



photo courtesy Riley Curtiss

SOUTH POLL NEWS FALL 2022

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Teddy Talks

We have made remarkable progress over the last 30 years. We have done a lot of things right, but the last couple of years in our National Field Day, I feel that we have drifted away from our core goals of fertility and longevity. In 2023, I hope to have what we are calling "Cow Awards" in place, as well as some farm awards in place for the farms that have the highest percentages of breeding.

The cattle that are consigned to our national sale will be picked because of their records. If you would like to nominate an animal for the sale, please send a production record and a short video along with some photos to the office. Someone representing the Board will go look at the animals nominated and make sure they are meeting our sale goals. We are interested in putting our very best in this sale. If you would like to participate, please send Ann the information so we can start the process. On that note, if you have some suggestions on how to improve our Field Day, please send those ideas into the office as well.

Thank you for your support and help in building a more profitable breed for our young cattle producers going forward.

Respectively,

Teddy Gentry



Photo Contest!

We want to see your BEST Photos!

Submit your ORIGINAL photos to Ann at southpollgrasscattle@gmail.com for publication in the Newsletter or maybe even some of our advertising!

Winners will receive a prize from SPCCA!



15th Annual South Poll Field Day

15TH ANNUAL FIELD DAY TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 22-23, 2023

Creech Farms in Boaz, Alabama are our hosts for the 15th Annual South Poll Field Day! Doug, Kathy, Josh and Amy are our hosts for this year. There was a conflict in the area for our usual June dates, so we are going to give Fall a chance again this year. The farm is beautiful and very close to several of our Charter members farms, so mark your calendars for a few extra days in Alabama!

Greg Judy has agreed to join us for a keynote speaker-we are working on some more fun speakers so keep an eye out on the website and the Facebook Forum for announcements.

Registration will open up after the first of the year, we will make sure you all are the first to know all the details! Looking forward to seeing you all in the Fall!



Herd Bull Creech Farms-photo taken October 14, 2022

WANTED

The Best of the Best!
it's time for the



ALL BREED COMMERCIAL SALE

PLEASE CONTACT DAVE ROBERTS TO SUBMIT HEIFERS FOR THE SALE! THIS IS A PRIME OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO SHOWCASE YOUR HERD IN AN ELITE SALE!

256-996-1788



Submit your favorite recipes for the next Newsletter!
psst...there are PRIZES!
southpollgrasscattle@gmail.com

From the Kitchen

Beef Stew

Here is a great recipe for what is often overlooked cut of meat!

- 2 pounds grass fed stew meat
- 3 carrots, peeled and cut into 1 inch pieces
- 2 stalks celery cut into 1 inch pieces
- 1 white onion peeled and cut into bite size pieces
- 1 bay leaf
- 4 slices of bacon browned and cut into bite sized pieces
- 2 tsp. chopped garlic
- 1 small can tomato paste
- 1 bottle dark beer like Guinness
- 2 1/2 cups beef broth
- Salt & Pepper to taste

Brown stew meat, bacon, onion and garlic in a small amount of olive oil. Season with salt and pepper. Deglaze the pan with Guinness. In crock pot stir tomato paste, water and beef broth together, add in carrots, celery, bay leaf. Add in the Guinness/meat mixture into the crock pot with other liquid. Cook on low for 8 hours or high for 6-- can serve over mashed potatoes or rice or enjoy as a soup.



DOES IT MATTER?

BRUCE SHANKS, PH.D.

Scrotal Circumference Size. Does it Matter?



The importance of scrotal circumference (SC) in bulls has been long understood. According to The Beef Improvement Federation Guidelines (2022), SC has a positive relationship with the potential number of sperm cells that a bull produces. Further, larger SC has been associated with an increased percentage of motile sperm and less abnormal sperm cells. Moreover, it has been shown that bulls with larger SC reach puberty earlier and correspondingly their daughters also reached puberty at a younger age.

The Society of Theriogenology puts forth a set of recommendations that is commonly used by beef producers to measure bull fertility which is generally referred to as a Breeding Soundness Exam (BSE). A BSE, which is usually performed by a veterinarian, consists of a physical examination (including SC measurement) and a semen test. To be classified as a "Satisfactory Potential Breeder" requires adequate physical examination and minimum values for SC and semen parameters. Any bull not meeting minimums is classified as an "Unsatisfactory Potential Breeder" (or deferred). The Society for Theriogenology Bull Breeding Manual (2018) recommends minimal scrotal circumference for bulls to be 30 cm at ≤ 15 months, 31 cm at $15 < 18$ months, 32 cm at $18 < 21$ months, 33 cm at $21 < 24$ months, and 34 cm at ≥ 24 months.

