



PARAGON

Miniature Herefords International



Developments at PARAGON Miniature Hereford Stud



Paragon Lord Thunder b.23/9/98 with Handler Sam - New bull on the show scene

Royal Grand Champion Bull

We were delighted to have Lord Thunder secure broad ribbons for both Senior and Grand Champion Bull at the Adelaide Royal Show on 1 September 2000. Thunder was our only entry.

Judge Bruce Archer from Tasmania commented: "I have judged Miniature Herefords before and the exhibits at Adelaide all displayed good qualities." he went on to say "They were structurally correct and displayed good muscle"

Archer made special comment on the muscle, testicle size and conformation of Thunder in his decision for Champion Bull.

Congratulations to True-Blue Stud who were awarded the Junior Champion Miniature Hereford Female with TrueBlue Ursula, a daughter of Paragon's Littlefoot Trooper.

He is one of thirteen bulls, any one of which could have been a credit to the breed on the day. Thunder's sire is Canadian bull LS MT Spot 9 and his dam is Paragon's KD MS Mountain 24 who

was imported from Canada in 1997.

A heifer calf of the same breeding as Thunder was recently born on 29 July 2000.

Thunder was expertly handled by Sam Edwards, while Pam & Keith Brown, well known identities on the Miniature Hereford scene, were at the show providing valuable assistance.

Thunder is now for sale and could be a future top show success for any interested breeder as well as for herd improvement.

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★ **STOP PRESS** ★

★ Margaret Morgan of Sydney is keen to sell two 14 month old heifers (of the same breeding as this year's Melbourne Royal Supreme Champion). ★

★ You can contact Margaret on (02) 9498 1148 or email: mmorgan@msnsw.org.au ★

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Miniature Herefords – Is Size and Issue?

As I See It
J R Flint

Registration of miniature Herefords in the U.S.A., Canada and Australia includes a prescribed maximum 'Frame Score' of 2 (height over back).

There is no prescribed minimum height.

Height measurement is compared with a standard chart – one for bulls and one for cows.

As would be expected, bulls are allowed a greater height against a standard frame score. For example, a low end reading for a frame score '1' mature 2 yr. cow is 111.8cm (44") and for a bull 119.4cm (47").

The absolute maximum height of a mature bull must be under frame '3', 129.5cm (51"). A bull of this size could well be mistaken for a Hereford.

A bull of score '000' is 104.1cm (41"). The latitude of 25cm (10") provides ample scope for breeding registrable animals. Frame Score Charts were derived from the Hereford charts.

Why Prescribe Maximum Heights?

Largent is recognised as the 'father' of the breed. Thirty or so years ago he, in his wisdom, chose not to follow the trend of 'breeding bigger', instead retaining what now closely resembles the true Hereford, traceable back to renowned English animals. It would be all too easy to develop our breed to a level where it would be unrecognisable from present day Herefords.

[After breeding more than 60 calves we can vouch that (at our age) we would not have managed such a program with larger cattle.]

Why not Limit Minimum Heights?

To a very large extent, minimum heights are more difficult to attain and therefore are not an issue, providing breed conformation is maintained.

The occasional sceptic might join the ranks of some uninformed mainline Hereford breeders by promoting the 'bigger is best' and so it is, if you are simply measuring quantity of meat produced.

It is a fact that early importations of Miniature Herefords into Australia were priced according to the height of the animals. The smallest being the most expensive! In the pursuit of small size, there are stories (right or wrong) that some breeders have been known to wean calves early to arrest their growth?

Schools of Thought

1. Big animals are better.

Certainly the trend toward large size is observable in Australia and New Zealand. There are a number of reasons for this:

- Show Judges are only just gaining a knowledge of Miniature Herefords and simply apply their existing knowledge of Herefords – after all who can blame them – we are breeding 'beef' animals, and the more beef on the animal the better!
- A limited gene pool
- Not sufficient attention paid to breeding programs

2. Small animals are better

- Smaller animals relate to the concept of Miniatures
- They provide a breeding 'challenge' (its easier to breed large than small)
- They tend to have a higher sale value (over Herefords)
- They are visually appealing
- Easier to handle etc.

