will definitely look to enter again in the future.”

Sam and Gemma Hain, Hain Herefords.

Registry Report

GROUP RUN CUT OFF is now the 3rd of each month with the return being towards the end of the month.

You will receive an email from Breedplan alerting you to a report being available for downloading from Internet Solutions. You will only receive a report if you have data entered into the run.

The report will only be available until it is overwritten by the next month's run.

DNA PROFILES are required on all mating sires. They can be checked on the Hereford website under “Animal Enquiries”.

If you have not supplied required DNAs, registration of progeny will not proceed.

Contact the Office if you require envelopes for hair samples.

Remember even if it's not your bull, you will need to ensure there is a profile to register progeny in your herd.

HYPOTRICHOSIS testing of males needs to be completed prior to transfer.

Linda Shailer- Registry



2013 Beef Expo

Saturday 11th – Sunday 12th May 2013

Future Beef

Monday 13th May 2013

NZ Herefords judging
Queen of Hearts sale

Tuesday 14th May 2013

NZ Herefords National Show & Sale



SET YOUR COWS UP FOR A HEALTHY CALVING



Crystalyx Dry Cow is designed to balance pasture mineral deficiencies and build up nutrient reserves before calving. This promotes good health and performance in breeding cows. In particular Crystalyx Dry Cow helps maintain optimum blood magnesium levels and reduces the risk of milk fever.

Lick to turn pasture into production.

Available from Altum. Call 0800 784 674 or visit www.altum.co.nz



President's Note

By now most of us have returned from Canada, having been part of a very successful World Hereford Conference. The delegates elected Pepe Bonica from Uruguay as Secretary General, replacing Jan Wills, after eight very successful years liaising with member countries, and introducing several new countries to the World Hereford Council body.

We heard several very good technical reports including a genetics and snip chip address by Dorian Garrick, a New Zealander. Our country report, based on the "Jonah, The Giant Hereford" book was novel and well received.

Three days were spent north of Calgary at the Junior event where Peter Kane represented us very well and won the photographic section.

Day two was a lead show, and the third day, was a very novel and well organized "Ranchers Day" where unled cattle were

judged on horseback by a panel of three commercial breeders. My observations of North American cattle industries, is that they have very similar problems to what we face, drought in some places and too much rain in others and similar bureaucracy. The people were extremely hospitable and welcoming during our visit.

We are off home now for lambing and calving and wish you all the best for the next few busy, but rewarding weeks.

Regards,
Peter Smyth,
NZ Herefords, President



NZHA

Committee	Chair	Executive
Finance	Philip Shepherd	Philip Barnett, Jason Graham, Peter Smyth
Promotion	Chris Douglas	Colin Corney, Jason Graham
Publications	Natalie Campbell	Chris Douglas
Technical	Philip Barnett	Philip Shepherd, Andrew Russo, Gray Pannett
Research	Andrew Russo	Jan Wills, Jimmy Murray
Sponsorship	Colin Corney	Peter Smyth, Paul Scott, Jason Graham
Expo	Rodney Jupp	Gray Pannett, Jimmy Murray, Philip Barnett
Show & Sales	Jimmy Murray	Rodney Jupp, Jane Allan, Gray Pannett
Semen Marketing	Colin Corney	Rodney Jupp, Andrew Russo
Ambassadors	Jane Allan	Andrew Russo, Jason Graham, Paul Scott
Registry	Chris Douglas	Jimmy Murray, Gray Pannett, Paul Scott
Rules & Regs	Jason Graham	Peter Smyth
Hereford Prime	Laurie Paterson	Peter Smyth, Philip Barnett, Geof Brown, Colin Corney, Chris Douglas, Jan Wills, Jimmy Murray
World Hereford	Jan Wills	
PBBNZ	Peter Smyth	Philip Shepherd, Jason Graham
Beef Holdings	Peter Smyth	
Super Sires	North: Kevin McDonald	South: Jimmy Murray
Herd of Excellence	Natalie Campbell	Phil Barnett, Gray Pannett
Silver Fern Farms	Jane Allan	Jason Graham, Peter Smyth, Gray Pannett (Hereford Programme)
NZHA Executive:	Peter Smyth	Colin Corney, Philip Shepherd, Philip Barnett

