



Bohaty Farm Bulletin

January 2012

Bohaty's British Whites— Quality You Can Count On!

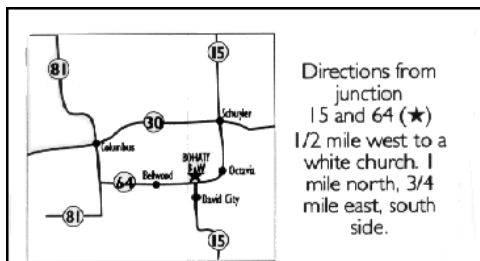
**Bohaty British Whites
20th Annual Open House
And Sale Date will be held
April 14, 2012.**

**Our On-line Catalog
will be on our web site in
February with pictures,
pedigree, and statistics for
each animal listed for sale.**

**If you plan to arrive on
Friday April 13
there will be a meal
Friday evening
Time and place to be
Announced**



*Selling a 2-year old bull
B&B Draco 19X &
B&B Melody 55X bred heifer*



Directions from
junction
15 and 64 (★)
1/2 mile west to a
white church. 1
mile north, 3/4
mile east, south
side.

**Bohaty's British Whites
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www.britishcattle.com**

5 Key Points to Calf Records ***by Kris Ringwall, Beef Specialist NDSU***

Excerpts from Tri-State Livestock New 10/2/10—Fall is, depending on where one lives, the time to process calves. As producers, fall also is the last time we physically have the calf in our possession. We need to take the time to note or record the information we would like to have for each calf.

Most calf data sets start with 5 points. These points are calf ID, the dam of the calf or cow ID, calf sex, birth date and calf weight. These points are the foundation of all calf data among those active in the beef business.

The calving book is the starting point because cow & calf ID, calf sex & birth date are recorded at birth, allowing a calf to be age- and source-verified.

Calf weight is a measure of production output, & the date it is taken will vary from operation to operation. However, a weight measurement around 7 months of age is the goal.

In addition to the 5 basic points, additional fall data, such as calf frame score (hip height) and other comments regarding selected calves, could be collected. Comments are seldom, if ever, incorporated into a data base. However, through the life of a cow, those comments certainly will bring back memories &, if frequent enough, may be considered during a management review.

These comments also can lead to formulating contemporary groups (calves that are all raised under similar conditions) & placing a code on each calf designation the respective contemporary group to which the calf should be allotted.

If one reviews typical calving book data, calf birth weight & calving ease are recorded & can be inputted into the ranch record system. Information that may not be collected directly from the calf but is known about the calf, based on breeding information or other records available, could be the sire of the calf & age of the cow.

Cow age may not be an obvious data need, but most

producers realize that heifers, second-calf heifers, younger cows, mature cows, old cows, ancient cows & eventually, broken-toothed & gummer cows all have different needs. The level of output will vary a great deal based on the age of the cow. The sire of the calf will help evaluate sire selection & the value of the sires utilized within the herd.

The process seems so simple. If you believe that, you never have ear tagged a calf or convinced a new mother that her calf really does need to be weighted. However, these challenges are not significant enough that one should cast aside herd performance data without at least pondering both sides.

Producers who maintain information & performance records have one notable advantage versus those who don't. They know where they are. They do not need to have someone tell them where they are, & they can evaluate the pros & cons of each managerial input within their herd. They are not swayed by fads, opinion or other novel approaches destined to cure all their ills. These producers are in control; they manage & they know.

Not all herds need to maintain the same type of data, but regardless of what data are kept, even a little is better than none. Ultimately, the cow is the producing unit & the key to a successful cow/calf operation. The cow is available in many breed types that vary in size, milk production, & the ability to add on condition. Without any knowledge of her production output, she quickly can become a production freeloader. She even may learn a little self-preservation by being missing on evaluation days.

The bottom line: Spend some time reviewing the year's production & riding the pastures. Go one step further by writing down a few thoughts.

Pick a day, work those calves at your own pace, enjoy a cup of coffee or two & do some pondering as to what's up for next year. When the time is right, incorporate those thoughts into a herd production record program that will help you evaluate your thoughts for this year and for years to come.