



NZ MINIATURE
HEREFORD BREEDERS
GROUP NEWSLETTER

And here we areIT'S Spring!



Don't forget to like

OCTOBER 2021



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Welcome New Members

Lynda Barrington , Amberly

South Island

Kellie Menzies , Morrinsville

Waikato

Anna Armstrong ,Kiakoura

South Island

We welcome everyone, its brilliant to have you all in the Mini Group. We look forward to any queries, ideas, photos and general communication.

ONAWE STUD



NZ Miniature Hereford Group Facebook Page

Just so you know we have boosted our site out to farmers, life-style farms , Urban farms and cattle breeders. Thanks to Kerry Sixtus for his donation to promote our Miniatures. This has increased our page likes and followers to over 280 ./Our page is getting people interacting looking for minis to buy and genuinely interested in our breed. Sales are happening and we are getting new members. Some members have created their own FB pages as well.

Kellie Menzies (Oaks End) <https://www.facebook.com/oaksendminiherefords/>

Graham and Liz Kent (Fern Creek)
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100073257829590>



Vicky Ashton (Rocklyn)
<https://www.facebook.com/crashton56/>

If you are on facebook please like our page and other breeders pages. And make sure you share to all your friends as this will increase our likes. I know some don't understand the power of FB but I assure you this will increase the popularity of the breed which intern will create more sales.

From this page I have passed buyers on to various members which has generated sales.

Cattle Birth

- A cow may spend couple of hours seeking out a birth site, and going through the first stages when the calf moves into the birth canal and the water bag appears.
- The next delivery stage after bursting her waters and appearance of calf should take about 15 minutes. If longer then investigate what is going on or get help. The calf should be born in a diving position. If not, you'll need to sort out the problem.
- The final stage is passing of the afterbirth, which the cow may eat for hormonal benefit and removal from predators in wild.
- Disturbance will up upset and delay this pattern. It can have bad effects on calf as it dries out and makes the passage more difficult.
- The calf should be on its feet in 15-30 minutes and should start teat seeking. It's vitally important that the calf gets colostrum. It needs at least 2 litres before 6 hours old.
- The calf nuzzles the side of cow feeling for warm bare skin with teat. It can be very frustrating for calf, especially if their mother is a heifer as she may panic and turn to look at calf.
- Inexperienced dams may attack the calf, and not stand still and nuzzle calf's tail head to encourage it to suck.
- Bonding is very quick in cattle and takes only a few minutes. It is based on smell and vision.
- This can lead to problems of parent accuracy in large herds where groups are synchronised to calve together. Staff have to make Identification decisions that can be 13% wrong but pedigrees can now be confirmed by DNA tests.
- Most cows will not accept another calf after this unless you play other tricks on her. Some cows will accept any alien calves.
- The calf will follow the cow, or any moving object a few hours after birth.
- Calves often fall into drains during this early mothering period as they stagger about. They can also fall on to the power fence and the constant shock on their wet body can kill them.



CATTLE SENSES

SIGHT

- Cattle have a well-developed eye that sees some colour but not as much as humans.
- They generally avoid bright light if given preference.
- The position of each eye allows very wide peripheral vision along the side.
- This alerts the cow to movement which is then investigated using binocular vision.
- A good side view is useful for watching where other animals are during grazing with head down. So cattle have nearly 360° vision as they move around when grazing.
- Using two eyes, the cow has a much narrower binocular vision (about 25-50°).
- We exploit the wide peripheral vision when moving stock using their "point of balance" just behind the shoulder.
- Cattle have a narrow blind spot at the rear where they are vulnerable, so they move a lot to keep checking it out.
- Cow's eyes are designed to see down rather than up. When alarmed will raise head to investigate.
- A bull in fight response uses one eye to watch you, but is getting his head ready for sideways swipe at same time.

Cattle can recognise different people from their shape and colour of clothing. They can also count, and associate more than one person or someone in green overalls, with pain or stress of injections or forced handling.

HEARING

- Cattle are sensitive to high frequency sounds which people cannot hear.
 - These high frequency sounds can increase arousal and low tones are more relaxing for them.
- Music is regularly used in milking parlours to provide cows with a familiar background noise.

SMELL

- Cattle have a better sense of smell than people.
- The smell of blood can cause great panic. This is seen when cattle pass paddocks treated with blood and bone fertiliser.

For some unknown reason, this panic is not consistent but is very real.



TOUCH

- Cows have a very sensitive skin and can flick flies off from localised areas.
 - Cows respond to touch and use it as an important form of communication among each other.
 - Mutual grooming is important in cattle, especially in mature animals.
 - Dams lick and groom their calves right up to weaning.
 - Touch is important for handlers to warn cows where you are - e.g. when milking.
- One really bad experience by cattle will put them off all people for a considerable time till a positive human/animal bond is restored.

DNA TESTING

Don't forget to have your bulls and this seasons bull calves DNA tested. You won't be able to register any progeny without your DNA. All bulls that are sold need to be SNYP tested to verify parentage .

Why not consider having your females done also. While you still have a small herd, this can be very useful if you find yourself unsure of who the sire was at any stage in the future.

NZHA recommend SNYP testing DNA. The NZHA and NZMHBG will advise you how to do this

Frame Score Certificates

To date there are still a lot of members who haven't done their Frame Scores on their animals.

Please note that this is in the rules and regulations.....animals 2yrs and over to be Frames Scored. Do not feel intimidated by this...it is not that hard to do. You need to have either another NZMHBG Breeder or your local vet to verify measurements.

We have measuring sticks available to buy. \$75 plus postage. Let me know if you would like one to measure your cows.

vicky@rocklynstud.co.nz

The sizes of the Minis

Regular size Herefords can reach 165cm tall, where Miniature Hereford is a lot smaller. They range between 106cm through to 117cm in height.

Miniature Hereford Cattle are measured at the hip using a frame score.

Example Frame score – 2yr old Cow

<u>Frame Score</u>	<u>Height at Hip</u>
2	117cm (46")
1	112cm (44")
0	107cm (42")
00	102cm (40")
000	97cm (38")
0000	92cm (36")

We have measuring sticks available to buy. \$75 plus postage. Let me know if you would like one to measure your cows.

Don't forget this is important and is required to do.



For sale

AI Semen Straws also For Sale:

Riverlets CSF Guage – 55 straws available \$140.00 (Plus GST) per straw SSR Cooper – 55 straws available \$140.00 (Plus GST) per straw. This includes the release fee where currently stored

Please contact Gillian McKenzie Home: **099747560** Mobile: **0210479441** email thumper20@ubernet.co.nz

Newsletter articles....

We would love to have some articles from Miniature Hereford Breeders..... doesn't matter if you are new or old members! What you think maybe boring maybe interesting to others.

Why not write us a small article about what you are doing on your farm. I know that we will all be interested and there is always opportunity to learn from others and their experiences.



Graham Kent
with his bull
Barney Rubble