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Piney River Cattle Co Field Day

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NWMGA Field Day

Ohio Beef Expo



2011 AMGA



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Notes from the National Office –

National Show & Meetings -

The 2011 National Murray Grey Show will be held at the World Beef Expo in Milwaukee Wisconsin September 22 - 24, 2011.

The National Show will be Friday afternoon September 23, 2003 time and place TBA.

Directors meeting will also be September 23 time and place TBA.

Annual membership meeting will be Saturday September 24, 2011 time and place TBA.

Watch the AMGA Website for more information.



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Our Cover

Illinois Murray Greys grace the cover of this issue of the Murray Grey News.

Thanks to Jeff Windhorst for the photograph.

We need good pasture photographs.
We invite all members to send pictures!

See the Murray Grey News online!
www.murraygreybeefcattle.com/MGNEWS/newsonline.pdf

How to reach us -

AMERICAN MURRAY GREY ASSOCIATION

P.O. 43515

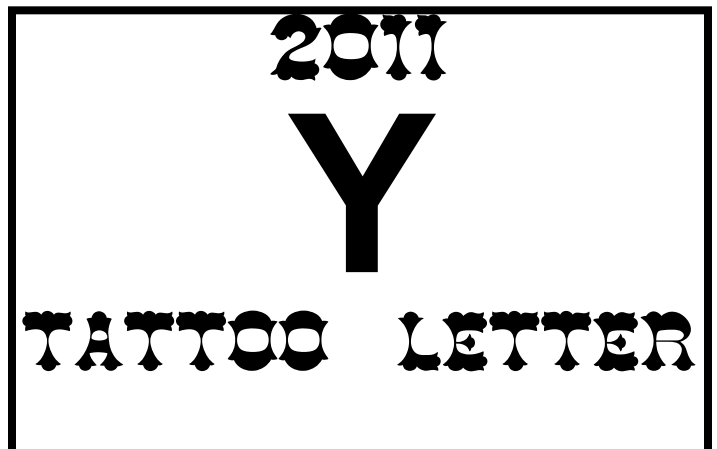
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Murray Grey Cattle Get Great Exposure at Tennessee Grazing Conference

Murray Greys got great exposure at the recent grazing conference held at Piney River Cattle Co headquarters in Nunnely, Tennessee. More than 30 cattlemen from the Midwest and the Southeast convened at Piney River to hear South African rancher Ian Mitchell-Innes talk about mob grazing and holistic ranch management on April 14,15 and 16, 2011. The Piney River registered Murray Grey herd gave the attendees a good “look see” at our favorite breed of cattle.



Murray Grey Cows at Piney River

Piney River Cattle Co, a partnership consisting of Lee McCormick of Nashville and Jeremy Peele of Ancrandale, NY is grazed on 4,000 acres of Central Tennessee grassland owned by Lee McCormick. The partners will calve out close to 150 purebred Murray Grey cows in 2011. They will also calve 500 commercial cows bred to Murray Grey bulls. The commercial steers and heifer, along with the purebred steers, will be shipped to New York to be finished on grass at Jerry Peele’s Herondale Farm.

The three day grazing conference focused on holistic “mob grazing” – concentrating cattle into large herds and grazing them on small acreages to mimic the grazing action of natural, hooved ruminants – the American Bison and African hooved animals. The goal is to increase carbon content of soils, improve the health of the soil and increase stocking rates dramatically. Piney River is adopting this form of grazing to maximize pasture returns and to improve the health and wellness of the soils on the ranch.

Cattlemen from Illinois, Indiana, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia attended the conference. There were several very exciting

revelations during the conference. Piney River has already contracted with a neighboring operation to produce Murray Grey cross steers for the New York finishing operation. A 50 year veteran of the Georgia cattle business is considering using Murray Grey bulls on his Angus based commercial cows to maximize the benefit of his improved pasture management.

The conference attendees made several trips to the purebred pasture during the conference. The Murray Greys gave a good presentation of themselves, standing quietly while 30 strangers wandered among them and paying little attention to the crowd. Saturday morning, one Murray Grey cow showed why we say our cattle have great temperaments. She had calved earlier in the morning and let 30 strangers wander by her calf without being at all aggressive. That was perhaps the best demonstration of Murray Grey docility that this writer has ever seen.

