



## Bohaty Farm Bulletin

February 2010

# Bohaty's 18th Annual Open House & Sale April 17, 2010

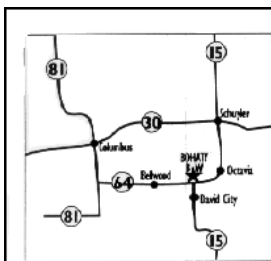


October 10, 2009  
And winter hadn't even started yet!!

**Plan to visit our local  
Bone Creek Museum of Agrarian Art  
575 E St David City, NE  
Hours 10AM to 4 PM Tues-Sat.  
Exhibit in April is  
"Cowgirls: Contemporary Portraits  
of the America West"  
Cowgirl Reception April 18th, 2-4 PM**

Walter hasn't had time to take pictures of the worst of the snow we've had this winter. It has been a struggle but the cattle seem to be doing pretty well. January thaw is creating some muddy lots, so we've started moving the calves out on pasture for over night so they can at least lay down some place other than in a mud hole. It even thawed enough to clean off the cement in front of the bunks. Lots of snow and ice had built up because of the December and January snow storms. Our 18th annual open house is coming up rapidly. The catalog will be on our web site in February.

Coming the night before (April 16th)? Join us at the Runza Hut at 6:30 in David City for good food and great company!! We hope to see many of you at our open house (should dry out some by then, we hope). The day starts with coffee and donuts around 8 AM, lunch at 11:30 and the sale at 1PM. We expect to see several of our BWCAA board members there as well as a board meeting has been scheduled for that day. So come prepared to visit with friends old and new.



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  
Walter & Nancy Bohaty  
1371 42nd Road  
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[www.britishcattle.com](http://www.britishcattle.com)**

# Bull Development (a background on bull management)

by Stephen B Blezinger, PH.D., PAS

## Excerpts from the NE Beef Quality Assurance Newsletter

A key to understanding how to manage newly purchased bulls is to understand how they are developed in the first place & determining which program was used on the bull or bulls you are considering for purchase. These programs can range from the very simple to the very elaborate. One thing the cattle producer must keep in mind is that new bulls, especially since most of them are young (18-24 months of age) require added management to ensure a good start to their career & the kind of longevity we look for in a bull. Some of the options used include:

1). Forage Developed—these are bulls that have been grown out and developed on a forage-based nutritional program which may be purely pasture, pasture and hay, pasture and silage, hay, hay, and silage, etc. In most cases these types of programs require a minimum of mineral supplementation. Some supplemental protein and energy may be needed to keep bulls gaining at an acceptable rate of 2 to 2.5 pounds per day. The goals are multi-fold. First, bulls are not overly finished by the time they are marketed, meaning they don't carry a lot of extra fat. This is related to lower rates of gain and sometimes means the producer will have to keep the bulls longer prior to marketing. This also means that the bulls will not be as big as a similarly aged bull that has been developed on a higher energy ration. Second, this allows the producer to take advantage of his forage source as a primary part of the nutritional program, thus reducing costs. Cattle developed on these programs are more accustomed to "making their way" out in the pasture and are normally at less risk of falling apart once they have been sold and placed with a group of females. His digestive system is more adapted to extracting needed nutrients, in this case from roughages, which requires a specific rumen bacterial population

2). Modified Forage Developed—These bulls are also developed on a strong forage base but higher levels of supplemental concentrate are provided to increase the animal's intake of protein and energy and subsequently his rate of gain and finish or fatness at the end of the feeding period. Since these cattle are programmed to gain more, they are heavier/bigger at a younger age and can be marketed earlier. This can be good and bad. For the producer it can be good since the animal will not need to be kept as long prior to sale. Second, it takes some of the risk out of depending on the forage base. Third, it's not as expensive as full feed development but can show some of the same positive results. On the other hand, the buyer must be careful that the bull he is buying is not overly developed at too young of an age and may not have the desired maturity to accompany his size. Generally, use of a modified forage development program is good since it can incorporate the best of both worlds—utilization of forage resources and more rapid growth and development of the bull.

3). Full Feed Developed—Many producers like using a full feed development program for several reasons. First it can illustrate the animals true genetic potential for gain and feed efficiency. Second, it results in big, growth, bloomy bulls that many buyers really look for. A third reason some producers prefer this type of program is that they feel they have complete control over the feeding program and can grow bulls for appropriate times and to appropriate sizes. A complete program of the type will include a "cool-down" program where bulls have the last 30 to 45 days of the feeding period to back off the high feed intake/high average daily gain protocols and come into the sale on a ration which includes higher levels of roughage, lower energy levels and lower gains. Unfortunately, in an effort to place bulls in a sale in as finished of a condition as possible, producers may have fed the bulls until closer to sale day. To buyers, feed programs are of greatest concern and the bulls must be managed carefully after purchasing and bringing them home to the ranch. The last thing a buyer should do with a new bull is to unload him off the trailer directly into a pasture with the females needing to be bred. All bulls need time to rest and adapt after they are transported home and steps to minimize this stress should be taken.

*A full version of this article can be viewed at <http://cattletoday.com/archive/2009/December/CT2127.php>*

**Bohaty's British Whites**—Our philosophy on bull development is similar to the Forage Developed (section 1) type. We expect our yearling bulls to gain enough in their first year, first on pasture with their mom and then on corn silage (whole corn plant) and ground alfalfa (salt and mineral supplemented) to be able to go into the pasture and breed 15 to 20 females the summer after their first birthday (at 14-16 months of age). We feel our program works well for our customers as the rumen bacteria are similar to what they'll need when on grass. Our two-year old bulls are given 3-4 pounds of corn and alfalfa hay. This ration also will keep the bulls in good condition without changing the rumen bacteria.



**B&B Boone 94U—A 2-year old bull**