3. Take a 'middle of the road' approach

The less than keen breeder might take the safe route to breeding animals by using breeding stock that is neither large nor small and ensuring that any tendency to largeness is corrected by breeding to a smaller animal and vice-versa.

A good attainable breed size objective is say low end of frame score '1'.

Extreme Viewpoints

It is all too easy to take up a position at either end of the breeding spectrum, leaving a void that can effectively result in two distinct breeds! What can happen is the development of a strong lobby for the pro-

duction of beef from larger animals and at the other end of the spectrum, a strong lobby for retention of (small) miniatures.

This is best illustrated by viewing the position of the well-known Australian 'Lowline' breed, which is the miniature derived from 'Angus' cattle.

For a good number of years the breed was clearly recognisable (by virtue of its size) from Angus.

In recent times there are divisions in Lowline member opinions, into recognisable "beef" and "miniature" camps.

Recent open comment from breeders of Lowlines refer to the increasing size of animals:

"Where are we going . . . the research took 15 years to develop . . . I see our asset depreciating . . . breeding larger and larger Lowlines, which are very nearly normal Angus. Lowlines are valuable because of their [small] size. Small carcass – great beef."

Another well know breeder remarks:

" . . . If there is a future for the breed, it will be in the production of small cuts of meat . . . at cattle shows, judges are now being told that Lowlines of 115cm or 120cm or above are desirable. . . . Some bulls are now over 130cm tall, which places them within the size range of ordinary Angus cattle."

A third writer comments:

"Well, as I predicted some time ago, it did not take long for Lowline to become just another name for Angus. . . ."

An opposing view is put forward:

" . . . Many breeders are now adopting reality, that is, if the Lowline has any future it is in the commercial production of beef . . . Why have I never seen any buyer in the [saleyard] pens measuring cattle for height?"

These views and comments are convincing, in the context they are presented.

[The writer does not question, or challenge any of the foregoing opinions but simply suggests there may be confusion, in the minds of some owners as to what is truly representative of the breed.]

One breeder has successfully developed his Lowline cattle into a strain he promotes as "Aussie Black" cattle. No doubt they incorporate the best

beef producing characteristics of Lowlines and other breed/s.

In a similar manner, more than one breeder is using a Miniature Hereford bull across Poll Hereford cows to produce a quality beef product.

In the interests of producing alternate beef, this kind of enterprise can only be strongly supported.

The point here is that they are deliberately seeking an alternate product and not an alternate strain of 'pure' Miniature Hereford.

Where does that leave the Miniature Hereford?

The breed is established on a sounder footing than most other miniature breeds. The fact that height parameters (frame scores) are clearly stated prevents any "creep" to larger size.

The Australian Miniature Hereford Cattle Association is to be congratulated on its recent decision to have animals checked for size conformity by Association inspectors before entering the show ring. This leaves the judge free to apply his/her expertise in selecting the perfect beef animal.

What does all this meant to you?

As a breeder, or potential breeder, you have to make up your own mind as to what you prefer in a Miniature Hereford. Small – big – chunky – good natured – movement etc.

Be on your guard for trends that may leave you in danger of going oversize, or, if small cattle are not for you, then buy a Hereford.

[Paragon Miniature Hereford stud has no particular bias toward large or small animals – we have both! In general, over more than 30 mature animals the frame score is biased toward frame score one. We have one bull just in the frame '0000' and 2 females in the '000' range. We do not have any frame 2 animals. By closely monitoring 'inbreeding coefficients' we are able to determine which bull and semen to use and predict the likely outcome of matings.]

