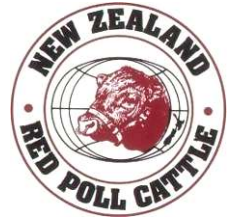


RED POLL NEWS



Summer Edition December 2017



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NB: This newsletter is on the website in a PDF file

The Association accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of any published opinion nor information supplied by individuals or reprinted from other sources. Items may be abridged or edited.

Closing date for next newsletter is March 1st, 2018

Cover: Tamihana Mac Zorba by Oakwood Zorba 2 out of Tamihana Lady Marshall 2; bred by AGR Thomson. Current herd sire at Evanlea Stud of Graeme & Judy Evans

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE



After a very difficult winter and a spring being variable we now look at a dry summer for most areas.

With all this in mind I hope all Red Poll breeders have had a good calving and are looking forward to a good time admiring their young stock.

There is a huge demand for our cattle at this time and would suggest letting members know if you have any surplus cows or heifers. I am aware some Red Polls have been advertised on social media but some are not registered cattle or may not be purebred cattle.

I trust members will be registering their calves as this is the main income for this Association. The cost is very small compared with other breeds and it could increase our membership fees if only a few members register their cattle.

Our Annual Tour and Annual General Meeting is just a few months away and I hope that many of our members will consider attending this event.

Last year at our herd tour we had three Australians with us and they enjoyed the experience. One has become a member of the New Zealand Association. We may be able to encourage more overseas Red Poll breeders this year; they would be most welcome to attend.

The calendar year is now coming to an end and I would like to wish all members a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Graeme Evans

SECRETARY'S SAY



I hope calving went well for you all. I know most of the country had rather a wet Spring, but not particularly cold.

Reminder: The bulls you are using this season will need to be parental DNA profiled before registering their progeny.

Check the Zoetis Website for (www.zoetis.co.nz/genetics) for information and sample submission forms.

I have tried to include a space for your cow's eartag number on the Herd Pre-lists, to make it easier for you all, (as they are only identified by their herdbook number), but it is beyond my technological knowledge. I will keep trying!

2018 AGM and Herd Tour: Allan Bridson is working on this and has included the dates in this RP News, so put it in your diary.

WELCOME to new members:

Ian Thomas, Hamilton

Stephen and Maree Rodgers, Hamilton

Merry Christmas to you all.

Anne McSweeney.

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FROM THE EDITOR



Hi everyone,

Thanks to those of you who sent in articles and photos this time – without you there would be no newsletter!

It is getting harder to find enough NZ herd reports and photos to make a decent sized newsletter. We have a committed band of regulars but it would be great to hear what the rest of you are up to with your animals!

Below is an excerpt from an email from Jimmy Brooks in Kenya on the possible International Congress Tour of South Africa & Kenya in 2020.

'Dan Schmiesing has finally been able to establish contact with the South Africans about the next tour. He had suggested, based on the survey that they did, that we do two weeks in South Africa and then one here, to which I replied that I thought that 1 week would not be worth it. However, on second thoughts, since everyone has to travel so far and we are not getting any younger, I feel that those who wish to come here for a week can do so and anyone who wishes to stay longer could do so and we make arrangements as appropriate. There is quite a lot to see here with regard to farming, ranching and wildlife, but only 1 Red Poll herd. Unfortunately, we don't have baseball, country and western music, Caterpillar, silk farms or penguins, but we can add in tea growing and processing, flower exporting farms and maybe "the 8th wonder of the world", the Wildebeeste migration if the timing of the tour is right. In due course I will prepare a proposed itinerary for 1 and 2 weeks and then see who wants what.'

I do hope it all comes to pass. African countries are not renowned for their political stability but farmers are farmers the world over and if it can be done they'll find a way to do it. Start saving your leave from work and money for your fare etc now!

Warwick and I have been fortunate enough to be able to go on the last three tours. They are a wonderful way to see a country and make new friends.

Helen

PATRON'S PAGE I

RURAL POLITICS



"Well, Daisy my dear, I really cannot wait to see what will happen next. For my money there is no question. Here is us double-muscled Belgian Blues well ahead in popularity with 46% of the punters steaking their future on our hamburgers.

Those Red Pollsters say that they may not have the backing that we have but their special mix of mince with a bit of this and that thrown in can add up to more taste change and our flavour just does not cut it anymore. What a load of yard effluent!"

"Well, my dearest, public taste may sway the day. Our stolid bovine record may not be enough. We have tried downloading a heap of bull and polishing up our public relations but I think that the Red Pollsters have tried something different with a heifer up front of the mob. You know, the female factor is always something that can cause trouble and take the shine off our blue."

"That sounds like a woman talking. No, I don't agree. We have impeccable genetics and products to prove it. One of those mix and match batch will join us and we'll be fine."

"Yes dear. I bow to your judgement and your nine years' track record. But what happens if you're wrong that Red Polsters' mix and match hamburger flavour takes off?

