



British White Cattle Association of America

e-News

Fall 2015

John Kugler, Editor

BWCAA Promotional Video Online and For Sale

BWCAA has produced a promotional video highlighting the British White breed. This was done in response to member requests for a DVD to hand out to folks or to put on their own website.

DVD's are for sale by the Association. They are priced at 10.00 each for 1 to 10 DVD's, \$9.00 each for 11 to 20 DVD's and \$8.00 each for orders of 21 DVD's and over. Contact Sue at the Association Office.

One can view the video on the BWCAA website by following the [Publications/Videos](#) menu buttons, and select [BWCAA Timesavers Promotional video](#). Or, go directly to the video by clicking <https://s3.amazonaws.com/bwcaavideos/BWCAATimesaver8.mp4>. The video may take a minute or two to download.

IN THIS ISSUE

1. *BWCAA Timesavers Promotional Video Available for Sale*
2. *2016 BWCAA Calendar for Sale*
3. *2015 BWCAA Annual Meet and Cattle Show-Review*
4. *2016 BWCAA Annual Meet and Cattle Show and Sale*
5. *Valuable Take-home Messages from Speakers*



2016 British White Calendars for Sale

The 2016 BWCAA Calendars are now available for sale at the affordable price of \$17.00. [Hint: they would make excellent Christmas gifts.] All proceeds from the sale of calendars will be earmarked as seed money for the formation of a BWCAA Jr. Association. Orders yours by clicking <http://www.yearbox.com/calendarsforgood/bwcaa-2016-calendar/> or contact Sue at the Association office.

We wish to thank all members who submitted photos for the Photo Contest and those who supported the project by sponsoring one month. View the twelve winning photos at <http://britishwhite.org/2015-bwcaa-calendar-photo-contest-winners/>. We also want to thank BWCAA member Christine Files (Smithville, TX) for heading up this fun and worthwhile calendar project. Now is a good time to start snapping high quality photos (set your camera to the highest pixel setting) for next year's contest!

Report: 2015 BWCAA Annual Meeting and National Cattle Show



Getting better every year! Those words were heard repeatedly as one roamed the grounds of the 2015 BWCAA Annual Meeting and National Cattle Show in Purcell, OK. Local hosts Vicky and Tracy VanHorn, with the help of some dedicated, selfless and generous volunteers, namely Ted and Sue Seep, Steve and Danielle Villines, and Marcia Overley, put together an exciting and informative two-day program to highlight and celebrate the British White breed. The combination of meeting rooms and show arena facilities were outstanding.

Day One:



Early in the morning four-legged white critters with black ears, black muzzle and black feet were being shampooed, brushed, blown and trimmed in preparation for tomorrow's pageant while we spectators were shaking off the cobwebs with coffee and donuts. Back in the conference building featured speakers were loading their



PowerPoint presentations in the laptop. Fortunately we were to have educators from the Noble Foundation and Oklahoma State University Extension sharing timely and useful information with us. Clay Wright, Technical Consultation Manager with the Nobel Foundation discussed critical factors to consider when developing beef genetics. Marty New, livestock specialist from Oklahoma State University, discussed proper nutrition for beef cattle during growth, pregnancy and lactation. Highlights from both presentations will be presented later in this newsletter.



Clay Wright (2nd from left), Marty New (far right)

In the afternoon, attendees were free to visit, roam the cattle barns, buy and sell British Whites or tour several of the sights and attractions in the Oklahoma City area. Several BWCAA members were seen touring the National Cowboy Museum in Oklahoma City.



Day Two:

Show Day. Twenty-nine British White heifers, bulls and pairs were paraded around the show ring with conformation attributes and showmanship explained by Stephenville, TX Judge Tony Stidham. We had entries from as far away as Minnesota, Alabama and Arizona. It was heartwarming and great fun to see a four-year-old future British White cattle breeder strutting his



(cattle) stuff, as well as a 73 year-old (newbie) doing the same. It takes many volunteers to pull off a cattle show. We wish to thank Vicky and Tracy VanHorn, Steve and Danielle Villines and Marcia Overley for their hard work, and for providing food, supplies and buckles for the



champions. Also, we wish to thank Mike Losawyer for announcing the Show. There were also several bulls sold private treaty.

