



British White Cattle Association of America

e-News

Spring 2016
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Planning Update - 2016 BWCAA Annual Meeting, National Cattle Show and Sale September 30 – October 1, Purcell, OK

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The annual membership meeting, show and sale committees are making progress. Below is a summary of the events currently planned.

- Thursday, Sept 29.
 - Show and Sale cattle arrival and check-in.
- Friday, Sept.30. OSU Farm and Home Building
 - Registration and Refreshments
 - Two very informative and interesting speakers
 - More refreshments!
 - Annual Membership Meeting
 - Lunch (Fund-raising Auction)
 - BWCAA Board Re-organization Meeting
 - Fitting and Showing Clinic
 - Sale cattle late check-in
 - Evening Entertainment (Montgomery and Boles)
- Saturday, Oct 1. (McLain County Event Center)
 - BWCAA National Cattle Show
 - Lunch
 - BWCAA Cattle Sale
- Sunday, Oct 2
 - Cattle Load-out



Two excellent speakers have been secured for the Friday morning session. These include Kerry Cornelius from the Texas Christian University Ranch Management Program who will speak on the economics of the cow/calf business including budgeting for the annual cost of owning a cow. Dr. Justin Talley, Livestock Entomologist from OSU, Stillwater, will cover management of external cattle parasites. Both topics should be of keen interest to our members.

Following our Annual Membership Meeting and Board Re-organization Meeting, a clinic will be held in the event center designed for new and experienced competitors in cattle shows. Members can learn the fine points in how to prepare an animal for show and the skills helpful in presenting the animal to the judge.

In the evening, weather permitting, we hope to have an opportunity to gather for fellowship and enjoy some great music.

If you haven't halter-broken a calf or older animal, here are some links that may help you get started.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOJCrzqLgB8>

<http://www.wikihow.com/Halter-Train-Cattle>.

http://mysrf.org/pdf/pdf_beef/b7.pdf.

Another alternative is to hire a 4H or FFA student to halter-break them for you. Just call your local school or county extension office for contacts.

The BWCAA National Show will begin early Saturday morning at the McLain Event Center. All cattle shown must be registered with BWCAA and be Standard Marked. In order to show an animal in the Show, a person must be a BWCAA member (Active, Associate or Junior) in good standing, but need not own the animal. The show classes have been expanded this year to include "pen-of-three" animals, as in 3 heifers of the same age and size. All Show animals will be halter broken and shown in the arena. Animals included in the pen-of-three classes can also be shown individually. Also expanded are the Showmanship classes which will include "Novice" competitors of all age groups. This is an opportunity for inexperienced competitors to try their hand at showing. It should be fun!

GRAND CHAMPION BUCKLE SPONSORSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE. FOR \$110. SPONSORS MAY HAVE THEIR NAME OR BUSINESS ENGRAVED ON THE BACK OF THE BUCKLE (SEE LAST YEAR'S BUCKLE PHOTO PG.1)

All bedding for the animals in stalls or wall-tied must be purchased on site.

We are in need of some volunteers to help with the Show and Sale, including an announcer, ring men for the Show to help youth with any uncooperative animals, etc. So, if you can help, please send a note to Sue.

The BWCAA Sale will be held immediately after the Show and the arena set up for the auction. All animals offered for sale must be registered with BWCAA and Standard Marked. **BWCAA will be publishing and mailing out a 2016 BWCAA Show and Sale Catalog, by the 19th of August.** In order to be included in the Sale Catalog, the deadline for consigning animals is August 5, 2015. Entry forms for the Show and Sale will be available from the BWCAA website or can be obtained by calling the Association office.

Consignments may either be "Absolute" or "Reserved". If "absolute", the animal is sold at the price where the bidding stops. However, one may consign an animal at a "reserved" price, and if the reserved price is not met, the owner retains ownership. The Sale commission is set at 10% for all animals sold at the Sale auction and 6% for "reserved" animals that do not sell above the reserved price. We encourage photos of the animals consigned for the Sale for inclusion in the Catalog.

Be sure to plan ahead. Certain health certificates are required to transport cattle across state lines. You may need to schedule vaccinations for your heifers and bulls.

For accommodations, we hope many of you with RV's will utilize the RV hookups at the event center. Also, we recommend Ruby's Inn 405-527-5577, <http://rubys-inn.com>, the Executive Inn, 405-527-5582 or the Sleep Inn 405-307-0919, <http://sleepinn.com/hotel-norman-okaloma-OK172?sousrc=yext>. Many of us stayed at Ruby's Inn last year. It is located about 3-4 blocks from the meeting site. We found it to be clean and well managed, plus the restaurant had some pretty good food at reasonable prices.