"I guess if the unthinkable happens then we'll just have to keep their hamburgers under the flames and keep roasting them for three years!"

Robin Shepherd QSO

PATRON'S PAGE II



May I take this opportunity to wish all members a Merry Christmas and a Happy & Prosperous 2018 from Eleanor and me.

Since my eyes have packed it in I no longer have email and do not drive anymore. I'm always happy to have a chat on the phone with you though.

After my eye operation I find I can read a bit in a good light or with the bright bedside light on – so it's not all bad!

It would good to see more of our new members taking the time to register their young females. Most start off by buying a few registered cows and buy or lease a registered bull but then do not carry on to register the progeny.

If you are busy (as so many younger ones are these days) just record the progeny of your top cows and register them – the heifer calves at least. Our breed really needs all the breeding females of suitable quality that we can supply. I see in the last newsletter that there is quite a good demand for females at present so do not miss out!

It is trying very hard to rain today but I'm not sure it will amount to much. We definitely need it.

Remember if you are down our way we would love to have you pop in for a quick cuppa.

It was good to get a call from Robert McLeod – a new Wairarapa breeder. Robert assisted his Aunt, Mrs JH Potroz, Inglewood, with her "Corowa" herd which was founded in 1979 with females bought from Douglas Miles. He established his own small herd at that time but could not continue with it. Great to see him back in the Red Poll herd!

Peter Fleming

[After many decades of involvement with Canterbury Show, Peter was awarded a special hamper and a ribbon on his retirement this year - Editor]

OPOUTERE REPORT & AGM TOUR DRAFT ITINERARY

After one of the wettest winters for some time, we are now enjoying a spell of good weather. The paddocks have dried out, there is surplus grass for bale age, and the stock are looking well, morale of both man and beast is high, but we have been farming long enough to know that everything can change and will change.

We had a good calving all over in seven weeks, two sets of twin heifers, and one calf born dead, very premature and the cow not coming into milk.

We struggled with keeping the yearling bulls looking well all winter, so purchased a tonne of calf pellets. They certainly liked them and their condition looked very good, in spite of the near constant rain.

In late September, an agent from Waikato Farmers arrived at the door and asked if the bulls were for sale and took the lot at \$1300 each which included two born in January 2017. We were pleased with the price, especially as our Wrightson agent was not very interested in them at all.

We have started to organise the **Herd Tour and A.G.M. for 2018**. The plan at this stage is:

- **Tuesday 17th April 2018**, arrive at Allan & Helen Bridson's early afternoon, view their herd. We have booked ten units at a local motel. Helen and Allan will provide the evening meal at their house.
- **Wednesday 18th**: Leave Whangamata, perhaps see some Red Poll cattle at Te Aroha, then on to Raglan, view a herd, stay the night at a Raglan motel, evening meal at a restaurant.
- **Thursday 19th**: Leave Raglan, travel to Urenui, view Robin and Ann's Tamihana herd, arrive at Devon Hotel New Plymouth, evening meal at the Devon Hotel. Robin Thomson to arrange a guest speaker.
- **Friday 20th: A.G.M.** in morning, finish of tour. There are plenty of sights to see in New Plymouth, some may wish to stay on for a day or two.

When we have final details, we will let ever one know in plenty of time.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Allan & Helen

Things To Do In New Plymouth On A Short Stay After The Tour Finishes

New Plymouth is known for its coastal walkway stretching from Bell Block to Port Taranaki.

Te Rewa Rewa Bridge has views of towering Mount Taranaki.

The Govett-Brewster Art Gallery shows contemporary exhibitions.
Brooklands Zoo

Len Lye Gallery - World renowned Kinetic
Sculpture Exhibits; check out the wind wand
on the foreshore

“Wind Wand” by Len Lye on New Plymouth
Foreshore

Photo: *Hans Klueche, Germany, from the
Wikipedia website*

Pukekura Park has botanical gardens and
birdlife.

Subalpine forests and waterfalls characterise
Egmont National Park to the south.

No doubt there are also many nice cafés to sit and while away a day in too!



Editor

RIVER VALLEY FARM'S REPORT

Hi Everyone,

We have the privilege of being neighbours to the infamous Robin & Gena Shepherd at Rangitihi Stud.

Both of us come from farming backgrounds; Jamie, Dairy Farming for 18yrs, myself sheep farming alongside Grandpa known as "GP" to all.

We run a little lifestyle block in Pamapuria and a 40 acre run off block in Kaingaroa both fall under River Valley Farms umbrella.

Up until moving to the "Winterless Northland" which was really only 5 minutes ago (this is our second season here) I never thought I would see my husband gaze admiringly, attentively and with unadulterated love for anything but a big black 'n' white Friesian then Boom!!! The Red Poll Beefy across the road happened to us... Nobody's supposed to covet thy neighbour but all our sin's had been exposed. We needed to make a plan, raise enough calves to be able to purchase 1 or 2 of these magnificent creatures yearly, then in 5-6 years maybe we would be lucky enough to have a small herd.