Show Results:



Grand Champion Heifer: Alabama B 212-9948
Shown by Hank Lovelace



Reserve Champion Heifer: SC Bubbles
shown by Tracy VanHorn



Grand Champion Bull:
Diamond Wreath Bricks Wall-E
Shown by Zane Overley



Reserve Champion Bull:
Mississippi PB1 Bo
Shown by Pete Brandon



Grand Champion Cow/calf Pair:
Cricket 130U shown by Hailey Breth



Reserve Champion Cow/calf pair:
NT Jade 228X shown by Christina Traeger

Annual Membership Meeting:

The Annual BWCAA Membership Meeting was well attended. It was reported that the Association's financial situation is stable and membership in BWCAA is increasing. The Promotion Committee reported that the BWCAA Video project has been completed. The video will be made available for viewing on the Association's website, www.britishwhite.org, and also will be available for purchase in the near future.

The 2016 Calendar Photo Contest results were also presented. 2016 BWCAA Calendars are available for purchase as well. Proceeds from the sale of the calendars will be placed in a fund for the establishment of a Junior BWCAA organization that will hopefully be organized within the next year. Several BWCAA current board members were re-elected to the board of directors for another term. New board member Sherwin Moczygamba, who replaced Joe Bigbee, was introduced to the membership. The venue for the 2016 Annual BWCAA Membership meeting and National Cattle Show were discussed. There was strong interest in having a cattle sale following the show next year.



2016 Annual Meeting, National Cattle Show and Sale When and Where?

Traditionally, BWCAA Annual meetings have been hosted by a member who footed most of the bill and did practically all of the preparation. For the last couple of years, the Association has offered more support in the form of promotion, facility rental and other expenses, mailings and scheduling speakers. This takes some load from the host who works directly with the Annual Meeting Committee and the Executive Secretary.

So, where and when do we want to meet next year? There are several things to consider.

1. Location: The board of directors suggest that the location of the meeting be centrally located and not too far from a metropolitan airport.
2. Meeting Room Facilities: Since we like to include some educational opportunities, a meeting room suitable for presentations is desirable but not required.
3. Cattle Show Facilities: Cattle shows require some kind of arena, fairgrounds, or a place with covered pens for keeping livestock, wash racks for bathing and areas for "fitting" cattle. The board of directors also wants to expand the show to include a sale following the show. This would require an auctioneer to promote and conduct the sale.

We are welcoming offers from members who would like to host (with the help of BWCAA Annual Meeting Committee) the 2016 BWCAA Annual Meeting and National Cattle Show and Sale. We have been invited back to Purcell, Oklahoma for next year if we desire.

Our goal is to select a date and venue for the 2016 Annual Meeting, Show and Sale by early December so that arrangements can be made with the facilities and an auctioneer can be retained. So, if you wish to extend an offer to host for 2016, please contact the Association office soon.

Key Take-Home Messages from Marty New and Clay Wright

Marty New outlined four steps for setting up an effective cow nutrition program.

These included:

- determine the nutritional needs of the cow herd (this depends on the number and size of the cows)
- estimate the amount and quality of the forage you have to feed them (this means estimating the amount of pasture, hay, silage, and other feedstuffs you may have)
- determine what supplemental needs you may have to acquire (like protein supplements, cake, cubes), and
- evaluating the supplements available to you for feed value and cost.

Cow size is important for two main reasons: Larger cows eat more and thus cost more to feed than smaller cows. Larger cows wean calves at a lower percentage of their own weight. He presented data from North Dakota State University which showed that on average, cows

weighing 1300 pounds or less wean calves at 50% of their own weight, whereas cows weighing 1600 pounds wean calves at only 34% of their own weight. This shows that smaller cows are much more efficient in converting feed or pasture to pounds of beef.