Lee McCormick and Jerry Peele deserve a great thank you for hosting the grazing conference. Manager Darryl ”Rusty” Groves and his assistant Jane Ellen Tomlinson were marvelous hosts for the three day event. We look for great things from Piney River in the years to come.



Part of the Piney River Murray Grey Bull Battery

Murray Grey Breeder Honored by Ohio Cattlemen as "Friend of the Expo"

from the Ohio Beef Expo Web Site

Another familiar face around the Expo is Rex Sullinger, of Ridgeway, who became involved with the Expo when his family became a potential buyer of breeding stock in 1988. Since then, he has continued to be more involved as an exhibitor, both selling and buying; making him a long-time supporter and volunteer for the Expo.



"When I see the list of those who have received this award, I am extremely honored to be considered deserving to be a Friend of the Expo," observed Sullinger when informed that he had been selected as a recipient. His modesty is only another great example of exactly why he deserves to be recognized.

His story really goes back to the 1980s when he chose a Murray Grey bull for his crossbred cows to help moderate the size of the calves. "Our start into the purebred industry was a heifer purchased as a 4-H project. Following that we switched to a Murray Grey herd with a few crossbreds," said Sullinger.

With the Murray Grey herd came the opportunity to get more involved in the Expo. "In 1991, the Murray Grey Association asked me to be their representative to the breeds committee," said Sullinger. He has served in that capacity nearly every year since, taking only two years off. In addition he has served as an announcer for the junior show and various breed shows and has no intentions of quitting anytime soon.

Sullinger has seen major growth in the Expo over the years. "We started in the old Davey Beef

Barn for breeds cattle with the trade show in about half of O'Neill," recalls Sullinger. "Now they use all of O'Neill, the trade show overflows the Voinovich and the junior show is housed in the Gilligan complex."

It became evident that Sullinger is one of the more dedicated volunteers when he said, "We think of the Expo as a vacation, even though we work while we're there. My favorite part is the breeds barn, maybe that's because it's 'home' to us."

A true cattleman, Sullinger notes. "Show day is probably the most exciting for a Murray Grey breeder; there are cattle to get ready and the friendly competition is great." He also jokes, "My favorite day might be Sunday evening," when he's at home in his recliner after another successful event.

The true testament to his reputation and dependability at the Expo is evident in a story Sullinger presented. "There was a special dinner I thought I was late for because I was announcing a show. When I arrived, then OCA President Jim Campbell said, 'There's Rex, he'll do it,' and I was asked to give the blessing. It is good to know God is also a part of our Expo."

Ed Note: *It is no surprise to any of us who know Rex that he received this award. Rex has always been a true friend of Murray Grey cattle and a true friend of the American Murray Grey Association. The OBE has benefited mightily from Rex's dedication and hard work. Well done, our friend, and thank you for your many years of devotion and service to our breed and our Association.*



Murray Grey Bulls - Meat Where it Matters!

Thank you for spending the weekend with us

We finally had our NWMGA Field Day on Saturday, May 21. It took a considerable amount of planning and work by several members, but it was more than worth all of the effort. I know others are writing about the



Double G Farm Cows

speakers and activities, so I will leave that to them. However, I do want to say a few words about the event. Cheryl and I hosted the weekend, and we both agree that it exceeded our expectations. Several people arrived Friday afternoon, so we had the evening to visit, share dinner, toast marshmallows, and enjoy each other's company. Saturday morning Cheryl made pancakes and sausage patties for everyone, and Julie Harris brought in hot German pancakes, which are basically an egg dish. At noon, the association put on a hot dog feed, and I must say Gennie Gerow deserves a rosette for her hot dog cooking skills. Most in attendance stayed Saturday night, and we laughed until our sides ached.

Some of the highlights of the weekend for me were showing our animals to everyone, and the nice comments about our Murray Greys, the camaraderie (I heard not one negative remark all weekend), getting to know some of our new members, and having a picture of our farm selected for the front page of the NWMGA web page. Activities like this always refresh my interest and enjoyment in this hobby. An activity like this takes a lot of work by many people who go unrecognized-I guess what you call unsung heroes.