Over the years as with all farmers there has been some serious hard knocks. (If you're a farmer you know "That School" you probably haven't graduated yet either!). 2017, this year, I watched my hardened farmer Dad (78yrs) cry, my gorgeous 5ft 7 and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch husband become 6ft 4 tall when "The 9 young Diamonds" arrived at our place from Rangitihi Stud. I also felt a deep appreciation for Mary & John Heaven's inheritance money that would jump start River Valley's Herd.

The excitement, planning, devotion, scheming and dreaming that our new Red Polls will bring, not just for us, but also our blended generations to come really is the icing on the cake... no matter the heartbreaks...

How Worth It, It All Is



Going up the block - Who let those 3 riff raff in with the diamonds???

We would like to say how blessed we are and real grateful too
'Cause now we are part of The Red Poll Mission- Yahoo!!!

Kaye and Jamie Heaven



URUGUAY NEWS

(Received shortly after the August newsletter had been mailed out)

Every time your newsletter pops through my mailbox I get a twinge of conscience about not writing although as an excuse I've not been at all well for the past 18 months and am pretty well chairbound. The farm is in the competent hands of my foreman of twenty years standing but we talk almost every day.

Our winter here has been mild with much rain and floods making access to the farm a bit complicated. One result was that we weren't able to graze the aftermath on the rice stubbles hardly at all.

Grass usually starts growing around 3rd September but today 31st August I had my lawn cut for the first time this season.

The cows responded well to the FTAI with a repass by a bull of Alison MacIntyre. Around 86% PD and calving to start any day now.

As you know my cows have to fend for themselves on the available winter grazing though sometimes they get a bale of rice straw as roughage.

Some of my clients like an Angus x Red Poll bull so I AI'ed three Red Poll cows with Waigroup (NZ) semen and three blacks with Toms Kingsley. Let's see how they work out.

I was sad that not only could I not attend the USA tour but that no other breeders from our continent could make it either for various reasons. Other commitments or uncertainty about Latam passports being acceptable in the USA.

At a guess there are between 15 -20 breeders in South America, mostly pure bred. During the past year I have received enquiries from would be or exiting breeders from Colombia, Chile, Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay, which has shown a quickened interest in the merits of our breed. In the past two years imports from NZ and USA have tipped the 1,000 mark for Uruguay alone and there may be others I am unaware of.

The main problem is the lack of available Red Poll genetics which satisfy import veterinary protocols of which I will try and write more in due course.

Cheers from a very wet Uruguay.

Bill Hays

Some Notes from “The Sheaf”, the magazine of the then Feilding
Agricultural High School

(courtesy of Ann & Robert Campbell, Past Red Poll breeders)

1928 'During the season there has been keen demand for the cattle. This, with the fact that we carry a limited number, has increased demand.

We sold a number: College Ethel Newman, College Miss Fotheringay, the latter won second place at Dannevirke show.

College Helen Sharp & College Rebecca Sharp were sold to the Hon. E Newman, Marton. He was an MP and founder & chairman of Trustees of New Zealand Sheepowners Acknowledgement of Debt to British Seaman Fund which established Flock House in the Manawatu.

Also sold were Laura Pendennis, College Miss Pinkerton, College Easter and College March as well as some bull calves.

It is of some note that 6 years ago there were no other herds. Now there are 6.

The following cows were got ready for the Royal Show: lady Castlewood, Kowhai 80th, ethel Newman and Beatrix Castlewood. The following calves were born in the spring. College Esmond (Lady Castlewood), Colonel Newcombe (Kowhai 79th), Helen Pendennis (Kowhai 80th) and Augustus (Mt Vernon Silvia).'

[**Note:** The 6 herds established were Jack Campbell, Feilding, *Taonui*; AH Atkinson, Feilding, *Kotuku*; J Davies, Ohau, *Riverbank*; D Higgin, Feilding, *Oroua*; CF Johnston, Feilding, *Awa* and Hon E Newman, Marton, *Kai Kai*. All were established in or around Feilding in 1928.]

Foundation cows were bought from Feilding Ag, Central Development Farm, N Inder's *Kotare* herd dispersal and from the Estate of A G Anderson among others.]

THE INTERNATIONAL RED POLL CONGRESS & TOUR, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 1-25th JUNE 2017, Part 2

Friday, June 2nd - Day TWO, Evening

After leaving Spegal's Farm we travelled to the Hampton Court Hotel in Anderson. We had time for a brief rest and then needed to get ready for an evening of entertainment at the Hoosier Park Racing and Casino [Racino] venue (Standardbreds). We sat in tiered areas with our own dining tables and a dedicated steward responsible just for the Red Poll visitors.

Initially there was a long delay getting in the door for those who wished to play at the Casino. We had to have identification (good job we had our NZ drivers licences) and fill in forms etc., etc....