NZHA Strategic Plan

Governance – C Corney	Farm – Gray Pannett	Market – P Scott
Information – A Russo	Growth & Development – P Barnett	Leadership – J Graham

CANTERBURY HEREFORD BREEDERS INVITE YOU TO JOIN THEM AT THE

2013 CANTERBURY HEREFORD HERD TOUR

Herefords, High Country & More



17–20 MARCH 2013

MARK THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY TODAY

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Doc Sidey (President) – tel. 03 314 4277

Yvonne Lee (secretary) – tel. 03 614 3996 or email lees@farmside.co.nz

NEWCASTLE POLLED HEREFORDS

ANNUAL SALE

12 SEPTEMBER 2012 - 12.30PM, FRANKTON SALE YARDS, HAMILTON

19 SELECTED QUALITY BULLS - 4 X 2YR & 15 X 15 MONTH BULLS

BULLS BY:

Koanui Unanimous 3152 (BM), Okawa Commodore (BM),
Platform Quebec (BM), Koanui Supreme (BM),
Maungahina Fallbrook & Newcastle Dime.

Over the past few years we have endeavoured to keep a balance in our breeding by reducing gestation length, maintaining low to moderate birth weights whilst retaining all the desirable traits of growth, temperament, colour, carcase & milk. Our home bred bull Newcastle Dime is proving to be a very short gestation bull (EBV=-5.4) with two of his sons on offer being rated the 2nd & 8th shortest gestation length for all 2011 NZ born bulls (Lots 9 & 10).

Online Catalogue now available on the NZHA website - www.herefords.co.nz

Bulls can be viewed anytime.

For further information contact the vendors:

Noel & Betsy Smith

P.O. Box 38, Ngaruawahia 3742

Phone: 07 824 8300 or email: newcastleherefords@xtra.co.nz

Unled Bull Classes at Beef Expo 2013

TRU-TEST Super Sires 2013

Expressions of interest are being called for the coming season of the Tru Test Super Sires.

If you would like to participate, your bull will need to be mated to at least 20 females in the spring, with 10 or more of the females registered.

To be eligible the yearling bull must be selected from a management group of 20 or more. The bulls must also achieve a conception rate of 75% or more after running with the females.

Now in its fifth year and on the success of this year's class at Beef Expo your support is needed to continue the momentum and grow the class, proudly sponsored by Tru Test. The class commands respect from both stud purchasers and commercial purchaser alike, with solid support from both breeders and sound prices.

The Super Sires class offers bulls that are highly regarded by their breeders; have proven fertility and have had the same grazing opportunities as they are run in a mob on evaluation farms – the Langtry property at Kimbolton and on the Fisher property near Christchurch. The bulls are run as a mob for the three months prior to Beef Expo.

Other eligibility criteria include: a full set of performance records from a management mob exceeding 20 bulls. This information includes:

- » Calving-ease score
- » Birth weight
- » 200-day weight
- » 400-day weight
- » EMA and fat scans
- » Scrotal measurement



This information must be collected and submitted to the NZHA before the bull commences mating.



HONDA MOTORCYCLES Unled Impact Sires 2013

The Honda Motorcycles Unled Impact class will again graze as a mob alongside the Super Sires on their respective evaluation units.

The Honda Motorcycles Unled Impact sires are subject to the same conditions as the Super Sires with the exception being they do not have to be joined with 20 females. Unled Impact sires are to be grazed with the Super Sires. Any bull entered in the unled class cannot be displayed on a halter.

Both mobs of unled bulls will be asked to be at their respective evaluation units in late January or early February. Grazing charges will apply.