Cheryl Germaine in her quiet unassuming manner was helper number one. Every time I turned around she was taking care of something I had forgotten, or never even thought of on my own. She came home with name tags one day, and the next made a large colorful sign for the end of the driveway. One day I came in from the barn, and she was in the middle of baking several batches of cookies. She cleaned the flower beds, mowed the lawn, changed the beds, bought groceries, put in many hours of work, and all with a smile. What a lucky guy I am to have a wife who not only lets me follow my passion, but helps and encourages me with it. I guess it is no wonder I love her. I'll use this public forum to thank her for forty two years of being a Grand Champion Wife.



NWMGA members at the Field Day

NORTHWEST MURRAY GREY ASSOCIATION

SPRING FIELD DAY

About two dozen Murray Grey enthusiasts braved the wet spring weather to gather at George and Cheryl Germaine's Diamond G Farm in Vadar, Washington on Saturday, May 21 for the Northwest Murray Grey Association Field Day and spring meeting. Despite the terribly wet spring, the Germaine's had the farm yard and pastures looking good for "company".

and efficiency of the steers and heifers on trial. The Futurity also provides a great deal of carcass information that can be entered into the AMGA Group BreedPlan program to strengthen Murray Grey EPDs. The trial also provides tremendous feedback on the cost of feed and the profitability of each animal. (See Iowa Steer Feeding Program for more details on the program.)



Bill Hartwell demonstrates clipping

George Germaine led participants on a tour of the herd, displaying the cows yet to calve and the senior herd sire, O9 Mr. Sunset Sam 226S. The cows that have already calved were in a second pasture across the driveway and were very willing to let the field day participants get up close and personal.

Sunset Sam looked really good, carrying good flesh cover for this time of year. The cows also looked good after the long winter and wet spring. The Diamond G calves are growing well, and like a lot of us around the country, could use a few days of sunshine every now and then.

Mr. Bill Hartwell from Redmond, Oregon gave a clipping and grooming demonstration for the participants. Mr. Hartwell owns and operates a professional fitting and grooming service. Participants seemed to enjoy his presentation and asked a lot of good questions.

Jake Young from Carson, Iowa represented Carson Feeders and led a discussion on the "Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity". This program does a very thorough job of evaluating the performance

AMGA Executive Director John Gerow gave a short presentation on EPDs; attempting to explain what EPDs are, how they are calculated and how breeders can use them in their breeding and marketing program. AMGA Registrar Gennie Gerow was on hand with all of the AMGA forms to field questions from members about the forms and entering data.

The Germaines did a marvelous job of feeding the crowd. George roasted a pig and baked fresh caught Salmon. Members brought dishes to pass, and no one left the table hungry. It was a really good day for Murray Grey people. The program was



Jake Young of Carson Feeders

well planned and delivered. The food was great and the companionship was wonderful. It was a good chance for several new members and breeders in attendance to meet and network with well established breeders.



The AMGA Sire and Dam Performance Program is designed to acknowledge the breed's top performing cows and bulls and to give accolades to their breeders and owners.

Performance Dam - The superior Murray Grey female calves and rebreeds every year while raising a top performing calf.

To be eligible for this honor the female must:

- Have her first calf by 28 months of age
- Maintain calving interval of less than 380 days for three consecutive calves
- Three consecutive calves must have performance data in AMGA BreedPlan
- A minimum progeny average weaning ratio of 102 on three consecutive calves
- A minimum progeny average yearling ratio of 100 on three consecutive calves

Performance Sire - The Murray Grey breed is noted for adding docility, fertility, marbling and milk to the herd. The Performance Sire award commends those bulls that pass along these traits to their progeny.

To be eligible for this honor the bull must:

- Have 205 Day and 365 Day EPDs in the top 25% of the breed based upon
- Have a minimum of 10 registered progeny with birth, weaning and yearling weights in AMGA BreedPlan
- Have a minimum of 2 daughters in production that calved before 28 months of age with an average weaning ratio greater than 100.