The meal was a beautiful seafood buffet with a good variety of salads etc to accompany it. There was also a wide choice of desserts available for afters.

Alcohol was available for those who fancied a drink.

The race track is open every day of the week with the venue having 7 restaurants, a bar and the casino. There were about 8-10 races on the programme on the night we went. A lot of the horses are trained by Amish trainers and their wives and families were present trackside.

There was a cashier near the tables who would place bets for you. Warwick won a few dollars, a couple of people won a \$100 over the evening – I of course only lost! Bets could be as little as 50 cents.

Warwick and I did a quick (very) walk around the casino –flashing lights, cigarette smoke everywhere; a wall of noise with every machine having its own clamour. Peter Wilson managed to come out with more money than he went in with. One had to be 21 years of age to get in the door.

Saturday, June 3rd Day THREE

This morning we're off to Shuter Sunset Farms in Indiana. We were welcomed by Mike Shuter who gave us a run down on their farming operation. The farm is currently about 3,000 acres of owned and rented cropping land. Mike, his wife Susan, and their two sons, Brian and Patrick and their families live and work on the farm. They have been practicing "no till" cropping for 35 years. In 1995 Mike was named the Outstanding Conservation Farmer for Madison County. They use a cocktail mix of 14 different species. They run a hog

fattening operation. The pig manure is replacing chemical fertilizers on 250 - 300 acres of the land. Some parts of the farm are going to be certified organic. The pigs are brought in at 2 weeks of age. They are mainly white coated stabilized hybrid pigs. They are not owned by Shuters – they are contract managed and they get paid per pig space with no penalty for deaths. They tend to plant crops more densely to assist with weed control. Barley stalks are crimped at harvest to stop regrowth. The pig manure is injected into the ground to keep the smell at bay.

Their Red Poll cow herd was started by Mike's parents, Melvin and Leslie, in 1941. A fifth generation grandson is helping with the showing now. They have 7 consecutive generations of females with the Shuter prefix on the bottom line. They run a total of 80 breeding cows which includes some Red Angus and Simmentals as well as some commercial cows used in an extensive ET programme. Animals not sold as seedstock are fattened and sold as freezer beef or through a retail butchery owned by Brian and Patrick and a couple of friends. This is called "Smith Family Farms market". A most interesting visit



Checking out the machinery park at Shuter Sunset Farms. Photo: W Potts

Back on the bus to have a packed lunch at Pendleton Falls. Nice spot beside the river with shady trees. A nearby colonial museum provided some after lunch interest and a post card or two.



Peter Wilson, Australia and Jimmy Brooks, Kenya relaxing after lunch at Pendleton Falls

From Pendleton Falls we bussed to the Smith Family Farms Market to see where the Shuter and Smith Farms' meat meets the general public. This market was a cross

between what we would call a "delicatessen" in NZ and a butchers shop. Items for sale included quails' eggs, fish tail (end of the pork loin); Denver tender (beef equivalent of fish tail). Ten couples opened this market. The beef is from the Shuter or Smith farms; the pork is local. It takes 2 beef carcasses a week, 4 -5 pigs a fortnight; they bring in chicken on Fridays and Saturdays only as it is hard to stop from spoiling. The slaughterhouse is Federally inspected for retail. If sold as 'freezer beef' it only needs to be State inspected.

From there we headed to the Shuter Farms beef operation. Son Brian runs the cattle side of things. 140 acres is set up for rotational grazing in 'cells'. We had a look around their cattle barn



and cattle handling facilities where they do A I and ET work. *Cont. page 20...*

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS PHOTOS, June 2017



*Salamander at Carl'S Red Polls.
They live in swampy areas.*



*Water Towers were common in all
the towns. This one advertises a
Hudson car museum.*



*Ornate inlaid wood sponsors board at
hall we attended for dinner on visit to
Shuter Sunset Farms*



*Larger than life size statue of a Shire
horse in Shipshewana*



*Amish horse & carriage in which we
rode back to the Blue Gate Hotel*



*Container for cattle nuts. Can turn
with the wind so won't fall over*

COVERED BRIDGES

According to Wikipedia "A **covered bridge** is a timber-truss bridge with a roof and siding which, in most covered bridges, create an almost complete enclosure. The purpose of the covering is to protect the wooden structural members from the weather. Uncovered wooden bridges have a lifespan of only 10 to 15 years because of the effects of rain and sun." There were once over 10,000 throughout the USA but now thought to be only 750 or so remaining.

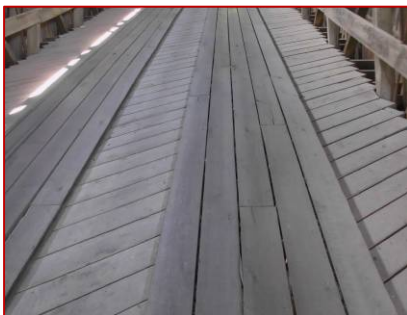
For those of us who remember the wonderful film, "Bridges of Madison County" the opportunity to actually see one of these was one to pursue when we heard there were some in the area. Barb & Aaron (tour guide & coach driver) managed to find one close to hand as we returned to the hotel from Silverthorne Farm.