Could breeders who are intending to enter bulls this year please contact:

North Island

Kevin McDonald (chairman)07 333 8068
Rodney Jupp06 754 6764
Mike Langtry06 328 5990
Brian Clements..... 09 433 7033

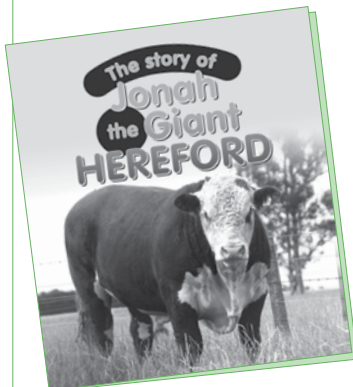
South Island

David Morrow (chairman) 03 303 9749
Jimmy Murray03 319 4331
Robert Kane 03 204 8236
Anna Fisher 03 329 7990

Please support these classes to show your support of the class sponsors – Tru Test and Honda Motorcycles.

NEW HEREFORD MERCHANDISE

Jonah The Giant Hereford – Story Book



Additional copies of the story book Jonah the Giant Hereford, are available for purchase from the NZHA.

Purchase price is yet to be confirmed - however the maximum price will be \$12.00 per book.
Availability - mid August.

Introducing the NZ Hereford Teatowel



Cream 100% cotton fabric (53cm wide x 70cm long) with three red embroidered stripes running the length of the teatowel. The NZHA logo (red and green) is embroidered at one end.

Brand: Linens & More

Price: \$7.50*+gst

*Postage costs additional

Place your order with Megan or Donna at the NZHA office. P: 06 323 4484 or hereford@pbbnz.com

NAIT and Show Animals

A&P Shows and Events

Event Participants:-

Events participants (PICAs) moving NAIT animals to and from events will be required to record animal movements.

If a PICA sells the animal(s) at an event and does not return to the original PICAs location, then a movement must be recorded from the PICAs location to the event and then a second movement made from the event to the new NAIT location number.

When recording a movement to an event, the PICA must indicate:

- » The type of movement – is to/from an event
- » Record the 'to' and 'from' dates
- » Select the event.

The event may be selected by entering or selecting the event name, event NAIT number or by event organisers name.

A&P Shows and Events

Event Organisers:-

An event organiser of an event (such as agricultural shows and rodeos) is NOT required to be a PICA or record the movements of animals to and from an event.

An event organiser however, must:

- » Notify the NAIT organisation of the event date(s)
- » Register the location of the event with the NAIT organisation as an event location
- » Register the name of the event
- » Register the event organisers name and contact details
- » An event organiser can register an event by phoning the NAIT contact centre on 0800624 843.

School Pet Days

Schools:-

Schools have no obligations under the NAIT Act

Pet day participants:-

All animals that attend a school pet day require:

- » Animals to be tagged with a NAIT-approved RFID ear tag and
- » Animals to be registered with NAIT

Pet day participants will be exempt from obligations to record animal movements to and from the pet day with NAIT.



NAIT Number Registration

People in charge of cattle and deer should now be registered for the National Identification and Tracing scheme (NAIT), which became mandatory as of 1 July 2012. (Deer from 1 March 2013).

How to register:

- » Go to www.nait.co.nz and register online, or
- » Contact NAIT for registration assistance on 0800 624 843

When you register:

You will need to supply NAIT with some personal information and farm details.

During registration, a NAIT number is created which people in charge of cattle and deer will need to use for all their NAIT transactions when NAIT becomes mandatory.

The NAIT number links the person in charge of animals with the animals' location, and the animals themselves.

When creating a NAIT number, have your Animal Health Board herd number handy as you will be asked to provide it.

Animal registration will be available when the scheme is mandatory.

