

Columbiana-Mahoning-Trumbull Cattlemen's Association, Inc.

March 2015

www.cmtcattlemen.com

Dear Fellow Cattlemen/Cattlewomen,

The 2015 annual banquet is now history and with that brings a new year for the CMTCA, complete with the elections of some new board members. First off, let me thank the outgoing and past president, Paul Wetzl for his year of service. Paul was very involved in getting the carcass class and Harold E Ferguson Carcass Award program started. We will work to expand and improve these programs, as I believe they are very important to promote this side of the beef industry. Like I said at the banquet, thanks to all the past and present board members, as they do a great job managing our CMTCA. Between attending monthly meetings and activities, banquets, cattle shows, fairs, OCA meetings, etc., these board members volunteer their time and are never financially compensated. To our members, this is your association also. If you would like to be more involved, please speak up with your ideas, questions, or problems. If you think you would like to get involved as a board member, please come to our meetings, they are always open to the membership.

The Banquet went well, considering our short notice of change. The food was good, and we had a chance to bond quite closely together, but luckily we all fit and had a great time. Unfortunately our trade show was a little short due to changes, and we will be addressing this on the banquet info for next year.

The next East Ohio Grazing Council meeting will be March 26, 6 PM at Ponderosa Steak House in Carrollton, Ohio. This meeting will cover pasture layout and basic grazing. The second Grazing council meeting will take place April 23, 6 PM at Straight A's Ranch in Malvern, Ohio. Please call Pete Conkle with any questions regarding either meeting. These meetings are very informative and a nice social event, whether you are a seasoned grazer, or just new to the grazing council.

Also, on April 7, United Producers and OSU will be holding a meeting "Adding Value to Your Feeder Cattle." Dr. Fluharty will be the guest speaker. This meeting will take place at the Carrollton High School Cafeteria, in Carrollton Ohio. Diner will begin at 6 PM, with the meeting to follow. You will need to RSVP to Blaine Winger @ 724-996-8608.

That's all I have for now. Hope everyone has a safe and productive calving season!

Mark Kohler- 2015 CMTCA President

2015 OFFICERS

President

Mark Kohler
330-771-7022

Vice President

Brian Spencer
330-501-1987

Past President

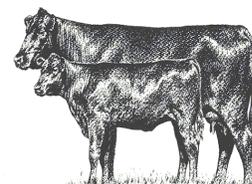
Paul Wetzl
330-534-4332

Secretary

Chad Bailey
330-853-7966

Treasurer

Pete Conkle
330-831-0006



Upcoming Dates:

Grazing Council: March 26
Grazing council: April 23
United Producers: April 7

Inside this issue:

Minutes from banquet
Ambassador News
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Announcement of the 2015 CMTCA Ambassadors

This year the CMTCA switched from the royal court (queen/princess) to The Beef Ambassador Program. A program for youth, male or female, between the ages of 16-19 years of age. The main goals are to provide an opportunity for youth to be educated and to educate consumers about beef nutrition, food safety and stewardship practices of the beef industry. As they promote the beef industry, they will be developing skills of leadership, communication and self-confidence - all integral elements of becoming future leaders in the beef industry.

Erika Zuga, Trumbull County; Claudia Criss, Mahoning County; and Betty Richey, Columbiana County, will be representing the CMTCA for 2015.

Madison (Madie) Murray, Trumbull County; Megan Drake, Columbiana County; Marly Ziegler, Columbiana County; and Emily McDonald, Columbiana County, were selected Junior Beef Ambassadors. Our goal is to prepare the Junior Ambassadors to go on to compete in the future at the Ohio Cattlewomen Association's ambassador program in Columbus.

Your Ambassadors will be out promoting the beef industry in the near future. If you happen to see them, please let them know you're a CMTCA member.

As the CMTCA Ambassadors, these girls are here to help and assist the association and its members. If you have an event (PR, open house, sale, etc.) or know of an organization that could use the service of these ambassadors, please get in touch with Janet Zuga at: zugafarms@embarqmail.com or [330-469-1061](tel:330-469-1061).

Congratulations, 2015 Beef Ambassadors!!!!

Picture one: Marly Ziegler, Madie Murray, Erika Zuga, Claudia Criss, Betty Richey, Megan Drake, Emily McDonald



2015 Board of Directors

Pete Conkle
Todd Miller
Chad Bailey
Ben Campbell
Fred Criss
Duane Nickell
Brady Baker
Chad Raber
Rich Boyd
Gary Coppersmith: Dairy



Royalty

Beef Ambassadors:

Erica Zuga,
Trumbull County

Claudia Criss,
Mahoning County

Betty Richey,
Columbiana County

Jr. Ambassadors:

Megan Drake
Madie Murray

Jr. Ambassadors Alternates:

Marly Ziegler
Emily McDonald

Ambassador Coordinator:

Janet Zuga
zugafarms@embarqmail.com

Picture two: (left to right) Jr. Beef Ambassadors
Madie Murray, Emily McDonald, Megan Drake, Marly Zeigler



Jamie Garwood-Stacy:
Newsletter Coordinator

news@cmtcattlemen.com,

stacyranch@yahoo.com,

Jamie.stacy@ccctc.k12.oh.us,

330-398-4077

Picture three: (left to right) Beef Ambassadors Erika Zuga, Claudia Criss, Betty Richey



Club Calf Sale and Show:
Rich Boyd, Todd Miller
Brian Spencer, and Chad
Raber

Ambassador Blog:

The Ambassadors are currently working on the CMTCA fair booth. They are in need of some old burlap feed sacks. If anyone has a few lying around your farm you are willing to donate, please contact Janet Zuga or Jamie Stacy.

Don't Forget: If you are having any event that you would like to see any of our Ambassadors attend, please contact Janet.

[330-469-1061](tel:330-469-1061) (cell) or zugafarms@embarqmail.com

***Columbiana/Mahoning/Trumbull County Cattlemen's Association
Annual Banquet Summary***

The Columbiana, Mahoning, and Trumbull County Cattlemen's Association held their Annual Banquet and meeting Saturday March 7th at Heck's Restaurant in Columbiana, Ohio. The banquet featured dinner as well as an annual review of the activities held by the CMTCA during 2014-2015. Another great year was wrapped up and presented to the members. Pete Conkle (Ohio Cattlemen's District 3 Director) talked about current events and issues presented to local cattlemen. Henry Bergfeld also talked about the beef check off and current information on Beef Council.

The Carcass of Carcass Champion was awarded. The 2014 Harold E. Ferguson Annual Carcass Award was a great success as it rewarded the winners of Trumbull and Columbiana County Fairs. During the Fall of 2014, CMTCA held a carcass educational meeting, and the carcass of carcass champion was selected. The award went to Alexa Baker of Columbiana County. The award was presented by Bill Ferguson, Rod Ferguson and Paula Webber (Ferguson) of the Ferguson Family.

CMTCA also transitioned to an Ambassador program replacing its royal court of previous years. The 2015 ambassadors are: Columbiana County Beef Ambassador (Betty Richey), Columbiana County Jr. Beef Ambassador (Megan Drake), Columbiana County Jr. Beef Ambassador 1st Alternate (Marly Ziegler), Columbiana County Jr. Beef Ambassador 2nd Alternate (Emily McDonald), Mahoning County Beef Ambassador (Claudia Criss), Trumbull County Beef Ambassador (Erika Zuga), Trumbull County Jr. Beef Ambassador (Madie Murray).

CMTCA presented the Cattlemen of the Year Award to Wilson Stock Farm of Hanoverton, Ohio. Jack and Jackie Wilson along with their grandsons Corey and Nathan were there to except the honor. The Wilson Stock Farm is a beautiful Hereford operation in the rolling hills of Columbiana County.

2015 Officers and Directors were elected. Mark Kohler will be the 2015 CMTCA President, Brian Spencer Vice President, Chad Bailey Secretary, Pete Conkle Treasure. Elected on as Directors were: Fred Criss, Duane Nickell, Ben Campbell, Todd Miller, Brady Baker, Chad Raber and Rich Boyd. Paul Wetzl will serve as past president for 2015.

CMTCA Scholarship Info

The 2015 Scholarship Application is now available. Applicants must be residents of Columbiana, Mahoning, or Trumbull counties and pursuing a degree in agriculture. Children of past or present CMT directors will be considered regardless of stated field. Applications must be returned to Ben Campbell by May 1, 2015. Applications can be downloaded from the website, or by requesting a copy. Please notify Jamie Stacy if you would like a copy mailed or emailed to you.

2015

**Columbiana-Mahoning-Trumbull Cattlemen's Association
Yearly Membership Application**

(Failure to Send in application will take you off the mailing list)

Name:	
Farm Name:	
Address:	
Phone Number:	
Email address	
1. Dues:	\$10 per family/farm

* Please check here if you agree to all electronic (email) correspondence: _____

2. If you would like to be a CMTCA sponsor, please submit a business card or business information. **Sponsorship** costs **\$20** per year and your information will appear in all the newsletters and on our website. **\$20 sponsor** _____

****Total amount Enclosed: \$**_____

Please mail this form and money to:
Pete Conkle at 31462 Haessly Road, Hanoverton, Oh 44423

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and the
[OSU Extension BEEF Team](#)

BEEF Cattle questions may be directed to the [OSU Extension BEEF Team](#) through [Stephen Boyles](#) or [Stan Smith](#), Editor

Issue # 927

March 18, 2015

Bulls vs. Cow Settlers - [John F. Grimes](#), OSU Extension Beef Coordinator

Bull buying season is well underway throughout the cow-calf regions across the country. If your calving season starts in January, you probably have made your herd sire selections for this year's breeding season. If your calving season starts a bit later, you may be in the midst of making herd sire selections. If you have yet to make your bull buying decisions yet, there are plenty of opportunities available in the immediate future through public auction or private treaty.