AMGA members enrolled in BreedPlan are encouraged to nominate their superior cows and bulls for these awards. Once verified, Performance Sires & Dams will be announced in the Murray Grey News and on the Association's web site. For more information, contact AMGA @ 502 – 384 – 2335.

2011 Ohio Beef Expo Show Results

Grand Champion Bull:

HA X Factor 29X

Victory Murray Grey, Sherie Clark, Carrollton, OH

Reserve Grand Champion Bull:

ATI Powerhouse 031X

OSU-ATI, Wooster, OH

Champion Champion Female:

Victory Xavera

Victory Murray Grey, Sherie Clark, Carrollton, OH

Reserve Grand Champion Female:

Monarch Oak Julie

Monarch Oak Farm, Ginger Natolis, Marietta, OH

Champion Cow / Calf:

LRF Tic Tac

Limestone Ridge Farm, Steve & Stacey Cummings, Bedford, IN



**AMGA Jr Madison Nason
Showing at the Ohio Beef Expo**



***HA X Factor 29 X
Grand Champion Bull
2011 Ohio Beef Expo***

2011 Ohio Beef Expo Show Results



Champion Champion Female:

Victory Xavera
Ohio Beef Expo



Reserve Grand Champion Female:

Monarch Oak Julie

Update on The Midnight Miracle

By George Germaine

Several months ago I wrote an article about our c-section calf. Some members have asked for an update on mom and baby. I don't want to go back outside as it is 14 degrees with 6 inches of snow, so I decided why not stay in and write. (I know Tom, this is balmy for you, but we are not used to this especially at the end of Feb.) A quick review first. HA Sweet Home Sally was not due for another week when I noticed her water sack break. She continued to graze and show no intention to deliver. After several hours and attempts, we managed to get a vet to the farm. After hours of trying to get the calf out, it was decided the best chance to save Sally was a c-section. The vet managed to get the calf, an HA Mr. Muscle bull, out with Herculean effort, and lots of help from his wife, Cheryl, and me. Although the calf had little chance to survive, he actually pulled through.

A few months later the vet found that one of Sally's ovaries is scarred but the other one is functional. She went through several heat periods, but hopefully is now bred.

The little fellow, 74 lbs at birth, started slowly. At first Sally would not take him, which is common in a c-section birth, and when she did her milk came to full flow slowly. We named him DG Midnight Miracle 7X because of the unusual events involved in his birth. He weaned at only 631 lbs., but since has grown gang busters. Now at almost 10 months of age, he weighs a trim 924lbs. This should put him over 1100 lbs at a year. He is a very handsome young guy with dark dun color and curly hair. He has a super disposition and is quite spoiled. He has to have hugs every day and is curious beyond belief. He has the same quiet personality as his full older sister DG Velvet Supreme 4V. Hopefully, someday he will go to live with a herd that needs an upgrade. I think his grandma, Miss Canadian Breeze, would be very proud of him. Cheryl and I certainly are.



Diamond G Calves

March 2011

www.murraygreybeefcattle.com

In His Own Words:

Lee DeCoursey explains why DeCo Cattle Company of Wellsboro, PA is breeding, developing and marketing Murray Grey Cattle.

Ed Note: In the March Issue we met Lee DeCoursey and Emny DeCoursey - Mack, "Microbrews & Murray Grey Beef". In this issue, Lee shares his thoughts on Murray Greys in this Letter to AMGA.

After years of growing bone, power, and strength; struggling to find the right cross. The use of tons of feed with a slow turn over then maybe a choice carcass, maybe not. As a buyer-feeder-farmer-breeder the consistency was lacking. Grain had become too valuable to run through the cattle and



*Long-lived, good mothers that develop top quality carcasses:
What Lee DeCoursey wants in his cattle.*

the turn around for cash flow just too long. We had to modernize, "go grass". All phases of the operation had to be cut for our bottom line. Our maximum conversion goal set at 18 months. We sought for calves that packed 3 plus pounds on per day till harvest. A Cattle breed with an easy to work with attitude that can KEEP the pounds on. Cows that carry a frame/conformation so the gain goes on in

the right places. Everything, "the package" coming together at the correct time. Finishing out at 1100 to 1300 lb . A carcass of white fat and no patching, uniform marbling.