2017 British White Calendar and Photo Contest

Calving season is in full swing for many British White cattle owners. It is a perfect time for some great photos. Perhaps even good enough for the 2017 BWCAA Calendar Photo Contest! Just be sure to set your cameras to the highest possible photo quality setting. We will be running the contest later this summer, so start clicking away. The calendars are a great way to promote the British White breed and are a great idea for Christmas gifts for family and friends. Monthly sponsorships at \$100/month will again be available. Sponsors will have their business cards, graphics or ranch name inserted in the blank days of their sponsored month. Proceeds from the sale of the calendars will be directed toward the Junior BWCAA Association start-up account.

That Little Box That Holds So Much!

You know----- that little box beneath the pedigree information on your Breeders Certificate showing production records. Ever wonder what all those numbers mean? Where do they come from? Are they important to you or to those who buy your breeding stock? Read on.

That little box tells all. That is, all that you allow it to tell. If you don't fill in the blanks on the registration application, then there isn't much it can tell you OR the potential customer looking at your heifer, cow or bull.

It is very important to record and report both birth weight and weaning weight at the proper time. This is because the Herdbook software prevents the entering of the yearling weight without having the weaning weight on record. Nor will it allow the entry of the weaning weight without having a birth weight on record. If you use the Pre-weaning Application for Registration, you must follow-up with weaning weights (which must be measured between 160 and 250 days after birth) for it appear in the box. If you use the Post-weaning-weight registration application and don't take hip height measurements (used for FRAME SCORE), then that data will not show up in lower right ADDITIONAL INFORMATION cell on the certificate. You may however submit it later for the LINEAR MEASUREMENT section at the bottom. But wouldn't it be better to have it in the bigger box?

Let's take a look at the box. This is from the most recent update to the Registration Certificate for a hypothetical bull named "El Toro" (born in 2005, now deceased). Anytime someone

SUBJECT ANIMAL'S PROGENY: Under CALVING EASE, we see that El Toro has sired 260 offspring in 27 herds registered with BWCAA and that the average birth weight of these 260 offspring was 70 pounds. Under the 205 DAY ADJUSTED WEIGHT column we see that 104 of El Toro's progeny from 9 herds averaged 517 pounds adjusted weaning weight. Similarly, under the 365 DAY ADJUSTED WEIGHT column, 23 animals from 2 herds averaged 801 pounds adjusted yearling weight. (We will come back to this in a little bit.)

SIRE'S PROGENY AND DAM'S PROGENY: These lines document the performance of El Toro's parents. We can use these comparisons for several things. We can to evaluate El Toro's performance as a sire. Notice that both El Toro's dam and sire adjusted yearling (365 day) weights are the same (614 pounds) as is El Toro's. But notice El Toro's offsprings' yearling weight (at least in 23 of the 260 for which it is reported) of 801 pounds. That should infer something important about El Toro's contribution to the growth of his offspring. We can also make inferences about El Toro's dam and sire as to their potential for egg or sperm donors.

LINEAR MEASUREMENT: These cells at the bottom of the box are for data that are not included in the registration applications and can be added when they become available. Notice that El Toro's rump/hip height* (56.5 inches) and scrotal measurement (42 cm) were taken in 2009 when he was 4 years old. This SCROTAL measurement differs from the 37 cm measurement taken as a yearling because he is three years older. El Toro's FRAME SCORE is included in the

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION cell in the lower right. Linear measurements can be very helpful information for any breeder in choosing a bull or heifer (see Note below). The LINEAR MEASUREMENT section of the box will be discussed in the next issue of e-News.

BWCAA breeders are encouraged to take the time to record these measurements and submit them for inclusion in the Herdbook for the sake of the Association, fellow British White breeders and commercial cattle producers.

- Take advantage of when you have the critters in the chute for vaccinations, ear tagging, tattooing or inseminating. It takes only a minute to measure hip height and scrotal circumference.
- Data can and should be added to an animal's production records whenever it becomes available.
- If you are advertising bulls or cows for sale, ask for an updated Registration Certificate that has had additional data recorded since printing of your original registration certificate. Likewise if you are interested in examining an updated certificate of a bull or dam ask the seller to send you a copy.
- Consider identifying contemporary groups. It can tell you a lot about an animal's performance potential when compared to its cohorts.
- When having your bull semen tested, ask the vet to measure scrotal circumference.

*Note on hip (rump) height. The frame score tables in the Breeder's Guide show frame scores for bulls and heifers at 5 to 21 months of age. Alternatively, an easy and quick way to determine frame score of calves in that same age range is to go to the Noble Foundation's calculator site <http://www.noble.org/aq/tools/livestock/frame-score-calculator/>. Select either bull or heifer, and then enter its age in months. The calculator will provide a frame score to the nearest 10th and estimate slaughter weight and mature weight. For older cows and bulls (24 to 48 months) go to <https://www.angus.org/Performance/AHIR/PerfFrameScore.aspx>. (El Toro's frame score would be 5.2 according his age of 48 months when his rump height was recorded.)