



British White Cattle Association of America e-News

Fall, 2020
John Kugler, Editor

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British White Show at the Arizona National Livestock Show in December 2020

The Show is ON!

Please check out the British White Cattle Association Show information to be held at the Arizona National Livestock Show! Please consider attending this year. So many opportunities have been cancelled and this is your chance to show your British Whites or just attend an amazing national livestock show! For info click on [British Whites at AZ Nationals](#) .

2021 BWCAA Calendars Available Now



The 2021 BWCAA Calendar is now available from the Association for \$12.00 plus \$2.20 postage. The 12 contest-winning photos that make up the calendar can be viewed on the BWCAA website. The calendars make great gifts as well as serving as your personal everyday calendar. Included are several important dates to remind you of deadlines; submissions of photos for the calendar contest, Association dues, “Heifer for Youth” applications. A handy cattle gestation table is located at the back of the calendar for quick reference. And this year enjoy the wit and humor of Mark Twain at the bottom of the page of each month. Contact the Association office to order yours now so that you’ll have plenty for your family, friends and customers.

Now is the time to start photographing British White cattle for the 2021 photo contest. The contest receives an abundance of spring and summer photos, but very few from autumn and winter. We like those too, so start clicking now! And please avoid taking vertical photos as they must be severely cropped to fit on a landscape sized calendar.

“Heifer for Youth” Heifer Needed for 2021

This year, the Heifer for Youth program placed two heifers with deserving new British White cattle breeders. Pictured (center at left) is 2020 heifer recipient Triston



Latzke of Gaylord, MN flanked on his right by Emily Peters (2018 heifer recipient and current President of the BWCAA Jr. Association) and on his left by

Haley Breth. Pictured on the right is 2020 heifer recipient Cheyenne Hightower of Edgewood, TX with her heifer.



Heifer for Youth Committee spokesman Tommy Patterson says that we are looking for a donated heifer for the 2021 program. If you are so inclined to donate a registered British White heifer to the program, contact Tommy Patterson or Brooke Smith. You can find their contact information in the BWCAA Directory. If unfamiliar with the “Heifer for Youth” program, you can contact Sue Seep for that information, or visit the BWCAA website and select the “Forms” tab to download the program information and application form.

2021 BWCAA Annual Membership Meeting

Rusk County Expo Center, Henderson, TX

September 24, 2021

At the September 11, 2020 BWCAA Annual Board of Director’s Meeting in Lexington, NE, board member Tommy Patterson, with the cooperation of board member Todd Smith offered to host the 2021 Annual Membership Meeting in Henderson, TX. Henderson, a city of about 13,000 inhabitants is located about 120 miles southeast of Dallas. It was named after the first governor of Texas, James Pinckney Henderson. Visitors can enjoy the historic downtown section with shops, museums and learn about the colorful history and heritage of east Texas.

What about 2022 and beyond? If your Region would like to host the annual membership meeting in the future, get your name on the list. In general, the desired location would be between the Rockies and the Mississippi River, but that is not set in stone.

Docility Scoring – New Video Training Available

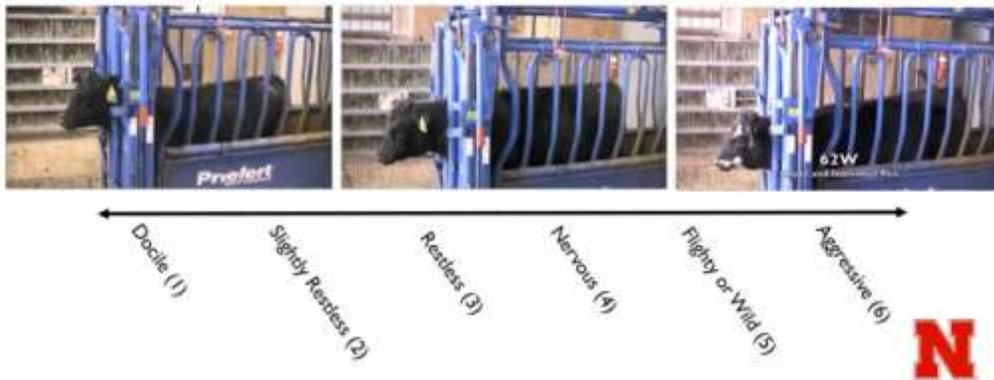
The University of Nebraska Beef Systems team has just released a new learning module to help producers score temperament in cattle. Scoring your cattle for docility pays off in the long run, as docile cattle produce healthier calves, last longer in the herd (stayability), are healthier, produce better meat and are safer to handle. British White cattle are known as a docile breed, however, where British Whites

are outcrossed with other breeds it is still possible to inherit some “wild” genes. Therefore, docility scoring followed by culling nervous or wild cattle should help the breed maintain its docile reputation.

Temperament in cattle is often evaluated using a common six-point chute scoring system.

Temperament is an animal's

Ethogram



behavioral response to handling by humans, or to any potentially fearful situation. Since these reactions are often linked with stress, they have negative effects on production and profitability. Because of its impact on pregnancy rates, growth, meat quality, and safety, producers have been selecting for temperament for years, whether by design or inadvertently. However, to make noticeable improvements in the overall behavior of a herd, a clear and consistent method for evaluating temperament is needed.

Temperament in cattle is often evaluated using a chute score. Scores are assigned using a subjective scale that describes the movement, vocalization, and restlessness of an animal. A common six-point scoring system¹ used is:

- 1. Docile:** Mild disposition. Gentle and easily handled. Stands and moves slowly during processing. Undisturbed, settled, somewhat dull. Does not pull on head gate when in chute.
- 2. Slightly Restless:** Generally docile but moves frequently and will not remain stationary for more than a few seconds; flicks tail occasionally, blows quietly through nostrils, may be stubborn but is otherwise docile.
- 3. Restless:** Quieter than average but may be stubborn during processing. May try to back out of chute or pull back on head gate. Some flicking of tail.
- 4. Nervous:** Typical temperament is manageable, but nervous and impatient. A moderate amount of struggling, movement, and tail flicking. Repeated pushing and pulling on head gate.
- 5. Flighty (Wild):** Jumpy and out of control, quivers and struggles violently. May bellow and froth at the mouth. Continuous tail flicking. Defecates and urinates during processing.

6. Aggressive: Ranges from mildly aggressive behavior, fearfulness, extreme agitation, and continuous movement, which may include jumping and bellowing while in chute, to thrashing about or attacking wildly when confined in small, tight places. Pronounced attack behavior.

Use of a subjective method, like chute score, is beneficial because it does not require purchase or set up of any extra equipment. These scores also can be easily recorded during routine handling of cattle. However, their value depends on how reliably they can be assigned.

To assist the beef industry, a study was conducted to determine if training improves a person's ability to assess temperament accurately and precisely with a chute score. The training used pre-recorded videos of cattle restrained in a chute.

To make these instructional materials more widely available, a new learning module dedicated to chute score has been added online to the UNL beef website. It includes the training video used during the study, along with additional example videos for viewing.

If interested in learning more about assessing chute score in cattle, or to view the training video, please visit <https://beef.unl.edu/chute-scoring-beef-cattle>. ¹The scoring system described within the module, while very similar, is that of Tulloh (1961) and is slightly different than that included in the BIF guidelines.

Sources: [Jamie T. Parham, former UNL Graduate Student](#), and [Ronald M. Lewis, UNL Professor Animal Breeding & Genomics](#).