Lancaster Covered Bridge

Built by the Wheelock Bridge Company of Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1872. This bridge has been extensively renovated to the point where it will probably last another 100 or so years. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the chance to walk over and inspect in detail this bridge. It was a highlight of the tour.

Below is detail of the bridge deck



Congress Day 3 cont..

From there we were driven past a recently purchased block of land where Pat and his wife Sara are planning to build their house. The block needs some refencing. We were on our way to the local church hall where we were going to have an early evening meal.

The church hall was made over from a machine shop. The district people are very pro-active with maintenance etc. it is a great asset for the community. We were given a run down on the 4H scheme in America and how it works. There is a big push to expand it to urban areas.

Our meal was provided by members of the church – ham, salad, baked potato with sour cream, bean casserole and for dessert there was a choice from three types of fruit flans with vanilla ice cream.



Left -Norma Calhoun (USA) waits in line as Jill Coghlan (Australia) presents a thank you gift to Mike Shuter. The wooden affigy of a Red Poll bull with a show ribbon is very effective and makes a great gift.

On the bus back to the hotel Dan Schmiesing gave a little talk. Indiana has been the centre for showing Red Poll cattle for the last 50 or 60 years. One year the State Fair had 175 head of Red Polls present. *[Wow! - Editor]*

In 1947, there were 2,000 members and it cost a dollar to belong to the American Red Poll Association. The bus did a detour to a Meijers Store (like and up-market Walmart) for those wanting items. It was absolutely enormous.

Sunday, June 4th, Day FOUR

Today's herd visit is to **Carl's Red Poll's**. Carl's are based in Huntingdon, Indiana. The herd was founded c.1980 when Homer and Georgina Carl's youngest daughter won a heifer at the Indiana State Fair. She then bought a bred heifer from Eldon Wygant and her father liked the breed so much he bought the rest of Wygants herd.

The farm includes 2,200 acres of tillable land. The business is called Carl's Swine Enterprises, Inc. and includes the cattle enterprise (Carl's Red Poll) and a hog farm. The hog farm uses a process of recycling the hog manure (undigested feed) and feeding the recycled material to the cattle. A centrifugal action is used to separate the solids out. The liquid goes to a holding lagoon (fertilizer, power generation? Sorry my notes did not specify). The solids are mixed with corn, baleage etc. This process was created by Homer and has been taught about at Purdue University. The feed has no particular smell.

The cropping rotation includes wheat, beans, corn. They can plant 200 acres a day. Local lore has it that corn needs to be in the ground by the 15th of May. This year they had 14 inches of rain in May and the planting was delayed.



The cows mainly stay around the barn – cooler and fewer flies. There is about 60 acres of pastures behind that they utilize for the cattle [if I remember correctly – Editor].

We were bussed over the Wabash River – the state river of Indiana. Reservoirs are used to control the water level – not hydro power. We drove through the town of Huntingdon. Lots of lawns everywhere. As an aside it was said that Indiana has supplied 4 Vice Presidents of the USA including Dan Quayle and the current one, Mike Pence. Lunch was held at the Hier's Park in the 4H owned Heritage Hall.



Lunch included pink lemonade and sweet cold tea drinks. It is a lovely hall. The table decorations were red geraniums in pots with a Red Poll cow cut out on a stick; very effective. There were also packets of sweets and popping corn.

Comment was made that, 'If you eat, you are involved in agriculture'. We sat with a local named Larry – very interesting lunchtime topics of conversation included trade, ISIS and agriculture.

After the meal the Cedar Creek Cloggers gave us a demonstration of 'clogging'. It is a bit like tap dancing, but wearing clogs. High energy dancing with very lively music. Great fun to watch, although the stage they were on was an impromptu one (farm trailer) and dancing had to stop so the trailer could be chocked into place, as it was starting to roll away! A bit like a swing bridge – do not dance in step. Two of the dancers are Red Poll breeders.



From Huntingdon we left for Shipshewana. On the way we did a quick trip over the border into Michigan to a welcome centre (like our Information centres

with drink dispensers and loo's) – just so we could say we had been to Michigan!



*Dining at Caruso's
Foreground L-R
Ross Draper &
Helen Bridson
L-R Gay Redwood
(obscured), Jimmy
Brooks, Graeme
Evans, Erik Otieno
& Allan Bridson*

Dinner was had at
the Caruso's
Italian Restaurant
in Angola,
(Indiana not

Africa!). We had veal in mushroom sauce with a dish of mashed potatoes.

We boarded the bus again to complete our journey to Shipshewana where we are going to stay for two nights. This is a strongly Amish area.

The Amish owned Blue Gate Hotel was magnificent. Beautifully appointed comfortable rooms and the finishing touches to the joinery etc were very nice indeed.