Unfortunately, the guidelines, which although well-founded for traditional beef breeds and conventionally fed bulls, in some instances cause confusion and debate when some technicians fail younger, slower-developed South Poll bulls for not meeting guidelines for SC. Many experienced South poll breeders and their veterinarians alike well-understand the impressive semen quality and breeding ability of South Poll bulls. Although important, SC size is relative and clearly means different things in different breeds. A good point of this was in a Western Producer article that suggested that many times a 30 cm Limousin yearling can produce good semen, but a 30 cm Simmental will be sterile. Wagyu (JAS, 2002) producers and Long-horn breeders I have visited with clearly understand in their respective breeds, SC is often smaller than in conventional breeds, but does not result in reduction in fertility. Information out of Australia (Williams, 2017), further suggests that temperate breeds tend to have larger scrotal circumference at the same weight than tropically adapted breeds. The author states there is no clear point at which SC indicates an increased risk to fertility. Thus, scrotal circumference needs to be interpreted along with other elements of the physical examination, and with semen and morphology results.

Not only can breed and genetics play a role in relative SC size, but likewise, nutrition can have an effect. I would argue that most South Poll producers develop bulls on a lower plain of nutrition than many conventional beef bulls. Our customers tout that these slower-developed bulls seem to have improved longevity and fertility compared to over-fattened bulls in a feedlot. A variety of research trials through the years have shown that overfeeding bulls can lead to increased fat in the scrotum (and thus increased SC) and yet decreases in fertility and hormone function.

I asked Veterinarian, Dr. Hunt Tainter, Franklin County Medical Center, his opinion regarding the aforementioned topic and he said, "Certainly SC size is important, but more so among contemporaries and within a breed or among bulls from a similar group of producers." He went on to say "You must comprehend the situation while performing a BSE, the breed, the management, and use standards accordingly. There needs to be a realization that what really counts is what I am seeing under a microscope and when that is excellent you must understand that standards need to be adjusted and implemented that match the situation."

In summary, SC measurements are a vital component of a BSE, but a developing issue is that some instances young South Poll bulls may not pass a BSE because of not meeting precise SC size/age guidelines. The misunderstanding stems from the lack of recognition that breed and nutritional development may result in slightly smaller SC, with no corresponding negative relationship to semen quality/breeding ability.

*Authors note: I was asked to provide some clarity on this topic after a couple of South Poll producers contacted the Association with questions. For further discussion or questions please contact the author at shanks_bruce@yahoo.com.

Bent Tree Farms

HOME OF THE SOUTH POLL BREED

TEDDY & LINDA GENTRY 256-996-0777
DAVE ROBERTS 256-996-1788
JOSH GENTRY 256-304-4605

1270 COUNTY ROAD 256
FORT PAYNE, AL 35967

Bull 200 Rq # 44347 Exportable!

Bull 8403 (Earl) Rq #40114

Bull 24 Rq#35449 Exportable!

Bull 3413 Rq#34051

Semen stored in AL, TX, MO shipping available

Heifer Plus Semen Options on Select Sires!

Meet a Board Member!



Hi, I'm Dave Roberts. I got the opportunity to be involved with the South Poll breed 24 years ago. I moved from Illinois to Alabama and joined Bent Tree Farms owned by Teddy Gentry, who founded the breed. I was raised in the Hereford and Polled Hereford business and still have some both here and Illinois. My wife, Jenny and I, have three grown kids who are all involved in agriculture in one way or another. Our oldest son, Sean, is in meats product development for several large companies, his wife is a veterinarian. Sara and her husband run lots of cows, pigs and farms, as well as sell grain bins and livestock equipment. In addition Sara teaches science. Over the last two years two of her students have won the Ag Science award at the National FFA Convention. They happen to also be her daughters and our granddaughters. Our youngest son, Jamie, who lives the closest, farms and raises cover crop seed and seed for grazing. His wife is a pharmacist and helps with farm business. We also have eleven grand-kids.