For more information go to www.nait.co.nz

Email: info@nait.co.nz

Freephone 0800 624 843

KARAMU CASTLE DOUGLAS

Annual Yearling Bull Sale Upate

To be sold at Rangiora Saleyards,
11am, Tuesday 11th September
- Prior To Main Sale

Quality, well grown bulls with
beneficial attributes by:-

Karamu Hatuma
Karamu Galway
Moana Pauper
Kairaumati Tullamore

Enquiries and visitors welcome:

Michael Bayly
39 Sagewood Road
Tauranga
07 5482850
027 2425418

Douglas Mc Cartney
491 Wainui South Road
Tauranga
07 5481997
021 02446099

Purchaser prize:- Karaway calf weigher.



Stick reader wins Innovation Award for Tru-Test

By Jackie Harrigan - Story courtesy of Country-Wide, NZX Agri.

The Tru-Test XRS Stickreader won the Agritech Product Innovation Award at the 2012 Mystery Creek Fieldays.

The annual award from the New Zealand Agribusiness Centre recognises a product from one of the 31 members companies that has best translated innovation into commercial success, Tru-Test marketing manager Verne Atmore says.

The XRS was launched just six months ago and has been very well accepted in the EID market, with outstanding success both here and overseas.

After 30 years developing and selling animal weighing products, Tru-Test moved into the EID market after increasing their EID competency by buying Edit ID. The XRP EID reader panel was their first EID product launched, followed by the XRS stick reader, developed after an extensive “voice of customer” programme to identify exactly what farmers wanted from their reader.

A winner for its ergonomic design (high on farmers’ wish-lists after other competing products caused wrist and arm fatigue) the XRS is comfortable and well balanced with the majority of the weight in the base of the hand, making it easy to use for a day in the cattle, sheep or deer yards. The XRS reads all HDX and FDX-B tags with a reading range of 30cm and a read rate of up to 1100 reads per minute (far superior in speed to other models and also

high on farmers’ wish lists) The stick is 65cm long and weighs 706g including the battery, which has a charge time of three hours and a continuous run time of 19 hours.

“Farmers told us they need 2-3 days of work time for use in far-flung locations,” Atmore said.

The integrated Bluetooth sends results back to any Tru-Test Bluetooth weigh scales and an internal memory can store 20,000 scanned tags when in a non-connected area for later downloading to the Ezilink software provided. Bluetooth pairing has been improved to keep the user interface easy for farmer users.

“Bluetooth pairing with devices has been a problem in the past so we have used the latest technology to ensure the auto find and connection function works seamlessly.”

The unit even retains a list of 10 previously paired Bluetooth devices.

The stick is capable of preloading and customising data for individual animals, like a withholding period or pregnancy scanning results and the operator can load up to 10,000 alerts onto the device.

The XRS has doubled the company’s global sales forecasts in just eight months and has opened doors in a number of overseas markets in the EID arena, Atmore said.

Diluter and Idiopathic Epilepsy DNA tests NOW AVAILABLE

The DNA tests for the Diluter gene and Idiopathic Epilepsy in New Zealand Hereford cattle have now been validated and are available at Massey University. The DNA tests are based on information provided by Dr Jonathon Beever of the University of Illinois, who developed the DNA test for Hypotrichosis that is currently being used.

The tests for both abnormalities will be carried out, free of charge, at the same time testing for Hypotrichosis is done (\$35/sample). However samples previously submitted for Hypotrichosis testing and requiring further analysis for Diluter and Idiopathic Epilepsy will incur a cost of \$25/sample.

An explanation of the two conditions is outlined below.

Diluter

This genetic defect is caused by the deletion of a small part of DNA and causes dilution to any black pigment or black hair. Herefords can carry the Diluter mutation but will show no outward signs of the syndrome as they do not have any black pigment.

The Diluter gene is inherited as a dominant gene so when a carrier Hereford is mated to an animal with black pigment, e.g. a Friesian or an Angus, 50% of cases they will produce offspring with a diluted coat colour – grey, smoky or chocolate in colour. In addition to the change in colour the dark areas can show signs of hair loss. The areas with white hair appear normal. A predisposition to cold stress and poor growth rate can occur, at least in the first year.

