

NZ MINIATURE HERFORD  
BREEDERS GROUP  
NEWSLETTER  
APRIL 2013



**Notice of**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Saturday 29th June 2013**  
**To be held at**  
**'THE RED BARN'**  
**171 Millar Road**  
**Lake Okareka**  
**Rotorua**



Hi to all Miniature Hereford breeders,

**This is Notice of AGM meeting so you can mark this date on the calendar.**

This year our AGM meeting is to be held at The Red Barn, 171 Millar Road, Lake Okareka, Rotorua.

After getting feedback from members the AGM will only a one day meeting.

It would be great to have your attendance and for members to be able to put faces to names. A special welcome to new members since last years AGM, we do hope you can attend. It is always great to get together and talk minis and swap ideas.

If you have any items you wish to have put on the Agenda please email them to either Secretary or Chairman....

Secretary - Debra Hamilton - dhamilton@xtra.co.nz

Chairman - Graham Hunkin - hunkin-garden@xnet.co.nz

We will be in touch closer to the date with more information

For those of you who may have to come a long distance please contact Helen as there is room to stay at the Red Barn.

Helen Russell - helen@amberleafarm.co.nz or ph: 07/362-8030



**We would love you to share in this growing Breeders Group more...**

**Why not think about putting your hand up for Council**

**Positions available for re-election:** Chairman  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Registrar  
Editor  
General Council members



## Junior Cattle Handlers Camp

For those members who are not interested in showing their animals or even those who perhaps would be if their animals were quieter when handled can I suggest something which may be of interest.

Having been approached by organizers of the WA Junior Cattle Handlers Camp for a lend of heifers and steers up to 2years old I delivered 12 heifers to the camp last Wednesday. The older half of the group had been to shows etc but he younger 6 were only weaned early March. Once the bellowing for mum had stopped they had been put on halters and leads, tied up for a couple of hours and then led back to their paddocks on probably three occasions over the past month.

These 6 were used for children in the 8-12year age groups who had little or no experience in handling. Being only 7 months they were small enough but still strong enough to need the handler to learn to control whilst at the same time gaining their confidence in their own skills to handle an animal.

The handlers had to wash, water, feed, brush, make a rope halter for leading, lead the animal in a ring for instruction and correction, use a nose ring, learn to judge and pick faults in animals, learn to clip and blow dry animals and many other chores like bedding etc.

Not only are the handlers learning but your animals are too and it is amazing how they respond. It was amazing the confidence gained by these children and my young calves. The students were ever so grateful and so too the organizers.

When it came time to leave I was besieged by offers to lead them to the float and was surprised to find these same children bringing not only the smaller animals they had been working with but the older 6 also. One little girl was crying because she had to part from the calf and I think a few others would have taken them home if allowed.

My point is what a great advertisement for our breed and something which takes only limited time for breeders and gives the animal lifetime ease of handling for the owner and a wonderful selling point to any prospective buyer. Many of these children are the cattle buyers of the future.

I am sure there are many Junior Handlers Groups across New Zealand and Australia who would appreciate the offer of animals of this size for use with children just starting out in cattle handling.

Denise Warner  
Australia



**Thanks Denise for the article. It's great having members who get out there and show off their Minis and yes we should all check out possibilities in our own areas for young handlers to help show our stock.**

# PUTTING YOUR best foot forward

To better understand treatment and prevention principles for lameness, we need to look at the anatomy of a cow's foot, where the 'rubber meets the road'.

THE DIAGRAMS BELOW REMIND us that the hoof is not a solid block, but rather it's a lot like a finger or toe with specialised toenails growing down over the sole. Each hoof has three bones and a couple of joints in it. The sole, which should normally be about 1cm thick, is subjected to about 30psi pressure, roughly that of an average car tyre every time the cow walks on a firm surface.

The vast majority of New Zealand lameness is clearly traumatic – a result of physical damage to the cow's hooves from impact affects the hoof horn. Most lameness occurs in hind legs, most often in the hoof. About one third of cases are sole penetration (from small stones for example) and

another third are from White Line Disease, where the join of the sole hoof and the wall hoof has become damaged or infected.

### Treatment

The principles of treatment are based around accurate diagnosis, trimming away damaged tissue and draining pus. Your aim is to restore the weight-bearing surface to health and strength. Supporting the painful claw, antibiotics and pain relief are also beneficial on occasion. Key principles are:

- Don't delay treatment, apart from the very mild cases. Schedule time and an environment where you can do a good job. Set up where you can restrain the cow properly, ideally with a spare set of hands to hold the rope etc.
- Buy good gear, including a soft, strong rope, double action hoof trimmers, hoof testers and sharp knives or grinder. Have dressings and hoof blocks handy and organised.
- Figure out which foot/feet are involved first by watching the cow walk on a firm surface.
- Clean the foot thoroughly and precisely to identify painful spots with hoof testers before you cut. This may save you cutting at all! Only look further up the leg once you are convinced there is no foot pain.
- Pare all dead tissue away, but avoid bleeding if possible. Drain any abscesses and use a hoof block if the cow is bearing no weight on the foot.
- Only consider antibiotics if infection is obvious – never just jab the cow and not lift the foot! If you do treat, don't forget to withhold the milk.

