



SOUTH POLL NEWSLETTER

WINTER, 2012

In the Genes

By SPGCA President: Teddy Gentry

The last week in February, I had the chance to visit and tour the facilities of the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo.

WOW!! What an operation!

The 25,000+ volunteers are truly amazing. They really go all out to take care of guests, consignors and vendors.

The whole event runs for about three weeks, with different events happening at different times. They have an international room where all foreign visitors register and a very impressive hospitality suite for all of them. There were about 10 breed display booths around the room. I secured a booth for next year for the South Poll breed.

We also plan to consign a couple pens of females to the commercial heifer sale next year. If you are interested in participating by consigning some females to this sale, let us know as soon as possible. I believe this is a good place to introduce South Polls to a lot of new markets. We're still the only heat tolerant *Bos taurus* U.S. breed that will work in a lot of other countries.

These animals will be displayed in natural hair (no clipping or grooming). I observed some English cattle that had been clipped or shaved because they were probably hairy. These animals will not work in south Texas or any other hot, humid environment. I believe the South Polls are uniquely positioned to meet the growing demand for tender, gentle, easy-keeping grass genetics that can take the heat.

It may take a couple of years for breeders to see what our small, efficient cows can do. As a breed we need to continue to educate people about the benefits of South Poll cattle.

As more people become educated to the real overall value of these females, I believe South Polls will be in high demand for a long time. As long as our breeders are steadfast and united in their desire to produce small, highly-fertile females that have longevity bred in, we have the most efficient breed at producing tender beef off grass.

Sometimes it can be a little boring sticking to this simple breeding system because it takes time. Time to let the good cows sort themselves. Cows that calve every year on time with no problems. Cows that can wean 50 percent of their body weight off grass and still have enough body condition to take them through winter.

Remember that time, and time alone, can prove which cows are best. No show judge has the ability to look at a group of heifers and tell which ones will make the best cows. The judging of a cow should be made at the ripe old age of 12 to 15 years (even older in some cases). By then the records themselves will tell you which animals made you the most profit.

As South Poll breeders, let's keep our eye on the real goals of profit per acre of grass and never be swayed by growth, EPDs or the bigger is better syndrome.

Let's keep it real.

Happy cowing!



Fourth annual South Poll field day to be held in Missouri

The fourth annual meeting and field day of the South Poll Grass Cattle Association will be held on Friday and Saturday, June 22 and 23, at Voss Land & Cattle Co. in Linn, Mo.

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, seas 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.

Gentry says he hopes to have 25 of the finest bulls, cows and heifers the breed has to offer to be sold at the cowboy auction Saturday at 1 p.m.

After the auction Judy will lead a pasture walk.

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 under 16 will be admitted free. Anyone registering after June 15 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 Grass Cattle Association, c/o Jerry Voss, P.O. Box 109, Linn, MO 65051. Call Voss at 573-694-1681 for more information.



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

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