New Zealand Bound

New Zealand breeders and intending breeders have a unique opportunity to acquire top quality Miniature Hereford stock. Six females are currently in Australian quarantine, pending their delivery by air to New Zealand in early November. Their ages range from 8 months to 1 year.

Owners will be fortunate to have a choice of heifers sired by the 1997 Melbourne Royal Show winner, Littlefoot Trooper. A daughter of Trooper aged only 12 months was judged Supreme Champion Miniature Hereford at the recent Melbourne Royal Show.

Additionally, Paragon stud, where the heifers were bred, was successful in having one of their animals judged as Grand Champion Bull at the Adelaide Royal Show 2000.

Initiator of the New Zealand importation is Pukekohe breeder John Peterson. John and wife Jan own a mature Miniature Hereford bull 'Jupiter' who is ready and willing to service the heifers.

John has been tireless in his efforts to make the importation possible, despite the many obstacles that must be overcome in dealing with several bureaucracies.

Paragon Stud is proud to be associated with this initiative.

Interested buyers may contact John or Jan for further details at home on ph./fax 09 238 4056. The Petersons' address is 185B Aka Aka Road, RD3 Pukekohe 1800.

... breeders have a unique opportunity to acquire top quality breeding stock.

Here are the girls



Lady Vera
5/1/00



Lady Vesta
17/2/00



Blitze
24/12/99



Sparkle
18/1/00



Flame
3/11/99



Daisy
1/11/99



Sedgmans win top prize at Melbourne Royal 2000

Outstanding success was gained by Colin and Tania Sedgman at the prestigious Melbourne Royal Show with their 12 month old heifer PARAGON UTOPIA.

It was the first show for the Sedgmans who purchased their first two Miniature Herefords from PARAGON Stud in South Australia.

The Judge, Rodney Gibson of Lismore, NSW, said “. . . for a 12 month old heifer, Paragon Utopia showed a lot of promise . . .”. She’s a very clean type of heifer,” he said “she has a very sound structure. I believe she has the capacity to produce a lot of offspring.”

UTOPIA was handled by Tania Sedgman who was reported to have said she was “overwhelmed by the attention the victory brought.”



“Paragon Utopia” with handler Tania Sedgman

MELBOURNE SHOW RESULTS

Champion Heifer: Paragon Utopia
Colin Sedgman

Reserve: Paragon Unique
Colin Sedgman

Champion Bull: R P Lil Dude
R P Cattle Company

Reserve: Deepwater Silver Nugget
Hanley and Atherstone

Supreme Exhibit: Paragon Utopia
Colin Sedgman

Most Successful Exhibitor:
Colin Sedgman

LS MT NUGGET 49

Sire: LITTLEFOOT TROOPER 1D

LS MT PRINCESS 6

PARAGON UTOPIA

LS MT ROCK

Dam: KD MT ROCKETTE 114

B MS ENCOUNTER 9244

In Her Father’s Footsteps

Utopia’s sire, Littlefoot Trooper (pictured at right) was Supreme Exhibit at the 1997 Melbourne Royal Show



SMALL HEREFORDS

Tasty & Practical

(Note: Many of you have seen this article before, but it was decided to print it in this newsletter for those who had not.)

Acknowledgement is made to 'The Miniature Hereford' newsletter, published by the Miniature Hereford Club in the USA.

Merle Ellis is a U.S. nationally syndicated writer whose column appears regularly in many publications. The response to this article has been tremendous. It is very well written and factual. But one might get the idea that all Miniature Herefords are 38" tall. Yes, there are some just 38" tall, but not all. All ARE small by comparison.

Many times I have lamented the lack of quality in today's beef, but I may never need to do so again. I may have found the way to a great steak. If I can convince my wife that our Cocker Spaniels wouldn't mind sharing the back yard with a small herd of cattle, I'm going to raise my own steaks! After 23 years of breeding and development, an exclusive line of Miniature Herefords has been developed on Point of Rocks Ranch in West Texas. They're small enough to easily share our back yard with a couple of cockers.