- Get the vet to look at the trickier cases or if you are not sure.

### Prevention

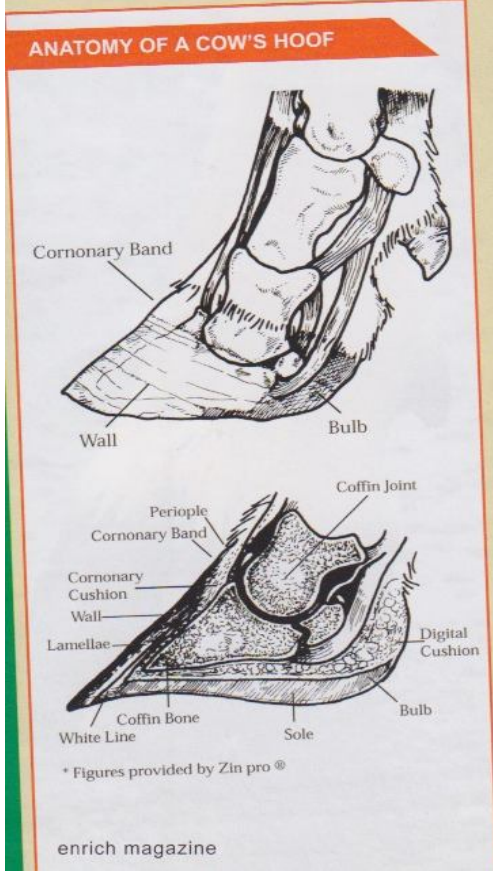
'An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure'. Spend time assessing the risk factors, and be prepared to pay for good advice. This article cannot go into the depth of detail you need. Join the Healthy Hoof programme if you are really struggling (see [www.dairynz.co.nz](http://www.dairynz.co.nz)).

Key components of a good prevention program are:

- Well maintained, well drained races of good width (6m for the average 315 cow herd). Pay particular attention to races close to the farm dairy and tight corners.
- Relaxed cow movement and staff – no hurrying, or pressuring cows when their heads go up.
- Avoid cows being pushed around on the milking yard. Concrete can be abrasive, especially on heifers with already thin, soft hooves which are getting bullied. Rubber matting can be installed in turning areas or where concrete aggregate has become exposed. Monitor backing gate use to avoid heifers in particular getting hammered.
- Consider breeding for good conformation and black hooves. White hooves are softer and more vulnerable.

If you are concerned about lameness problems in your herd, talk to the team today at your local RD1 store for practical advice and cost-effective solutions.

Article supplied by Shoof International Ltd



I read this article in a recent magazine and thought it worthy or passing on to you. Thanks to Shoof International for letting us copy it. [www.shoof.co.nz](http://www.shoof.co.nz) for a look at their catalogue of products.

## HEIFERS & COWS - FOR SALE

**Awanui Stud** has several top females for sale. Need to sell before July as they are going away in July. Negotiable for package deal.

3 x In calf Cows, 3 x In calf heifers

Contact: Elaine Retter - [awanui@orcon.net.nz](mailto:awanui@orcon.net.nz)

or Ph: 07/888-4389

Awanui Milly - DOB 06.01.04

Awanui Flora - DOB 14.09.06

Awanui Queenie - DOB 27.08.07

Awanui Miss Elis - DOB 19.10.10

Awanui Abbey - DOB 16.08.10

Awanui Crystal - DOB 20.08.10

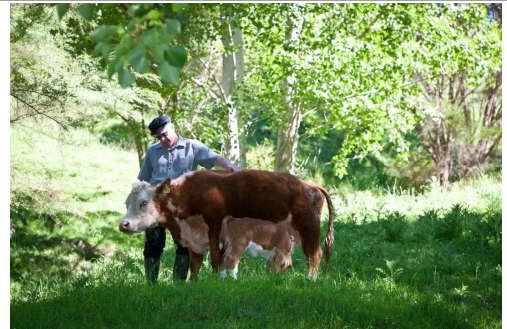


**Tamerton Stud** has a mature Cow with heifer calf at foot for sale

Contact: Stephen Collier - [colliersinwanganui@hotmail.com](mailto:colliersinwanganui@hotmail.com)

or Ph: 06/342-4749

Esprit Holly - DOB 24.08.05 + heifer calf



**Esprit Stud** - In calf Heifer - THIS HEIFER IS 'POLLED' - So here is an opportunity to introduce some polled stock into your herd. She is in calf to a horned bull this first time as I didn't want to AI her this year but she can be AI'd with new polled bloodline once she is a cow.

Esprit Beth 205 - DOB 05.09.11

Also have available 2 x In calf cows also with "polled Bloodline"

Contact: Helen - [Helen@amberleafarm.co.nz](mailto:Helen@amberleafarm.co.nz)

- Ph: 07/362-8030



**Riverview Stud** is wanting to reduce his animals numbers going into winter....

"Approx 6 x registered older mini Hereford cows for sale. I need to reduce my stock for winter so these are destined for the works. Still good for a few calves yet so a good cheap way to increase your herd. Animals are empty. Selling price close to works value. Away for two weeks so contact me early May if interested. I can give pedigree and pictures then.