The South Poll breed has made great strides in the last few years. They are being accepted in parts of the country I never thought they would. The main reason is because they adapt to the climate and the forage. Just remember though, just because they can survive on less input than a lot of breeds doesn't mean they can survive on little or nothing.

Things to remember; try to get birth weights and identify your calves when they are born. I read people wait until the next day to do this. I assume you are speedier than I am. South Poll calves are so vigorous they can be hard to catch a few hours after they are born.

Keep good records! If they are good enough to register why not do it. If you are breeding up you need to record your half bloods in order to record the next generation as a three quarter and so on. If you buy cattle and get the papers make sure you are responsible and transfer them when you sell them. Some folks want to sell their cattle for a premium and won't take the time or effort to transfer them to the new buyer. When you buy cattle try to find out as much as you can about them; if you are at someone's place try to see a bull's mother. Chances are, his daughters will follow in his footsteps.

I see people rubbing their herd bull on the head. Be careful, you are teaching him to want your attention every time you are around him and some day he will get you in a corner and start playing with you. I learned the hard way.

New breeders shouldn't be a market for your culls; they make great cheeseburgers.

The South Poll breed is being accepted in more and more parts of the country. The word gets out when you are doing things right. There were quite a few calves born in Mexico this year, some in South America and there is demand in Australia and New Zealand.

If you have South Polls now or planning to get some, good luck and if you need some cheap advice don't be afraid to call.

Dave Roberts
256-996-1788

YEAR LETTERS FOR TAGGING CATTLE

2016.....D	2021.....J	2026.....P	2031.....W
2017.....E	2022.....K	2027.....R	2032.....X
2018.....F	2023.....L	2028.....S	2033.....Y
2019.....G	2024.....M	2029.....T	2034.....Z
2020.....H	2025.....N	2030.....U	2035.....A



ATTENTION

The Classified Section of our website is available to the public for viewing. Unfortunately, that opens up an opportunity for some folks that may be up to 'no good'. Please make sure that when you are dealing with a potential buyer that you are using caution. Do your due diligence and homework to make sure the deal is above board.

All transactions that result from the Classified Section of our website are between buyer and seller.

Field Day Pics!



OFFICE UPDATE

By: Ann Demerath

Hello from the office!

Once again, you all are keeping the office busy! Our numbers are again on an upward trend! In between registrations and transfers, I have been steadily adding members, both new and old to the website and cleaning up some areas of the registry.

At our recent board meeting in Alabama, the focus was mainly on getting Whole Herd reporting done. I am planning on sending out the report soon, so keep an eye out for that. Please note, that you have to have at least one calf crop in the registry for you to receive a report. Once you receive these, please get them back in to the office in a timely fashion so we can work towards getting our Maternal Index current.

We also toured the location for the 2023 Field Day--this one will be special on several levels! First off, it will be our 15th year!! Also we have a great keynote speaker on the line--Greg Judy will be on hand to share his knowledge and talents with us all. It's been several years since Greg has gotten a chance to be with us, and I know you won't want to miss it!

In case you haven't checked out the new member profiles on the website--you should! This is going to be a powerful tool for members in good standing with the Association! You can create a profile that has the ability to link YOUR websites and social media profiles, as well as a short bio on you and your operation, plus you can add a photo of your choosing! We only have a few folks that have taken full advantage of this--so please take a minute and get your profiles set up--once we get through this--it will be a great way to network and connect on a lot of levels! In the meantime, if you haven't received your invitation, please email me, and I will send it out to you. We are not currently posting in a public place as we are making sure to keep non-members (and miscellaneous spam) off of our website. We are working towards adding in members who have been with us for a number of years, so keep an eye on your inboxes.

The Classified section of the website is also growing quickly--a couple of things to note, are that we changed the protocol of this section. In addition to having to be a current member, your ads will post immediately when you put one up. If you have to make an edit--it will kick it to an approval status--if the ad doesn't get loaded within 24 hours during office hours, please send me a text or an email and we will approve as soon as we can.

School will be over for the year before we know it--please don't forget to apply for the SPGCA scholarship! This \$500 Scholarship is open to any SPGCA Junior member in good standing. The application can be found by [clicking here](#)

I think that about covers it from the office for this time around--and in the meantime, if there is anything I can do for you, please let me know!

Hope you are all well and ready for winter!