The must haves: Longevity ... Good mothers with ease of calving and an outstanding carcass quality. Strong feet and legs built to be passed on to the future generation. A tight udder with a rich milk capacity capable of growing a production/performance calf. A cattle breed that an operator can "work with". Cows able to handle transition and perform on even the toughest of terrain.

Murray Greys- "the silver cattle" a derivative of Shorthorn and Angus. Familiar with both as top beef breeds. These cattle fit the criteria; carrying the characteristics of our choice. A modern breed that would provide the custom beef market with some extra benefits, (Which we saw as gold for our buyers). The "Murrays" a heart healthy beef . Full of flavor with tenderness that the customers comment on. Being workable not excitable, these cows packed on the pounds! Grass and quality forage will do. Very, little grain fed for conversion to a choice carcass. Some needing

none at all.

The calves are easy to bond with. Quick to their feet and nursing soon after birth. At 3 days old the young stock are easily handled and the producer can notice the gain.

For DeCo Cattle Company the cow of the future is here. The Murray Grey- gain impressive, yield outstanding, carcass quality remarkable.

2012 MURRAY GREY CALENDAR

For 2012 your Promotion Committee is designing and plans to market a Murray Grey Calendar.

The calendar will be in full color, with important AMGA dates included. The calendars will be professionally designed and professionally printed.

A \$100.00 advertising fee will get you a month (first come first reserve for each month), plus 3 calendars. (The calendars alone are a \$30.00 value. When you consider this, your ad purchase will only cost \$70.00!)

Be part of this exciting Murray Grey promotional effort!

Send in your advertising picture and information, along with your check to AMGA, PO Box 43515, Louisville, KY 40253.

Instructions:

- 1 – Draft out your ad copy or instructions for the layout
- 2 – Use good photos, they must be sent with your order.
- 3 – Make your check payable to AMGA
- 4 – Mail everything no later than July 31, 2011

If all 12 months are not sold, all money will be returned.

Promotions Committee:

Sherie Clark – Chair
Gennie Gerow



*Jane Ellen Tomlinson
Piney Creek Cattle Co.*

AMGA WANTS *YOU*

Your American Murray Grey Association a unique democratic organization which is run by a group of 9 volunteers committed to the Murray Grey breed, its members and our association. These volunteers serve as a Board of Directors for your association. As a member of the AMGA, you have a voice in who you are willing to support as your representative to the Board of Directors. Three of these directors are selected every year for a 3 year term. Selection of these directors is accomplished by ballot from every eligible AMGA member. Would you like to have a voice in how our organization is run or operated? Do you know of an individual who would like to serve as a director? If you are willing or you know someone who is willing, please send or have that individual send a short biography to the AMGA office. That biography will be put in the AMGA Newsletter for all to members to review. Election to the AMGA Board of Directors by its own members is the most effective way to see that your organization is operated the way you feel it should. This democratic method of operation has been effective for 40 years since AMGA was first incorporated. Please seriously consider those who would be willing to serve our members in this way.

George Virtue
President AMGA



Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity

Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity began in 1982 with 35 Iowa beef producers consigning 105 steers for feedlot and carcass evaluation. The program tracks feedlot profitability animal by animal, giving each consignor a complete picture of each animal's performance and ultimate cut out. In the last seven years, Tri-County has fed out more than 40,000 cattle from 13 states.



Gennie Gerow Grilling Hotdogs

The TCSCF works through the use of computerized record keeping throughout the feeding period and at harvest. The on trial data is used not only to track feed consumption and efficiency, but is combined with actual carcass measurements to give each consignor a good handle of how their cattle convert feed and how they grade.

Although many Murray Grey producers are not targeting the commercial feedlot market, the information gathered from this trial will still be invaluable. The feed conversion and feed efficiency information may not directly correlate to grass feeding, but it will help Murray Grey breeders in their decision making processes. The carcass data will not only help build the AMGA data base, but will give consignors an incredibly clear

picture of how their cattle cut out. This information is essential to building a solid retail marketing program and to building a solid breeding stock program.