All genetic material in an individual animal comes in pairs, including the area of DNA where the mutation responsible for the Diluter gene in Hereford cattle occurs. Each individual has a pair of markers (alleles) for the Diluter gene, and has inherited one from the sire and one from the dam. The purpose of this test is to detect those carrier individuals that carry 1 or 2 copies of the mutation responsible for Diluter.

Results for this test will be reported as follows-

DLF – free of the mutation causing Diluter syndrome

DLC – carrier of the mutation causing Diluter syndrome (1 copy)

DLA – carrier of the mutation causing Diluter syndrome (2 copies)

When a DL Carrier is mated to a black pigmented animal, 50% of the offspring will be normal, while due to the dominant expression of the gene 50% of the offspring will show the Diluter syndrome of grey, smokey or brown coats.

When a DL Carrier is mated to a DL Free Hereford, 50% of the offspring will be DL Free and not carry the diluter gene while 50% of the progeny will carry the diluter gene and be DL Carriers. These purebred Herefords will show no change to coat colour.

Idiopathic Epilepsy

The symptoms of Idiopathic Epilepsy (IE) generally start with affected animals seen recumbent on their side with limbs extended

in a rigid state. The seizures may last from several minutes up to more than an hour. The age of onset of the first seizure can vary, from birth to several months of age. The occurrence and persistence of seizures may be modified by environmental stressors such as extremes of temperature or increased physical activity.

IE is predominantly seen in horned Herefords, but can be seen in polled Herefords with horned animals in their pedigree.

All genetic material in an individual animal comes in pairs, including the area of DNA where the mutation responsible for Idiopathic Epilepsy in Hereford cattle occurs. Each individual has a pair of markers (alleles) for the Idiopathic Epilepsy mutation, and has inherited one from the sire and one from the dam.

Idiopathic Epilepsy in Hereford cattle is inherited as a simple autosomal recessive trait (like Hypotrichosis). This means that for an individual to be affected by the disease it must have 2 markers for the mutation (1 from the sire and 1 from the dam). Those individuals that carry 1 marker for the mutation and 1 normal marker will be unaffected by the disease, but can pass the mutation on to their offspring.

The purpose of this test is to detect the carrier individuals which are those animals carrying 1 copy of the mutation responsible for Idiopathic Epilepsy, but unaffected by the disease.

Results for this test will be reported as follows-

IEF – free of the mutation causing Idiopathic Epilepsy

IEC – carrier of the mutation causing Idiopathic Epilepsy (1 copy)

IEA – affected by the mutation causing Idiopathic Epilepsy (2 copies)

Currently we are unsure of the prevalence of both of these genetic conditions in the NZ Hereford population.

With the large number of Hereford bulls being used over black pigmented cows in both the beef industry (Angus) and the dairy industry (Friesian) it is relevant that the association investigate the frequency of the Diluter gene in the pedigree Hereford population, as there may be issues with the marketability of ‘diluted’ grey, smoky and chocolate coloured calves.

With respect to Idiopathic Epilepsy there doesn’t seem to have been any cases of affected animals reported to the association. The condition is seen mainly in horned cattle and polled cattle with horned blood in North American Herefords, so given the smaller proportion of horned cattle in the NZ population may mean it is less common. However this smaller Horned population in NZ means that if the gene is present it has the potential to move quickly through the small genepool.

Both DNA tests can be carried out alongside the DNA test for Hypotrichosis, and both tests will be done with no additional cost to the breeder.

It is hoped that by breeders opting to test for Diluter and Idiopathic Epilepsy when DNA parentage and Hypotrichosis testing, we will be able to get a better understanding of the prevalence of the two conditions in New Zealand.

Sale Results 2012

5th May, 2012

STONEBURN, AE DENHAM No. Avg Top
 Top price purchaser: David Andrews, Hyde 14 \$4,466 \$6,600
 Comments: 14/15 sold.

