



## Bohaty Farm Bulletin

October 2009

### Bohaty's British Whites Sell Heifers at MN Northern Lights Sale



*B&B Pandora 100U, a heifer we took to the Northern Lights British White Sale in MN*

Bohaty's British Whites were represented at the Northern Lights British White Sale in Motley, MN this past month by 2 of our bred heifers. B&B Pandora 100U topped the sale at \$2700 and B&B Dorothy 48U sold for \$2000 making them two of the high selling females in the sale. We'd like to thank Sue Seep for all her work at setting up this sale as well as the BWCAA annual meeting at Pequot Lakes, MN.

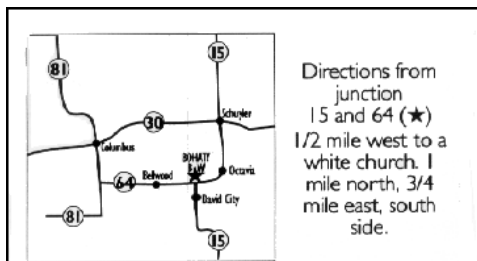
Other BWCAA members who participated in this sale were hostess Sue Seep, Linda Hohenwald, Robert Isaacson, Christina Treager, and Jan Schultz all from MN. We'd like to thank these members for all their hospitality and enthusiasm. This was a great event for British Whites!

We'd like to extend an invitation to anyone interested in British White cattle to come to our farm for a tour or to purchase some of our cattle. We have purebred and full blood British White cattle for sale at all times of the year (not just at our spring sale).

Speaking of our sale, it will be held next April on the Saturday after Easter, April 17, 2010. This will be our eighteenth annual sale, time sure flies when you're having fun.

#### Cowboy Logic

*"The only way to drive cattle fast is slowly."*



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**  
**Bellwood, NE 68624**  
**402-367-4741**  
**Email: [nbohaty@gmail.com](mailto:nbohaty@gmail.com)**

## Low Cost Idea for Cow/Calf Producers—Fence Line Weaning

By John Maday Taken from the Sept 09 Drover's magazine

Weaning is stressful for calves, and research and common sense tell us stressed calves don't eat and are more likely to become sick. Reducing stress during weaning benefits health and performance, and growing numbers of producers find fence-line weaning an effective and relatively easy solution.

University of California researchers reported a trial in the *Journal of Animal Science* in 2003 in which they compared behavior and performance of calves weaned using 4 methods—fence-line contact on pasture, total separation on drylot either with or without preconditioning calves eating hay. Calves weaned by the fence-line method spent less time bawling than calves weaned away from their dams. The fence-line-weaned calves also spent less time walking around than those separated in a pasture and more time either resting or eating than those separated and placed in drylot.

Weight gains reflected those behaviors. During the first 2 weeks after weaning, fence-line-weaned calves gained almost double the weight of the average calf in the three totally separated treatments—47.18 pounds

versus 24.25. Over 10 weeks, the fence-line calves gained 110.2 pounds versus 84.2 for the separated calves.

Those benefits can carry over into the feedyard as well. Retired UNL beef specialist Ivan Rush provided an example from a commercial NE feedyard, comparing 6 pens of calves—three containing fence-line-weaned calves and three with calves that were conventionally weaned. Over the feeding period, the fence-line-weaned calves gained an average of 2.79# per day for a total cost of gain of \$33.63 per head. Average daily gains in the conventionally weaned calves were 2.16# per day and cost of gain jumped to \$52.22 per head.

### Editor's Note:

*We have practiced pre-conditioned, fence-line weaning for several years now and recommend it highly as the calves don't seem concerned as they can still see momma. They just keep right on growing. Moms make more of a fuss, probably because their udders are full.*

## Weigh Pros & Cons of Fall vs Spring Calving—Part 2

*By Darrell Rankins, PhD. Alabama Cooperative Extension System Animal Scientist.*

In our last issue we covered Fall Calving advantages and disadvantages.

**Spring Calving**—The months for spring calving are somewhat variable but for many it would start with the heifers calving in February, followed by the mature cows in March and April.

The disadvantages of this system include: 1. The weather is generally more erratic during this time period leading to slightly more baby calf health problems. 2. Breeding season would be late April for heifers and from late May through late July for mature cows. In general, conception rates tend to be lower during extremely hot weather as would be the case in southern states. 3. Calves tend to have lower weaning weights when they are weaned in the fall because forage quality and quantity are limiting factors during September and October. 4. Weaning and selling the spring born calf in October coincides with the historically low calf price of the year as most US calves are spring born creating a larger supply.

The main advantage of calving in the spring is that it allows the cow herd to get the vast majority of their nutrients from grazing forages and results in minimal feeding of hay and supplements. It does not require a lot of high quality feed to winter a dry cow and her peak nutritional demands come during times of lush spring forages.

**Summary**—Fall or Spring calving? Both have their advantages and disadvantages. Like most management decisions it becomes a matter of what works best in your situation. The primary advantage of calving in the spring is that it requires much less supplemental feeding for the cow herd. The primary advantage of fall calving is that you market heavier calves at a time when prices tend to be a little higher. Either fall or spring calving is preferable to year round calving.

**Editor's Note:** *With this our second year of doing a little fall calving we think another advantage to fall born calves is a lighter birth weight. Also noted by another BW breeder.*