~Ann



Happy Fall!

Please Don't Forget!!

Email your favorite recipes, photos and anything else you would like to see in the SPGCA Newsletter to the office!

THERE ARE PRIZES!

Are you next?
Your ad could be here!
\$100 Full Page Ad!
\$50 1/2 Page Ad!

**CALL ANN AT THE SOUTH POLL GRASS CATTLE
ASSOCIATION FOR DETAILS!
417-256-8355**

ONLINE REGISTRATION TIPS!

Many of you have been utilizing the online registration tool on the website. Please reference the tips below to help you have a more complete and correct set of papers.

* Make sure you have a Livestock Genetics Account set up. This is DIFFERENT than what you have set up for the website. If you don't have your LG account set up, you will need the following information.

1. Member number--5 digits usually and is found on your welcome letter or any registration in your name.
2. Username--please use first name.last name or some combination of that so you are easily identified by the office--it makes it easier for the office to find your information.
3. Choose your password and make a note of it.

Online registration is fairly easy! Here are a few more things that you will want to do when you are getting ready to register animals!

1. Fill out the spreadsheet under cattle/cattle forms on the website and print it off--all of your information will be in one handy spot to make the process easier.
2. Once you have your information compiled and you are logged in click Calving Sheet tab.
3. You can choose to enter from Active Dams tab or enter the calves individually.
4. Naming a calf--this is how calves are named in the system: Herd Prefix Sire TAG number Dam TAG number Calf TAG number. Please make sure to put a space in between each section of the name Example: CSR 4440 12345 2201 If you are choosing to add a name of calf, please do so after the calf tag number with NO space between.
5. Once you are all done entering information, you must click the Proceed to (year) calf crop--this is located at the top of the screen and is underlined.
6. You may see some errors--some of the more common ones are 'dam not owned at time of conception and no permit on file' If you see this error, it is most likely due to a transfer date conflict OR you are trying to register a calf that you weren't responsible for the breeding of. If you see this error, you need to contact the office and we will resolve it. Another common error is 'dam had calf within 274 days' this is also an error that will need to be looked at by the office. Most commonly, the calf is already registered, or there is a birthdate conflict.
7. When you are done entering in all of your information and have hit the SYNC button, please email the office and let us know how many animals you think you have entered along with any work order number you have noticed. That way, we know you have something in the system and can track it down as well as make sure we know your order is complete.
8. We will review your order, check for any errors, print and bill.
9. A couple of other things to note: We don't use the Livestock Genetics billing option--if you see a 'balance due' on your account in LG- please don't be concerned, all of your billing will come either on a QuickBooks statement on paper with your order, or in your email if we are not mailing you anything.
10. On the website, if you haven't already done so, please set up your website profiles. If you click [this link](#) it will take you to the setup link. Again, please use the first name.last name option when choosing your username so we can easily find your member name if we need to help you out. Take the time to customize your profile with pictures, bio, and social media links. The more links we have amongst us, the more powerful this tool will be for all of us!
11. As always, I am here to help you! If I don't answer, leave me a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible! I am trying to take a couple days a week away from the phone so I can dedicate more time to entering in data, but I WILL call you back!



**South Poll Grass Cattle Association
New Membership Application**

Name to be on Certificate _____

Farm Name _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Phone _____

Cell _____

Herd Letters:

Choice 1 _____

Choice 2 _____

Choice 3 _____

Email List Opt in-please check box to be added to the South Poll newsletter email list

OFFICE USE ONLY: _____
Membership Fees \$100.00 year.

Please send check or money order to:
South Poll Grass Cattle Association
5235 Gravel Point Road
Mountain Grove, MO 65711
256-996-8355

Signature _____ Date _____

**By signing this form you agree to abide by the rules and regulations and the by laws of
South Poll Grass Cattle Association**

*THE GRASS IS NOT, IN FACT, ALWAYS GREENER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE
FENCE. NO, NOT AT ALL. FENCES HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT. THE
GRASS IS GREENEST WHERE IT IS WATERED. WHEN CROSSING OVER FENCES,
CARRY WATER WITH YOU AND TEND THE GRASS WHEREVER YOU MAY BE.*
-ROBERT



Photo: Marty Davis, Missouri

In the next issue

- Teddy Talks
- Field Day Updates
- More!

Let's keep in touch

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