Blue Gate Hotel

The weatherboards were made of stuff similar to Hardy plank. Everything was immaculately finished. Grounds also beautifully kept. Not sure how much for a night but worth every cent!

Monday June 5th, Day FIVE

Breakfast was made on the spot in their morning room – fresh fruit salad, delicious omelettes. After a short look around we boarded the bus for an Amish tour. Shipshewana is in La Grange county, Indiana. In 2016, 2 million people visited Shipshewana. The same year the Blue Gate restaurant served up 32 tons of fried chicken, 36,000 pies and 1,578,000 eggs!

Amish are renowned for their work ethic. The area is known as the RV capital of the USA (what we would call an SUV) with 80% of American vehicles of that type made there. Amish men can earn \$50,000 to \$70,000 annually working here. This allows them to earn enough to compete with the subdividers for the farm land. The area has the 3rd largest Amish settlement in the USA after Holmes County, Ohio (1st) and Lancaster, Pennsylvania (2nd). About 16,000 Amish live in the County which consists of 180 Amish districts. 25-30 families reside in each district. The area we were in was part of the most conservative district with many going so far as to only use hand mowers on their lawns; wood stoves; and storing ice from the lake in winter by putting it into ice houses and covering it with straw for refrigeration. The land is lovely rolling contour and everything is well maintained.

Our first stop was at a small farm where the young (33years) Amish landowner milked 3 or 4 camels for part of his income. An adult female camel is worth \$10,000 to \$15,000. They can live up to 30 years. Each camel gives about 2 gallons of milk a day which sells for \$10 a pint, \$80 per gallon. Female camels only let their milk down for a few minutes so you have to be quick! Camel milk is lower in sugar, fat and cholesterol than cows' milk. This farmer explained he was hoping to sell up before too long and join up with a young Amish community in Montana where they are moving to as the land is more affordable than where they are now.

Allan gave us a further talk as we travelled to our next Amish tour stop. About half Amish children attend public school. Remainder go to Amish Schools. Only go up to the 8th grade. No further education. Girls are able to become teachers with this level of education in their schools and the boys (18 years) go to work in the RV factory. Can save enough to buy a starter home and 3 acres by the time they are in their early twenties. Unmarried women continue

to live in their family home. Once married, the men grow their beards. In summer the women and children go bare feet. Allan (tour guide) said the Amish have a 'culture of neglect' – they believe that it is God's will if a child runs out on the road. (Most areas are Amish only, cars are slow and few!)

Our next stop was to meet a real Amish wife, Lena Hildred. She rises at 3.30am to get breakfast for the workers in her family, prays, sometimes returns to bed and rises again at 5.30am, goes for a 2 mile walk. She has 7 children. Their family hosts the local church assembly about every 8 months. She goes to town once a week – a choice of two, both about 7 miles away. A small house is attached to their family home. Her parents live there. Their farm is 72 acres. They provide most of their own food. "Community" is her favourite thing about being Amish.

Our final stop was to meet an Amish bishop, Monroe Yoder. He explained that Amish speak Pennsylvania Dutch – based on German. The families pay taxes like everyone else but also pay extra towards their own schools. They do not have medical insurance – if it is a small amount you pay for yourself and if something major the bill goes to the district board. They pay the bill so they can get a prompt payment discount. Other churches help pay - \$40 a member towards costs. They do pay social security if they work off farm. Self employed have an exemption and not required to pay Social security. Old people are usually kept at home unless very bad with alzheimers etc.

R.-The camel farmer's buggy.

Some states have separate buggy lanes. There is distinct groove down the seal where the horse trots along. Good buggy horses (generally standardbreds) are



\$3,500 to \$5,000. We saw some farmers mowing hay with their teams of Belgian horses. One may take photos but not of individual's faces.

Lunch was at the Blue Gate Restaurant – dessert again! There was a very large souvenir shop here too. We then had a free afternoon. I had seen an ad in the tourist brochure for a carousel. It was set up on the 3rd floor of a new building and run by a delightful retired Amish gentleman. I have a passion for carousels. I just squeaked in below the weight limit. I had a ten minute ride, great country music and a smile a mile wide, with the whole carousel to myself for \$2!!!!

Carousel animals – beautifully carved bull dog, sheep, pig and of course fabulous horses. All went up and down – the best part!



Alan & Helen Bridson, Sally Temple and us rode back to the hotel in an open carriage – white painted, pink plush seats and drawn by a black Percheron mare called Jasmine. The ride took about 15 minutes and was relaxing. There are many things in favour of an Amish – type lifestyle - back to basics but you must be prepared for hard work.

Twenty minutes to refresh then off to the Blue Gate Restaurant for dinner and an Amish musical – “The Confession”, about an Amish girl and her quest to find her birth mother. The musical referred to ‘the plain life’ – a reference to the Amish way of life.

The theatre was of a good size – they have even had Kenny Rogers, Charley Pride etc sing there. The singing was very good and the acting well done; a nice night out. The audience was a mixture of locals and tourists.

