

SOUTH POLL GRASS CATTLE ASSOCIATION

SPRING NEWSLETTER, 2012

SOUTH POLL
The Southern Mama Cow Breed

Udders Utmost

By SPGCA President: Teddy Gentry

Udder confirmation and longevity must be at the top of every cow/calf producer's list.

When the udder goes out the cow goes out. It doesn't matter if she is 2 or 10, if the udder is no longer useful the cow is no longer useful. This trait is of "uddermost" importance since no other trait matters if the udder goes.

I believe an udder scoring system for cow families will be an extremely useful tool for future breeders. A good udder is one that will outlast the cow. Udders can go bad for a number of reasons. Teats that are too long will eventually balloon. Suspension of udders can break down over time especially in cows that have too much milk.

Since udder quality is a highly heritable trait, I consider it critical that we use bulls that have stacked pedigrees of good-uddered females behind them. That's the reason we should continue to use bulls out of old cows that have never missed and still have good udders. There are no excuses for keeping a male for reproduction out of a questionably uttered female. Steer him and ship the cow to slaughter.

We should always make sure that the bulls we promote as the elite bulls of our breed are proven for udder quality. It takes time and time alone to lock in these traits. As long as we vigorously and continually cut and cull for udder quality, we will continue to make progress as a breed.



Don't Forget To Register For Field Day In Missouri

Don't forget to get your registration in for the fourth annual field day of the South Poll Grass Cattle Association to be held on Friday and Saturday, June 22 and 23, at Voss Land & Cattle Co. in Linn, Mo.

The fourth annual South Poll seed-stock auction will be held on Saturday, June 23, at 1 p.m. and will feature what breed founder Teddy Gentry calls some of the finest bulls, cow/calf pairs and heifers the breed has to offer.

The two-day event will feature an open forum on farm management practices, the annual South Poll seed stock auction, a pasture walk with nationally-known grazer Greg Judy and a talk from Dr. James Horne, the president and CEO of the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture in Poteau, Okla.

Judy, who will speak on Friday, will go into the basis of evaluating animal performance on pasture, biological monitoring, diversity of grasses and what to look for in grass genetic cattle.

Dr. Bruce Shanks, of Lincoln University in Jefferson City, will make a presentation on multi-species grazing, while writer Ralph Voss will talk on soil amendments such as milk, sea salt, molasses, coral calcium and liquid fish. Voss will also give a demonstration on taking

brix readings on grass.

Saturday will kick off with a welcome from breed founder Teddy Gentry. He will explain the genetic history of the South Poll breed which is a four-way cross including Hereford, Angus, Senepol and Barzona breeds of cattle.

Dr. Horne will make a presentation on the sustainability of the overall agricultural system.

Judy will lead a pasture walk after the auction.

Gentry says the field day will be an opportunity to learn about progressive grazing methods and some of the newest information on soil amendments. He says the \$6 plus corn market has put small and efficient grass cattle, like the South Poll, more and more in demand. "Tender beef off grass, especially when we look at profit per acre, is what our breed is all about," he said.

Preregistration for the two-day event will be needed, with a \$50 per person fee being charged by the association for entrance to all the activities. Youngsters 16 and under will be admitted free. Anyone registering after June 11 will be charged \$85.

A free lunch will be served on Friday and Saturday with a free wiener roast being offered Friday evening after the tour of the Voss farm.

Registration may be sent to the South Poll Association, c/o Jerry Voss, P.O. Box 109, Linn, MO 65051. Call Voss at 573-694-1681 for more information.

Hotel reservations are available at the Settle Inn in Linn for \$69. Call the hotel at 573-897-9903 for a reservation. Rooms are also available at the Baymont Inns & Suites in Jefferson City for \$59 per night. That number is 573-636-5231. You must ask for the South Poll field day special rate at both hotels.

If you have questions or need help in regard to the field day, call Ralph or Jerry Voss at 573-694-1681 or 573-694-1682.

See you at the field day. Bring a sun hat, it's been warm here. You might also want to throw some lawn chairs in the back of the truck.



South Poll bull calves graze on a hill overlooking the Gasconade River near Linn, Mo.



SOUTH POLL
The Southern Mama Cow Breed

2012 South Poll Grass Cattle Association

4TH ANNUAL FIELD DAY

Voss Land and Cattle Co.

244 Hollenbeck Spring Trail - Linn, MO 65051

June 22 and 23

Register before June 11, 2012

\$50 per person (includes 3 meals) Children under 16 free

After June 11, 2012 - \$85 per person

Friday, June 22

Time	Event	Speakers
11 a.m.	Registration Opens	
12 noon	Lunch of grass-fed beef	
1 p.m.	Management Practices Open Forum	Greg Judy, Ralph Voss and Dr. Bruce Shanks
5:30 p.m.	Tour of Farm, View Cattle Herd and grass-fed wiener roast	

Saturday, June 23

Time	Event	Speakers
8 a.m.	Registration Opens	
9 a.m.	Welcome and History of the South Poll Breed	Teddy Gentry
10 a.m.	Essential steps to a sustainable agriculture	Dr. James Horne, CEO, Kerr Center
11:30 a.m.	Lunch of grass-fed beef	
	Viewing of South Poll cattle that will be sold at auction	
1 p.m.	Auction of some of the breed's best bulls, cows and heifers	Bruce Shanks and Greg Judy, Auctioneers
After Auction	Pasture Walk	Greg Judy

A Silent Auction will be held both days and will close after lunch on Saturday.

Name/Names of Registrants:

Address

Attending Friday Lunch _____
Attending Friday Wiener Roast _____
Attending Saturday Lunch _____

Contact Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Please send check or money order made to:

SPGCA - c/o Jerry Voss

P.O. Box 109, Linn, MO 65051 - 573-694-1681

Please print and keep this page for your records