Cows consume on average about 2% of their body weight in dry feed per day. A 1600 pound cow will consume 32 pounds of feed per day compared to a 1300 pound cow at 26 pounds per day. In this example, the 1300 pound cow eats 19% less feed and produces weaned calves at much less feed (and pasture) cost. Cow size IS important.

Marty went on to show that as cows progress through their pregnancy, they require more energy and protein to maintain body condition and that maintaining sufficient body condition through calving will also increase the percentage of re-breeding. (Click on this link to see Body Condition Scoring system https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/400/400-795/400-795_pdf.pdf.) He noted that the body condition of mature cows should be a BCS 5 at calving, and heifers at BCS 6, for successful re-breeding. His data showed that cows at BCS 4 re-bred at a rate of 60% compared to cows at BCS 5 and 6 which rebred at 81% and 92%, respectively. Body condition at calving IS important.

In terms of knowing the value of your feed, Marty noted that you don't know what you have until you measure it. That includes getting an estimate of your pasture yield, the nutritional value of the pasture, hay and grain. Hay testing is easy. The hardest thing to do is take the time to gather a good sample and send it off for testing. He added that forage testing may even pay for itself by indicating whether you might be feeding more protein and energy than is needed.

He encouraged us to be very cognizant of the protein needs of the cow herd. He said that "inadequate protein causes reduced feed intake, reduced forage digestibility, poorer utilization of the feed consumed and that fewer available nutrients from the forage are utilized by the animal". He showed examples with two sources of hay, one with high protein (high priced hay) and one with low protein (low priced hay). You could feed the high and low quality in a ratio which would balance the needs of the herd. One thing learned from the recent drought, he says, was that cows have the ability to store excess fed protein for several days. This allows you opportunity to feed the high protein feed once every two or three days while feeding the lower protein feed on the intermediate days. Meeting the protein needs of the cow IS important.

Marty encouraged us to calculate the value of your supplemental protein on a "usable" protein per pound basis. He showed a table comparing protein sources where range cubes were valued at \$0.70/lb., corn gluten at \$0.24/lb. and protein tubs at \$1.29/lb. usable protein.

Finally, he stressed the importance of providing proper minerals for your herd. Every pasture is different based on the mineral composition of the soil.

Clay Wright's message centered on how to make better decisions when purchasing bulls and cows. He echoed Marty's words by emphasizing that you don't really know what you have until you measure it. He says that the more data there is on the Registration Certificate, the more informed the buyer can be in his decision making. Suppose a potential buyer inquired about a bull you have for sale and asked about frame size, scrotal circumference, adjusted

weaning weight, adjusted yearling weight and calving ease score. Could you provide this data? If not, you might very well lose that sale.

Wright noted that docility was important for more reasons than just handling the animal. Docile animals are known to be higher grading, are less likely to be “dark cutters” (damaged or bruised muscle tissue that is rejected during meat processing), and have more tender meat. (Editor’s note: Some breed organizations have scoring protocols for docility. Perhaps BWCAA should do this also. See <http://www.bifconference.com/bif2012/proceedings-pdf/05randel.pdf>.)

He also remarked that the ability to breed back once every calendar year (fertility), is the most valuable trait for cows, being 5 times as important as growth rate (average daily gain) and 10



times more valuable than carcass traits (rib eye area, marbling score, etc.). If you are selling or buying heifers, it would be quite helpful to know the calving history of their dams. These records are quite easy to keep and could be provided upfront when advertising heifers for sale.

Wright encouraged us that when we think about marketing our bulls, we should target commercial cow/calf producers as well as other British White breeders. Since we do not have EPD’s (Expected Progeny Differences) for our breed, he suggested we could establish other indices with which to compare individual animals within a contemporary group and utilize them to market British White genetics.