Contact Graham Hunkin - [sales@hunkin.co.nz](mailto:sales@hunkin.co.nz) or Ph: 09/236-9390

Gladwyn Hieghts Melia 41 - DOB 29.004.11

Contact: Sharon O'brien - [Sharon@kinect.co.nz](mailto:Sharon@kinect.co.nz)

Ph: 07/542-0061



## **BULLS! BULLS! BULLS! - FOR SALE**



Below is a list of stock for sale by members. Please contact them directly or ask Helen for more information and photos of any of these animals.

- Akatea Lord Jonny 03-011 - DOB 08.09.03
- Gladwyn Heights Leeroy 36 - DOB 21.09.10
- Gladwyn Heights Leon 35 - DOB 18.09.10
- Gladwyn Heights Locke 37 - DOB 27.09.10
- Also have available - several rising 2yr bulls  
Contact - Sharon O'brien - Tauranga - sharonobrien@kinect.co.nz  
or Ph: 07/542-0061



- Lil Boy 08-119 - DOB 23.08.08  
Contact - Graham Cammell - Clevedon - graham@cammellshoney.co.nz or Ph: 09/292-3010
- Awanui Clifford 1056 - DOB 01.09.10  
Contact Elaine Retter - Matamata - awanui@orcon.net.nz or Ph: 07/888-4389
- Lorre Bullseye - DOB 10.08.10
- Lorre Baxter - DOB 20.08.06  
Contact - Debra Hamilton - Feilding - dhamilton@xtra.co.nz or Ph: 06/328-5976

- Sully Alexander 10-004 - DOB 17.11.10
- Sully Bartholomew 10-037 - DOB 10.09.10  
Contact - Karen McNab - Greymouth,  
South Island - kj.awsfarm@y7mail.com or Ph: 03/768-9995



- Lil Duke - DOB 19.09.12  
Contact - Christine Turner - Hamilton - nmrstnz@xtra.co.nz  
Ph: 07/824-1946



- Ruzak Park Dynamite 09-0004 - DOB 30.10.09  
Contact - Paul Arnold - p.arnold@xtra.co.nz or Ph: 03/434-1184
- Raukawa 09-0022 - DOB 10.05.09
- Tamerton Tavy - DOB 16.09.10  
Contact: Stephen Collier - colliersinwanganui@hotmail.com  
or Ph: 06/342-4749



**Kracka Stud** - For Sale - 2 x Steers - nearly at finishing weight. They are booked with the butcher for July but if anyone is interested in them make an offer.

Also have 1 yr old heifer for Sale.

Contact: Sarah Wright - nzmh@xtra.co.nz or Ph: 09/292-7474

**DO YOU HAVE FOR SALE STOCK? LET US KNOW**  
Any information, articles or photos that you would like to put forward for the next Newsletter please email or post to Helen Russell.....thanks

191 Millar Rd, RD 5,  
Rotorua.

Ph: 07/362-8030

Fx: 07/362-8040

Email: helen@amberleafarm.co.nz



## Homeopathic Animal Health Remedies

Have you thought of using natural remedies on your animals?

Well some people obviously have. We heard a Homeopathic Clinic based in Ohaupo is specialising in Animal Health so we decided to do a little investigating on this for our readers.

It seems that most of the natural remedies that many of us are now using in the home like Arnica, are also working wonders on our farm animals. A quick glance through the information leaflets gave small idea of the wide range of health issues could be address with natural remedies. Some suggestions were....

Arnica – Is useful for cows after calving to help stop bleeding and reduce shock and hasten recovery of bruised tissue. It is also useful for calves in shock from a difficult birth.

Ignatia – Also good for shock and emotional upset, hysterical behaviour and mood swings.

Ledum – If joints are swollen, hot, stiff and painful, eg. Rheumatic or gout-like.

Stamonion – Milk Fever prevention and useful with grass staggers to settle down the nervous system

Silica – Helps with footrot

Herbs are also something that needs to be considered, for example Alfalfa can help increase the quantity and quality of milk. Also improves vigour and stamina.

Try Cider Vinegar to help with Rye Grass Staggers. This can either be added to water trough administered per cow. (Correct dosage is important, so don't try this without seeking advise)

Quite a number of dairy farmers are now moving to some natural remedies for minor ailments not requiring a vet visit, although we must state this is by now means meant to replace calling your vet when an animal is in pain or suffering you must consult your veterinarian. Preventative measures such as using Homeopathy pre – Facial Eczema season and pre- mating season can be useful. There is a small course that farmers can attend to learn about these remedies and how to administer them.

If you would like to learn more about natural remedies and Homeopathy for your animals you can contact Homeopathic Farm Support Ltd, 07/858-4233 Hamilton.

Or you could check out their website - [www.farmsupport.co.nz](http://www.farmsupport.co.nz)

Happy Farming



(Do always consult with your vet if you are unsure)

**Yesterday is history  
Tomorrow is a mystery  
Today is a gift  
That is why it is called the "PRESENT"**

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