As an Extension professional and a seedstock producer, one of the most interesting discussions I can have with a producer is reviewing their thoughts on what they are looking for in a potential purchase for a herd sire. Obviously, there is a wide range of criteria to be considered depending on the production goals and size of the herd. In my experience, two very consistent themes emerge with discussions on a potential herd bull purchase: calving ease and price.

Given the value of feeder cattle and the level of expenses associated with beef production today, discriminating bull buyers should demand that potential herd sire candidates be equipped with the proper qualifications to do the job. Prospective bull buyers should expect these qualifications from any operation selling bulls at private treaty or public auction. There is simply too much risk involved in beef production today to take a chance on a sire with a lack of information in the areas of genetics, health, and fertility.

Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) allow the breeder to identify the animals that excel in the traits that are important for their operation. The EPDs can be used to determine exactly where a herd sire candidate ranks within a given breed and his potential to make significant improvements in performance of future calf crops. A documented health program should be emphasized with any herd additions regardless of gender. A sound biosecurity plan for the herd can go a long way to help avoid the introduction of a costly disease into a herd.

It is my opinion that the most important job qualification that any potential herd sire should possess is a successful Breeding Soundness Examination. This examination gives the purchaser an assurance that a herd sire candidate has the ability to get cows bred. Even mature bulls should have a Breeding Soundness Examination performed prior to turnout before a breeding season. Given today's economic climate, a cow is too expensive to maintain and feeder calves are too valuable to sell to take risks with poor potential reproductive performance from a sire without a fertility check.

Beef producers need to be concerned with a wide variety of production traits if they intend to be successful in this business. Weaning weights, yearling weights, milk, carcass traits, etc. should be prioritized to varying degrees depending on your marketing program. A person that sells feeder calves at weaning will be concerned about weaning weights while a marketer of freezer beef will be more concerned about carcass traits. However, regardless

of your marketing program, the traits of supreme importance are fertility (percentage of females bred) and calving ease (percentage of live calves).

While calving ease is extremely important, I believe there is a tendency for the typical Ohio herd owner to overemphasize calving ease across the entire herd. The average cow herd in Ohio numbers approximately 17 head with most herds retaining some number of replacement heifers to add to the herd. Herds of this size usually work with one herd sire to cover both mature cows and yearling heifers. If you choose herd sire with the proper calving ease for the heifers, he should also possess enough quality in the traits of importance such as growth and carcass merit for the mature cows. There are bulls out there that can do many things well, but they can be hard to find and more expensive to own.

This brings us to the subject of price. It should be the goal of every cow-calf producer to purchase the best possible bull that fits within a determined budget. I realize that philosophy would result in a wide range of bull prices amongst producers. A rule of thumb that I have often heard for many years is that the value of a typical herd bull should be equal to the value of two market steers or five feeder calves at weaning. There are exceptions to these guidelines but an above average bull that excels for traits such as calving ease, growth, carcass traits, etc. will likely demand a premium.

As sale reports come in from across the country, it is apparent that bull prices are strong in 2015. I am not about to tell any producer what the correct amount is that they should pay for a bull. I would like to offer a few suggestions for producers as they search for their next herd sire.

1. Establish the production goals for your herd and select a sire that compliments the needs of your cow herd.
2. Use EPDs, actual performance data, and Selection Indexes to identify outstanding sire prospects.
3. Never buy a bull without a Breeding Soundness Examination.
4. Select the appropriate age and size that matches the number of cows to be bred. A time-honored rule-of-thumb is to place about the same number of cows or heifers with a young bull as his age is in months. Putting too many cows with too young of a bull is a recipe for open cows.
5. A bull that can increase the number of live calves born, add growth, and increase the maternal strength of a herd through daughters retained should be viewed as a sound investment.
6. A low-cost bull that may not excel in traits of importance may be purchased just to get cows bred and does little to add to the profitability of the herd. This bull is little more than a "cow settler."

There are several opportunities for Ohio producers to shop for quality herd sire prospects in the very near future. The 2015 Ohio Beef Expo will be held this weekend, March 20-22, at the State Fairgrounds in Columbus. Go to the Ohio Cattlemen's Association web site at www.ohiocattle.org to check out the schedule of sales of breeds where bulls will be offered for sale. The Ohio Cattlemen's Association (OCA) will also be hosting their annual Seedstock Improvement Sale on Saturday, April 11 at the Union Stock Yards in Hillsboro. Details on this sale can also be found at the OCA web site. Also, there are several seedstock producers around the state are offering quality bulls for sale at auction or private treaty. Utilize these opportunities to buy a bull, not a cow settler!