26th May, 2012

GLACIER, WP & ML WILLIAMS No. Avg Top
 Top price purchaser: 8 \$5,412 \$9,000
 Cattle Flat Station, Wanaka
 Comments: 8/8 sold.

26th May, 2012

FLAGSTAFF, TF CONDON No. Avg Top
 Top price purchaser: Hill Brothers 11 \$4,190 \$8,000

29th May, 2012

LIMEHILLS, G & R PANNETT No. Avg Top
 Top price purchaser: Okawa Farms Ltd 43 \$7,921 \$39,000
 Comments: 43/44 sold. Top prices: Lot 10 - \$20,000 to Dr John Allen (Mahuta), \$17,000 to Selby P/Ship, \$12,000 to Campbells Block

29th May, 2012

SHRIMPONS HILL, JH McKERCHAR No. Avg Top
 Top price purchaser: Stonyhurst 20 \$4,500 \$7,700
 Comments: Second top price bull - \$6,500 to Twynham Herefords, Nelson

30th May, 2012

KOANUI, FC, C & J CHESTERMAN No. Avg Top
 Top price purchaser: Gray Pannett, Roxburgh 63 \$5,690 \$16,500
 Comments: 63/63 sold. Sold 7 stud bulls. Top price Lot 5 - Koanui Boulder 0198. Second top price \$15,000 Lot 2 - Koanui Boulder 0077 to Ray McEvoy, Dargaville. Third top price \$12,000 Lot 17 - Koanui Unrivalled 0279 to Kokonga Farms Ltd, Remuera.

31st May, 2012

MONYMUSK, C, L & H DOUGLAS No. Avg Top
 Top price purchaser: 25 \$7,008 \$11,500
 Stoneburn Herefords, Palmerston, Otago
 Comments: Top price bull - Monymusk Fairgame

31st May, 2012

GLENBRAE, J M & M TAYLOR No. Avg Top
 Top price purchaser: 17 \$4,811 \$6,200
 Comments: 17/17 sold. Two bulls sold for \$6,200

1st Jun, 2012

LOCHARBURN, GR BROWN No. Avg Top
 Top price purchaser: 30 \$5,565 \$15,500
 Patearoa Station, Ranfurly
 Comments: 30/36 sold. Top price bulls - \$10,000 to Stonehenge Merinos, Ranfurly, \$10,000 to Greer Farm Partnership, Ranfurly, \$8,500 to Alpha Burn Station, Wanaka, \$8,500 to Greer Farm Partnership, Ranfurly.

5th Jun, 2012

BEANBAH, S & G HAIN No. Avg Top
 Top price purchaser: 21 \$5,957 \$9,000
 Comments: Outstanding commercial support for our first on property bull sale, great average without selling any stud bulls.

6th Jun, 2012

KAIRURU, K & J McDONALD No. Avg Top
 Top price purchaser: 26 \$5,407 \$14,000
 Orari Gorge Station Ltd, Geraldine

Comments: Top price bull - Lot 2 Kairuru Hercules. 2nd top price bull: Lot 6 - Kairuru Henrik \$10,000 to Monymusk Stud. Stud Sires purchased by: Knightlands- Whakatane, Marua - Hikurangi, Otaua - Waiuku, Twinstar - Matamata

6th Jun, 2012

PUTE, PG & J SMYTH No. Avg Top
 12 \$3,850 \$8,000

6th Jun, 2012

ALTON VALE, C & B BROWNLIE No. Avg Top
 Top price purchaser: Mangatawhiti Station 11 \$6,445 \$9,000

6th Jun, 2012

OKAWA, DJT & R MORROW No. Avg Top
 Top price purchaser: Kokonga Farms Ltd 39 \$6,290 \$13,000
 Comments: 39/40 sold.