TCSCF pays \$300.00 per head on delivery for lots of 10 or more cattle. All feeding and vet costs are deducted from the "rail" value of the cattle after harvest. The delivery payment helps farmers transition from selling weanlings to selling fat cattle on the rail. TCSCF "buys" the feeders for a nominal fee so that they can borrow the money to buy feed for the trial, sparing the consignor of paying before harvest and sale.

The final report from the feedlot gives feed conversion data, carcass data and cost of feed and veterinary services set against the value of the carcass on the rail. The final data gives the producers an incredible picture of the cost and value of their harvested steers. It is a complete program for analyzing the final feeding phase of producing cattle.

The Northwest Murray Grey Association is attempting to put together a load of steers for this program. George Virtue, Sweet Home, OR is heading up the effort. Please contact George or the AMGA office if you have questions about this program.



Bill Harwell and Tyler Holly at the NWMGA Field Day

A Farm Girl's Story

Delana Gage

The S-More Farm, South Dayton, NY

Growing up next door to my grandparents' small dairy farm, I remember going down to the barn with my sisters and watching my grandfather as he milked the cows, smelling the rich, sweet molasses that he poured over old hay for the cows to eat and

year I purchased a purebred Murray Grey yearling. This past fall I purchased 2 registered Murray Grey weanlings. I have also been blessed with 4 heifer calves from my Murray Greys to add to my herd.

I finally decided that I wanted to show my cattle at our county



fair. I had no previous experience in fitting, grooming or showing what so ever. I started out with my bull calf that was 8 months old at fair time. I figured if we got out to the ring and he didn't get loose or act up I would be happy. I must have done something right with him because he placed first in class and was Grand Champion over all. The following year I showed a yearling heifer who placed first in her class, 1st overall in the yearling heifer class and

*Farm Girl Delana Gage & T Bone
2008 Cattaraugus County Fair
Little Valley, New York*

us girls jumping off the beams in the haymow and landing in the loose hay. I don't remember saying or thinking that I wanted to live on a farm or to marry a farm boy. Well, I did marry a farm boy and now own my grandparents' farm. We have had quite a variety of animals on our farm over the past 15 years, from chickens, turkeys, sheep, goats, dairy heifers, fancy pigeons, pigs, to a miniature donkey and in the fall of 2008 we added beef cows.

Once I decide that I wanted to raise beef cows I had to decide on what breed to raise. I knew that I wanted a breed that was not very common in our area. I talked to a few beef breeders near us and found won that had a few Murray Grey crosses. I did my research and decided that Murray Grey was the breed that I wanted. I purchased two yearling heifers and soon after that, a bull calf. The following

2nd for Supreme Female. Last year, I took 2 yearling heifers. They placed first and second in their class plus 1st in the Breeder's Choice category. I must confess, though, that placing each year has been quite easy because I have been the only one showing in the Murray Grey classes.

I used to give my husband a hard time about spending so much time in our barn looking at the dairy heifers. Now, I am spending just as much time in the barn looking at my Murray Greys. I am either brushing them, getting them ready for the fair or just watching them on pasture. I'm the one who now gets up during the night during calving and worries about the calves. I'm the one who is deciding whether to raise a calf for meat, sell it for breeding stock or add it my growing herd. I am becoming what I thought I would never be: A FARM GIRL!



One Yearling Bull Left!!

Monarch Oak Midnight Cowboy
DOB: 01/22/2010

Tenderness: 9 Marbling 7 Balanced EPDs
Halter Trained & Ready to Go!

Monarch Oak Farm

Ginger Natolis Calvin & Jared Huck
350 Ash Road Marietta, OH 45750 - 7861
Ph/Fax: 740 - 374 -2910
Email: monarchoak@murraygreybeefcattle.com

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Consistency
& Performance



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507 - 665 - 2934

Email: thelfter@aol.com

American Murray Grey Association

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Louisville, KY 40253-0515

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Murray Grey Cow Herd at Piney River Cattle Co.