Tuesday, June 6th, Day SIX

Off to see Nate and Emily Parks, **Silverthorn Farm** today. They have a 20acre organic farm producing meat, 40 different types of vegetables (200 varieties) and eggs; established 7 years ago. The farm is part of a larger property (120 acres) that comes down from Emily's family and was farmed by her g.g.g. grandfather, William Silverthorne, for whom they have named their farm.

The Parks family history with Red Polls was begun by Nate's grandparents, Emery and Dorothea when they bought their first Red Poll cows from Margaret Ehlers herd in 1945. Their herd eventually reached over 50 cows. The family became heavily involved in the Red Poll scene as Emery was also an auctioneer and he sold the animals at every sanctioned Red Poll sale in the USA from 1960 – 1985. Their herd was called Parkwood.



Their youngest son Mike's involvement with Red Polls began at the age of 10. The first heifer he bought was purchased from Marshall Mohler, the superintendent at Pinney-Purdue [University] farm. I quote from the tour programme resume, 'thus began a commitment by Mike to what he calls "Mohler Genetics", a process and a principle that

he still follows today. He and Martha were married in 1971 and founded the Parkstyle herd together and still farm them today. Between them these two herds produced seven National Champion females, one National Champion bull and seventeen Reserve National Champions.

The original Parkwood herd was phased out over time and eventually the Parkstyle herd was reduced in numbers.

After a bad year for calving problems with a bought in bull they realized they had been chasing "the bigger is better" school of genetics for too long and knew they needed help. They received assistance from friend and mentor, Marshall Mohler, with the loan of several bulls over the years – the last being the well known Century 21. With each calf crop calving ease improved and the quality of the cattle increased.

The herd is now run by their son Nate, with his brother Mick serving as advisor on genetic selection. A younger brother, Jay, intends to have a herd in the future.

We had a lovely lunch which we finished with a delicious piece of strawberry cream pie.



Visitors were fascinated by a pup with the largest feet they had ever seen. He was a 16 week old Spanish Mastiff. He will grow to between 170 - 200lb. (200lb = 90.71 kg!)



Parkstyle heifer and calf at Silverthorne Farms

EVANLEA REPORT

We have had a very different winter this year and my cows have come through in good condition. The usual 100 days of winter was stretched out to be about 120. Calving was uneventful with only 1 calf fatality. This was a breech birth but I have been told many times that if you have live stock you can expect some losses at times.

All calves have been registered and are all doing well at this stage. Have had very good sales of yearling bulls this year and can only hope it leads to more sales next year.

Have for the first time attempted AI and pleased with the results at this stage but will see what they are like in twelve months time.

General farm work is up to date with balage in and plenty of grass at the moment. Sheep prices have been so good and have drafted milk lambs by 20th November.

Judy and I wish all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. If you are ever passing this way please feel free to drop in, you will be very welcome.

Regards to all
Judy & Graeme Evans

Evanlea Dora,
matriarch of the
Evanlea herd.
Born in 2002 she
has calved every
year from when
she was 3 years
old.
By Puketi Con's
Sebastian ex
Rosemarkie Fred's
Seraphina



From the Photo Archives



Tamihana Favourite Fred

Fred was bred by Robin Thomson and purchased by Helen McKenzie & Warwick Potts, *Rosemarkie* Stud for a stud bull as a yearling. He was by Martinvale Impecc's Norman out of Bryandale Favourite.



*Bryandale
Favourite with
Fred's full brother
at foot in 1998 at
Tamihana Stud*

Photo:
AGR Thomson

USA NEWS

Hi All,

My name is Karen Rae and my parents Jim and Evelyn Rae raised Red Poll cattle in Stouffville, Ontario, Canada for many years. They also went on a number of Red Poll tours including New Zealand, Australia, England, United States, Jamaica and I can't remember where else. I went on the Australia tour with them, along with my dad's brother, Bill, and Peggy and Aylmer Hood. I believe we stopped at your home in New Zealand before we started the Australian tour, I think your mom and dad were there too!



Jim & Evelyn Rae, 1986

Mom passed away in 2004 and after that Dad spent time with Peggy Hood whose husband Aylmer, passed away shortly after my mom. Peggy passed away suddenly in April of this year and dad passed away on September 24, he was 96 years old. He was fairly healthy up until a couple months before he passed and was actually still driving up until about a month before he passed away. Dad and Peggy went on the tour in England in 2011 when he was 90 years

old and they both enjoyed it immensely.

The photo is of mom and dad in 1986 and is probably how many long-time Red Poll members remember them.

Karen Rae

ATHBEY REPORT

The last Red Poll members heard from Athbey was Athol's rather nasty on-farm accident. He is now fully recovered and returned to work.

Mid-June we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends. I see next year it will be 60 years since coming in contact with Red Polls at Feilding Agricultural High School.