6th Jun, 2012

ORARI GORGE, R C H PEACOCK No. Avg Top
 Top price purchaser: 25 \$5,420 \$13,000
 Koanui Polled Herefords, Havelock North
 Comments: Strong commercial support including Timburn Station - Tarras and Campbells Block - Gore, both purchasing bulls for \$9,000.00

7th Jun, 2012

MAUNGAHINA, JB & J McKENZIE No. Avg Top
 Top price purchaser: 40 \$6,625 \$10,500
 Birch Hill & Hauhungaroa
 Comments: Sold 2 bulls for \$10,500

7th Jun, 2012

CAPETHORNE, GJ & DA CHAMBERLAIN No. Avg Top
 10 \$6,750 \$16,000
 Top price purchaser: James McKerchar - Merrylea Stud
 Comments: 10/12 sold.

8th Jun, 2012

BEECHWOOD, RJ & MA BURROWS No. Avg Top
 Top price purchaser: 18 \$4,800 \$9,000
 Bruce & Carolyn Robertson, Duncraigen

12th Jun, 2012

RICHON, R & J STOKES No. Avg Top
 Top price purchaser: Florance Farms 14 \$4,957 \$8,500

19th Jun, 2012

MATARIKI, DJH & RA MURRAY No. Avg Top
 Top price purchaser: 44 \$7,111 \$15,000
 Monymusk Stud, Te Anau
 Comments: 44/44 sold.

28th Jun, 2012

MOKAIRAU, P REEVES No. Avg Top
 Top price purchaser: 28 \$5,803 \$9,200
 Waimaha Station, Gisborne
 Comments: 28/28 sold.

28th Jun, 2012

WILENCOTE, P & S HUMPHREYS No. Avg Top
 Top price purchaser: Potutu Station 23 \$5,800 \$8,800

11th Jul, 2012

ARAHOU, W LAMBETH No. Avg Top
 Top price purchaser: 24 \$2,680 \$4,000
 Comments: Total clearance - 5 In Calf Heifers also sold at an average of \$2,180.00

Neospora outbreak

Written by Hamish Pike - Courtesy of Totally Vets (Manawatu)

We talk constantly about BVD as a potential cause of abortion in cattle, but what about the organism that is the cause of most diagnosed abortions in cattle in New Zealand? This is *Neospora caninum*.

Neospora caninum is a protozoan parasite, an organism which is similar to *Toxoplasma gondii* – a common cause of abortion in sheep. The organism appears to be spread by cattle ingesting eggs (or oocysts) on the pasture, and transfer of the organism across the placenta to the foetus.

Dogs can serve as a source of infection. They become infected after eating infected foetal tissue or afterbirth (or raw beef), and then pass oocysts in their faeces. The oocysts are very resilient, and can remain infective in the environment for months.

Rodents, ferrets, stoats, and weasels have also been suspected as sources of infection.

Although dogs can shed oocysts in their faeces for several weeks, abortion outbreaks due to *N. caninum* should not be entirely blamed on the farm dog. Dogs are poor hosts for *N. caninum* because they produce only scant numbers of oocysts in their faeces, if any are shed at all. The overall evidence that oocyst challenge from dogs leads to abortion is poor.

Therefore how do cattle manage to have *N. caninum* abortion outbreaks? The efficiency of transfer of the organism across the placenta is likely to be up to 95%. Therefore calves born with the parasite will in turn pass it on to their offspring. Many cattle are therefore already infected (maybe for years) before any dog has had a chance to be involved.

Keeping dogs away from aborted material and not feeding them raw beef is still best practice. This will not only help prevent *Neospora* abortion but also a host of other causes as well.

Most abortion storms seem to be related to a herd event that reduces immunity (e.g. BVD) in a previously infected herd, causing re-activation of the parasite.

Infected cattle are 3 times more likely to abort than other cattle. However, culling of cows that have aborted is often not practical (because of the high prevalence) and because some cows will abort only once, and then become immune. These cattle (and possible antibody-positive cows) may be best retained in the herd as culling of immune cows could lead to further abortion storms if the organism was to be reintroduced into a naïve herd.

