

McMoos Highland Cattle

McMoos Noos

15 May 2011

Mr McMoo Says: Things on the farm are pretty quiet, waiting the next batch of calves to be born over the coming months and not so looking forward to the feeding out. In the rain and wind This year we have been lucky to get some lease land about 2 minutes from us and we have put half the fold on that and the rest are still here. The difference it has made is remarkable, as yet we have not had to feed out and the grass is still growing. They are all in fantastic condition and we will be trying our best to hold that condition through the winter. Last winter gave a such a beating weather wise that it took us all summer to recover and they lost condition. Well no more they are back and gorgeous once again. We have decided to move one of our stud bulls on, Duncan McMoo of Lumont'e. Duncan is a P1 dun bull and we have had him since he was 9 months old. (see for sale page for more detail) We got Duncan for 2 main reasons. His colour and his temperament. We have had a fantastic selection of, Dunn, Red, Silver Dunn and even Black from him and as for temperament they have been everything we could have asked for. Duncan's most recognised offspring's is Janny T who one the International Virtual show Supreme Champion our of 187 entries from all over the world. Prior to that she had picked up many calf and heifer prizes in the lower north island. All of Duncan offspring have had great temperament and have all gone to lifestyle homes all over the country. What are we asking from him?? A good home is all we ask, you pay the freight and he is yours. If this offer is not taken up we will steer him and keep him here as we are too attached for any other option. Call or email me anytime if you are interested.

WHY DO FARM GATES LOOK LIKE THAT!!!

RJ McMoo (*Big, Black all Bull and all round mummy's Boy!*) and Walter our steer (*likes flowers, chewing the cud with the girls, sleep over's and pillow fights!*) have spent the last 3 months together away from the girls, Walter has been the most unhappy as RJ is not quite the same as the girls – they really do all get on well and Walter is just like their "best" friend that they all confide in. RJ was due to be steered. The day was set and the vet turned up promptly to do the deed. RJ was dropped and blissfully snored through the whole procedure. I asked the vet how long to keep him away from the floozies in the paddock and was told normally 2 – 3 weeks but that he had seen horses that still had a "load in the barrel" for up to three weeks so to be on the safe side give it four.

This was OK but meant that Walter would have to miss his girls for a bit longer so that RJ could have some company.

The castration had plummeted RJ into a sort of depression and he stood sadly in the corner, even when I brought him a treat he didn't want to know and just looked at me with big sad eyes. 3 weeks down the track we still had them separated with an electric fence to divide them that was considerably taller than RJ with a gate between the paddocks. I got home from work and went to get the washing off the line when I saw RJ disappear behind the towels. Lady Pebbles (*Matriarch and paddock troll*) disappearing around the other side. Walter was down the bottom of the paddock going into his own type of depression from being away from the girls with a once upon a time bull that didn't want to know him. I walked round the washing to see RJ (*rotundus maximus*) trying to Shundle his way over the gate with Pebbles waving her backside at him with a look of "come on big boy- I'm in season".

I yelled to Pete that Rotundas Maximus was halfway over the gate but was stuck (due to his height and considerable girth). Pete came flying from the house, through the electric fence (which was on) and got to RJ just as his backside slid off the gate (*Rotundus Maximus 1, Gate 0*). Pete managed to direct him towards the corner as the rest of the herd came thundering down the paddock. As they came running I swung the gate open behind RJ and the whole herd including pebbles ran stampeding into the paddock from whence RJ had just come and shut the now rather odd shaped gate behind them. RJ with eyes going wild suddenly stopped and realised he was now in a paddock on his own with a astonished look of "what the hell happened, I was with her, then no" Walter came running over to the fence flailing legs in the air up and down the fence line "I've got the girls, you don't" and I swear if they could blow raspberries he would have. RJ Stood, drooped his head and sighed a sigh of defeat, he was on his own and his lovelies and paddock mate were next door - Bugger.



The Gate



The Offender

15 May 2011

Questions and answers. From you all.

Question: How old should a heifer be before she goes to the bull? Are there any guidelines?

