



British White Cattle Association of America e-News

Summer 2016
John Kugler, Editor

Summer Update: Preparations Continue for the 2016 BWCAA Annual Meeting, National Cattle Show and Sale

The Annual Meeting, National Cattle Show and Sale committees continue to make progress developing this year's event which takes place September 30 and October 1, 2016 in Purcell, Oklahoma.

- **Official Guide:** We are in the process of developing an "Official Guide" which will include all meeting schedules, rules, regulations and entry forms for the show and sale, maps, events and other pertinent information. It will be printed and mailed in early August and also available on the BWCAA website.
- **Sponsorships Available:** The Show committee is making available the opportunity for members to support the Show by offering \$50 sponsorships for each major show class. A banner with sponsors' names and/or ranch designation will be displayed during the Show and also included in the Official Guide. Contact Sue at office@britishwhite.org or by phone 218-568-7003 to find out which classes are available for sponsorships.
- **Volunteers Needed:** We are still in need of some volunteers for help with the Show. Specifically;
 - Ribbons and Buckles Manager – organize and distribute awards during Show
 - Sanitation and Safety Inspector – check stalls routinely for cleanliness and organization – order remediation if necessary.
- **Deadlines:** Please take note of the following deadlines for consigning animals to the Sale and entering the Show:
 - Deadline for consigned animals to be included in the Sale Catalog is August 5th. Be sure to send a photo of the animal for the catalog when you fill out the application form.
 - Deadline for consigning animals to the Sale – September 15th.
 - Deadline for entering animals in the Show – September 15th.
- **Entry Forms** for the Show and Sale are available on the BWCAA website under the "Forms" button.

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- **NEW THIS YEAR** –will be a “Youth Grooming Team” that for a reasonable donation (tip) will bathe and clip an animal for anyone entering an animal in the Show. The only requirement is that the animal be halter broken.



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>.

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.

BWCAA Calendar Photo Contest Ballot

Vote Now until July 15

To vote, go to our 2017 BWCAA Photo Contest page listed under **What's New** on the BWCAA website.

The British White Cattle Association of America's photo contest is in the voting stage where members vote their choice for the best 12 photos that will make up the 9" X 12" British White Wall Calendar for the year 2017. Fifty percent of the proceeds after expenses from the sale of calendars and sponsorships will be directed to the fund supporting the formation of the BWCAA Jr. Member Association.

One photo of British White cattle will be chosen as the featured photo for each month of the calendar year. Members now have the opportunity to vote on their choice of the best 12 photos that make the final cut from the 30 as narrowed down by the contest committee. You may vote either by email or regular mail.

The results of the voting will be announced at our Annual Meeting to be held September 30, 2016 in Purcell, OK. We will also have 2017 BWCAA calendars for sale at the Annual Meeting and later purchases can be made online.

SPONSORSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE

Members who would like to purchase a \$100 sponsorship for one month of the calendar can call Sue at the BWCAA office and reserve a month on a "first-come/first served" basis. Sponsor's ads, business cards or other artwork will appear in the blank day-spaces on the calendar of the month they sponsor. Sponsors are responsible for providing the copy-ready information.

Tips on How to Reduce Costs Of Developing Replacement Heifers

British White cattle are known as a highly fertile breed. It is common for British White yearling heifers to reach puberty and calve as two-year olds. Following are some tips from researchers who study the economics of heifer development for your consideration.

Perhaps you prefer to buy bred heifers rather than raise them yourself. That is a good option. But if you raise your own heifers, or buy weanlings, how do you decide which ones to breed and which to sell? When you have your keepers, how do you manage them to provide you with a calf as a two year old?

Consider the following:

- Research has shown that as average scrotal size of bulls increase, heifer age at puberty decreases. If you are buying heifers, find out what you can about their sire.
- Heifer calves born early in the calving season and retained as replacements are more likely to conceive as yearlings and also have an advantage in conceiving as two-year-olds.
- Heifer calves born to cows that are three-years-old or older have an advantage in conceiving in their second breeding season when compared to heifers born to first-calf-heifers.
- Select heifers from cows that historically need no calving assistance.
- Avoid heifers born to dams that have big teats or need help getting their calves to nurse.
- Avoid heifers that were exceptionally small at weaning.
- Avoid heifers that are nervous or have an attitude problem.
- Develop heifers on the feed resources that they will be using when they are cows. If they do well on your pasture, they will probably raise good calves on your pasture.
- When selection is made, expose them for a short breeding season (30-45 days). This will select for those heifers that are the most fertile.
- If the number of replacement heifers to be kept needs to be reduced, give special consideration to keeping daughters from older cows in the herd.

Sources: <http://beef.unl.edu/selecting-and-developing-replacement-heifers>, <http://beef.unl.edu/replacementheifer>.

How Many Clean-up Bulls Do You Need?

Ask most cattlemen how many bulls you need to service your cows for the optimum pregnancy rate and most will tell you that you need 1 bull for every 25 females on average. This is for natural service without estrus synchronization. If you don't use any type of estrus synchronization technique, your breeding season will depend on how long the bulls are with the females. However, suppose you use one of the many methods available to synchronize estrus in your herd so that the calving season is reasonably short, say 45 to 60 days. Would you need more bulls since all your females are cycling about the same time?

Suppose you also AI after estrus synchronization. If you assumed that at least 50% of the females would become pregnant from AI, could you reduce your bull needs by 50%?

Posed with these questions, researchers at the University of Nebraska extensively searched the published database where AI was used on *Bos taurus* cattle. They looked at 33 studies involving over 8400 females, with various synchronization protocols, final pregnancy rates and bull to female ratios.

Results are summarized below:

Synchronization Protocol	Final Preg. rate
Natural Service: 1:20-30 bull to female ratio	87.8%
Normal ratio: 1:20-30 bull to female ratio, Included Sync., some timed AI, some with heat detection	87.8%
Intermediate ratio: 1:31-49 bull to female ratio. Included Sync., some with timed AI, some with heat detection	82.6%
Half the # of bulls: 1:50-60 bull to female ratio. Sync., some with timed AI, some with heat detection	89.2%

Their conclusion is that yes, you can reduce the number of bulls when using estrus synchronization and AI. They also mentioned that when determining your bull to female ratio; consider that older more experienced bulls are more efficient. Also, the pasture size, terrain, and the number of watering facilities can impact the ability of bulls to be where they need to be to service those females in heat. To read the full article, follow this link: <http://beef.unl.edu/documents/2016-beef-report/2-2016-Clean-up-Bulls-after-Estrus-Synchronization-Artificial-Insemination.pdf>.

Semen Wanted – Semen for Sale

Some suppliers of semen routinely advertise on the BWCAA website. When their current ad is about to expire, they renew it.

Problem: Other suppliers have semen for sale but very few breeders know about it. Some breeders would like to find a semen source they haven't used before but don't know whom to ask.

Solution: Members can advertise free in the classified ad section on the BWCAA website, whether selling or buying. If you need help setting up an ad, just ask Sue Seep, Executive Secretary of the Association. She will be glad to help you set one up.

Comments or Suggestions for e-News?

Send them to John Kugler at jkug@cozadtel.net.