Recently, I was involved with an abortion outbreak in a dairy herd primarily due to *N. caninum*. The herd had no history of abortions due to this organism. 25 cows out of 1050 had identifiable abortions over several weeks. We scanned the rest of the herd and discovered a further 45 cows had lost their pregnancy since the herd was first pregnancy tested back in March. There were a dozen or so cows detected with a mummified foetus. Given that most abortions due to *Neospora* occur between 4 and 7 months gestation, it is likely that the worst of the abortion storm has passed – fingers crossed!

However, most calves are likely to be infected at birth, and although it is probable that the majority will show no clinical signs, most of heifer replacements are likely to pass infection to their own offspring – which is concerning to say the least! Calves at birth may display an inability to stand or lack of coordination, limb abnormalities, neurological signs or a “popped-eyed” appearance.

Until more knowledge is gained concerning the exact life cycle of *Neospora*, and the immunity to the parasite, unfortunately no effective preventative regime at this stage can be recommended. A preventative vaccine was withdrawn from the market a few years ago due to lack of efficiency.

Northland Hereford Breeders' Association

It was too good to last! Almost a fortnight of gorgeous spring like warmth and sunshine then over came the clouds and down came the rain. At least we were later getting wet this winter and grass growth is still good although kikuyu areas have taken a hiding from the unusual number of frosts.

Bull sales have seen a bit of an upturn on last year with bulls to dairy farms being sought after. Cattle are in good condition so have attracted better prices. The “Better Bull Buying Decisions” workshop held at Clements’ Farms in April was well attended and appreciated so maybe some of the discussions there led to a more knowledgeable outlook for prospective purchasers.

Congratulations to Brian Clements of Matapouri Polled Herefords for winning the champion female trophy at the Beef Expo with his in-calf heifer, Matapouri Lydia. This is just another success Brian has had with his entries at Beef Expos and his support of the event is invaluable.

Our Ben Burgess may have left the district for a while but he is still achieving distinction in the show ring with his handling of other breeders’ cattle. Reserve Champion Senior Open Handler for Future Beef 2012 and he handled the Supreme Champion

Hereford and Meat and Wool Cup winner, Awhea Immense 420, at the Auckland Royal Easter Show.

NAIT has certainly made its presence felt. Some farmers seem to have breezed through it but many more have found it a confusing nightmare despite all the information put out. As for transferring details to a computer – what if you don’t have one asked one of our members!

What has to be a highlight of our Northland bull sales this season is the Silver Sale at Bill and Wayne Lambeth’s Arahou Stud. Twenty-five years of on-farm sales in great facilities with very good turn-outs each year. As usual, all presented stock was sold, bidding was lively and the in-calf or calf-at-foot heifers fetched far more realistic prices than last year. Afternoon tea followed the sale where a large cake in the form of the number 25 was unveiled and Bill wielded a knife to cut it. Weather wise and in all other respects the day was a perfect tribute to the years of hard work put into developing this renowned polled Hereford stud.

Janet Poole, Publicity Officer.



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Story leads and photos

All members are invited to submit story ideas and/or photos for consideration for use in the 2013 NZ Herefords magazine and future promotional campaigns.

If submitting an electronic photo, please supply it in a jpg format at a high resolution (or large file size).

The photos may also be considered for use in general promotional items as well as the next edition of the magazine. Photos may include purebred Herefords and Hereford first-cross animals. All submissions of the appropriate standard will be kept on file for use in the future.

If suggesting a story, please take into consideration the farming practices – ie are they thorough farmers. While they don't necessarily have to be using state of the art technology/practices, we would prefer a farmer with sound farming practices.

Please email your story ideas and photos to:
herefordprojects@pbbnz.com

Whoops!

The results from the 2012 Morrisonville A & P Show which were printed in the June issue of the RedRag accidentally omitted the result of the All breeds Champion Male Class which was won by Karamu Hatuma – owned by Castle Douglas Stud.

The NZHA apologies for this omission

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