Answer. There are several answers to this and what you decide to do is up to you. Many Highland breeders hold back their heifers from the bull until they are 2 years and older. The theory behind this is that the animal is larger and more mature in many ways and therefore able to cope with the pregnancy and feeding of the calf easier and the result being a better and stronger mother and baby. I for one believe this to be true, however I have never had any problem with younger heifers giving birth. Some advice though... Never have your young heifer covered by a large mature bull. A cow during mating can carry up to 3 times its own weight, anything more than this could risk damage to your young heifer. If you have a younger bull then great if not then perhaps hold off a little while. Do not get your young heifers in calf and possibly even older girls to a larger breed for example Simmental, Hereford, Charolais. Highlands when born are small (25kg at birth) rapidly putting on weight after birth with the high butter fat in mums milk. For a Highland to have a large calf may endanger both mum and baby during birth. We often here in the show ring judges expecting Highlands at 2 yrs to have a calf at foot, unfortunately lack of knowledge is usually the problem here as most Highland Heifers do not cycle until they are 16-18 months old some even older. This is not always the case but in most Purebred ones it will be typical the case. Finally remember that Highland are breeding often to the age of 20—22 so really what's the hurry?

Question

Is it true that older Bulls can sire more females?

Answer: Rumour has it. However this seems to have more to do with the older bulls being more patient than the younger ones. Bit like humans ???. There is 2 parts when a females cycles. The up as they are reaching the peak of the cycle is more well known for producing boys and the coming down from the peak producing boys. It is said that the youngsters will rush in on the way up and the older boys are more patient and will wait till the way down. I have also seen it with certain cows that will produce more girls than boys and vice versa so I am not sure of what scientific evidence there is to support your question. My advice just go with the flow, whatever happens happens, if you want to get one or the other then these days you can AI with sexed semen.

Question Because highlands are hairy, when drenching them should you put more on?

Answer: Ok great you are using pour on for a starter. I do not use oral drench as the thought of pouring a chemical down the throat of one of my lovely highlands does not sit well with me. If using oral drench I like to use natural drench, based on apple cider and garlic it smells great and the worms hate it. However there is a time when you need to apply a pour on. It is important NOT to over or under dose. Weight them if you can, you can get weigh tapes for beef from RD1 or most suppliers and use that. When that's done part the hair down the back and pour on as close to the skin as possible. That's should do it. We probably dose our guys 3 times per year but the amount you do it must depend on you experience with the area and your soil. Whatever make sure you DO IT!



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FOR SALE

FREE TO A GOOD HOME

Duncan McMoo of Lumonte

Dunn Bull P1

DOB. 15 Dec 2005.

Yep that's right pay the freight and he is yours.

Duncan has been with us since he was 9 months old and we are needing to find a nice home for him as he has completed his duties here. Always producing quiet adorable calves Duncan has done himself proud and produce prize winning animals, and won a few ribbons himself although he does not like the show pens. He has produced the full range of colours Dunn, Silver Dunn, yellow, Red and Black. Duncan is halter trained loves and I mean loves!! a brush in the paddock and is a breeze to handle. If you are looking for a bull that will bring lovely temperament and a full range of colours to your stud then give me a call 04 5297455 anytime or email greg@mcmoos.co.nz. If this offer is not taken up Duncan will be steered and stay with us.



Barrington McMoo
Full Blood Bull Calf
Sire: Mackay of Trossachs
Dam: Ursula of Coopers Brae
DOB 07 Nov 2010

Barrington is stunning red bull.
He has everything you would look
for in a bull of his age



Check out more for sale at www.mcmoos.co.nz



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FOR SALE

Heather McMoo
Pure 2 Heifer Calf
Sire: Hamish of Trossachs
Dam: Maggie McMoo of Lumont'e
DOB Jan 2011

Lovely Red girl. Nice Nature and already very quiet and calm



Opal McMoo
Pure 2 Heifer Calf
Sire: Muir Of Craigower
Dam: Queen Bee McMoo of Lumont'e
DOB Jan 2011

Nice black heifer, nice nature and growing on really well.

Matilda McMoo
Pure 1 Heifer Calf (Hummel)
Sire: Duncan McMoo of Lu-
Dam: Walnut the 2nd of West-
Highlands
DOB 29 September 2010

Really well built girl with sound ture. Looks stunning and has on incredibly well since wean-



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struc-
grown
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Check out more for sale at www.mcmoos.co.nz

www.McMoos.co.nz

McMoos
Highland Cattle Group
Quality - Personality - Performance
www.mcmoos.co.nz



15 May 2011

Once again "Thanks for Watching" I hope Autumn is going well for you all and the warm weather has the grass growing like mad. It is here!

This Noosletter is only circulated to members of the McMoos Group, their clients and subscribers. If you have someone you know who would like to receive it drop me a line at greg@mcmoos.co.nz.

Questions are encouraged on any topic related to Highlands showing or the cattle industry.

Photos of your Highlands are also encouraged if not demanded ! Come on people despite my demands still nothing, We just love to see them!!

And simply... When one is not enough,. Use both hands!

Georgie and Peigi McMoo , sisters



The End