Spring 2017 calving saw one calf lost at birth and an empty R2 that had been scanned in calf. Both cows have returned a good final result with Mr AFFCO. We didn't have sufficient to supply the demand for service bulls this spring, so this year fewer will be steered as we already have enquiry for the 2018 season.

This month's jobs to do list includes writing out our yearly registered animal return and getting it off to ever patient secretary Anne.

It was nice to get the 77½ mls of rain 2 weeks ago, but our crop would love a drink with its head just out of the ground.

Season's Greetings to you all.

Athol & Betty



Young stock at Athbey

RANGITIHI REPORT; DECEMBER 2017.

We know that many of our Red Poll Breeder friends have had a tough winter and we sympathise with you all.

We felt at times that some tracks and gateways might become impassable because of the mud. Those that we have dressed with quarry dust survived very well.

However, now the dark wet wet, days of winter are gone from the Far North and the grass is getting away despite the heavily pugged surface of some paddocks..

Most of our Red Poll calves are now on the ground and looking bonny; Just four left to calve.

Despite the tough winter the stock came through fairly well

The one major drama was having to assist at calving with cross bred Charolais. That was not a good experience, nor a good outcome.

This week we have put our sire, of the last three seasons, on a truck and he has returned to the farm of his birth where Houtu Quaid is being put to work by Nina Walker. He is just too good to turn into hamburgers. He has left a Ken Elliot mark on our young stock which we treasure.

The in-calf cows which we sold to Jamie and Kaye Heaven have produced well and giving pleasure to their new owners.

We have some excellent looking yearling heifers and two year olds.

We are planning to use a McMarshall line bull this season.

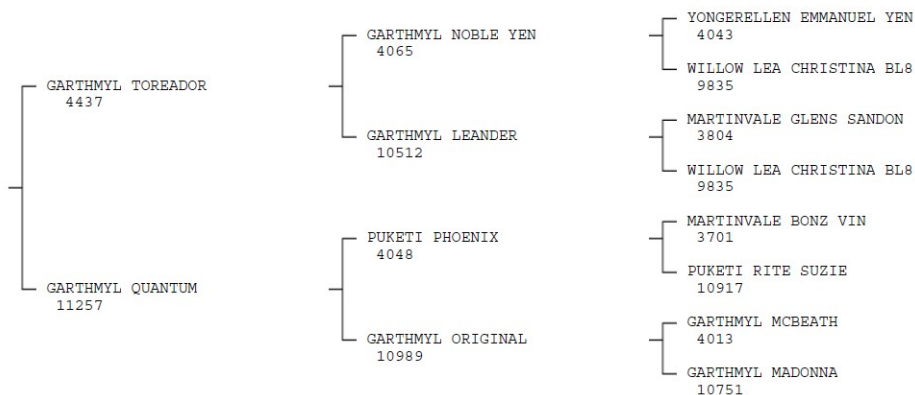
Best wishes to all
Gena & Robin Shepherd.



Photo: Robin Shepherd

Houto Quade taken at Robin & Gena Shepherd's as he was getting ready to return to Nina Walker's Houto Stud where he was born

Below is Quade's pedigree for those who may be interested



ROSEMARKIE REPORT

We were fortunate to receive about 28mm of rain a couple of days ago. It was very welcome although we were not too badly off. Some parts of the Wairarapa were getting ready to be labeled "in drought" but not us.

The cows and calves are looking OK. We have leased a bull (R. Mort's Ash – J4) to Neil Wilton and one to Robert McLeod & his partner Kirsty who are new Wairarapa breeders. They have leased Dawn Mist Zeus Montana. Monty is a nice natured bull and ideal for their small block. We hope to use him again next year.

Interestingly, the set of twins (steers) that we had last year (2016) are very different in type; by Ash, out of Rosemarkie H10, a Dawn Mist Bel's Emirate daughter. One steer is distinctly double muscled and the other a nice smooth animal with more length. The double muscled one weighs less than his brother at present. He was always smaller right from birth. We have never had a double muscled animal before in nearly 30 years of breeding Red Poll cattle. Ash was by R. Trounce Morton (HB#4444) out of Y18, R. Ro's Minta (HB#11177). Y18 is $\frac{1}{4}$ Tamihana Favourite Fred, $\frac{1}{8}$ Nyoka Glencoe, $\frac{1}{8}$ Inglebar Bonanza & $\frac{3}{16}$ Larkhill Bottler through Kerehunga Matilda, a $\frac{3}{4}$ Bottler cow.

The double muscling is caused by the presence of the myostatin variant in Red Poll cattle. (Red Poll News, August 2014 page 28 for an article on it.)

We would not keep any bull or heifer calf for breeding that exhibited the variant but of course it may be in females but unexpressed.

Helen & Warwick

Photos Back Cover:

Top: 2yr Rosemarkie steers enjoy the late afternoon sun at Glendoon

Bottom: Young cow at Robert & Kirsty Mcleod's, Wairarapa. Speckle Park cross calf at foot