Seriously, this enterprise - one of the latest profitable entries into the world of "exotic beef" - has the double advantage of being practical as well as exotic. "Beef," says Roy Largent, who with his father, Rust, developed the breed, "can be produced very efficiently (and possibly more efficiently) with Miniature Herefords." As more statis-

tics become available, I think at least some breeders will see the advantage of the Mini over the standard bovine, especially on smaller sites.

What exactly is a Miniature Hereford? It is just like any other Hereford, only smaller. There now are Miniature Herefords reaching maturity at less than 38 inches in height. The desirable eye appeal, as well as beef producing traits, has been maintained. When one sees a picture of a Mini without something in the picture to compare the size, it is hard to distinguish the Mini from the larger, stocky, beef producing Herefords of the past.

A couple of things stated in documents from Texas A&M University point to the practicality of Miniature Herefords: The total nutritional intake is directly proportional to body weight. That means two 600 pound cows require no more nutrients than one 1,200 pound cow, but they'll provide twice as many T-bones.

Early maturity is another factor. Prime beef can be produced at 14 months of age

with the Miniature Hereford. Most of today's beef at that age have a hard time getting choice grading.

The Largents have been doing selective breeding for generations to establish the desired traits. While most modern breeding programs seem to have concentrated on height as the priority, their goal was to develop the genetic ability to turn nutritional intake into beef quickly and efficiently. Some people have criticized the faster maturing bovine because of its ability to fatten. Fat has become a dirty word in modern nutrition. But on the Point of Rocks Ranch they have documented that an early maturing animal can be just as thin (lean, if you prefer) as any other. It's just a matter of management. Let it also be said, and I've said it many times, that beef loses much of its palatability, tenderness, and even nutrition if it does not have some fat tissue within the muscle.

From their ranch in West

Texas, the Largents are placing Minis all over the United States and Canada.

"Every year," says Roy, "more people are producing and proc-

"two 600 pound cows require no more nutrients than one 1,200 pound cow, but they'll provide twice as many T-bones"

essing their own beef for reasons of health and economy. " When you "feed out " your own beef you know what goes into it. If you are paranoid about "all that stuff they feed to cattle", with the Miniature Hereford you are in charge. You can feed them chocolate bonbons if you like.

As for me, I'm looking for a great steak. I'm going to feed mine hay for a year and a-half, then finish him off on corn for at least 120 days just as my granddad used to do. Then I'm going to find a meat processor who will let me hang a carcass in his cooler for 21 days before we cut it into the best steaks

and roasts I've had in years. It makes my mouth water just thinking about it! And, Yes, I'll save some bones for my dogs.

If you have a big back yard and would like more information on Miniature Herefords, write or call one of the breeders listed in this newsletter.



Merle Ellis' Nationally Syndicated column appears regularly in the San Antonio Express-News Food Section.

Miniature Hereford Tbone



PARAGON

Australia's Largest
Miniature Hereford
Stud

Miniature Herefords
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Services & Prices

Paragon offers a wide range of services including:
Female calves from \$8,500 up
Pregnant recipients carrying Miniature Hereford \$5,500
Heifers ready for breeding or breeding \$13,000 up
Bulls from \$1,500
Steers from \$750
Semen \$110 straw

We can arrange delivery to anywhere in Australia.
Ring or Fax (08) 8388 8632 for information

Adelaide EXPO

In September, PARAGON Stud exhibited at the 9 day long EXPO, which is held as part of the Royal Show.

A Miniature Hereford bull and a young steer were featured, along with an area featuring photos of Miniature Herefords and fact sheets on the breed.

Promotion of the breed was the prime objective.

More than 6,000 people passed through the area, many showing an interest in the animals.

The young steer, which is owned by Association mem-



Part-view of Paragon's Exhibit at Adelaide EXPO

bers Ray and Pat Waters of Lakes Entrance, Victoria, was a great favourite with children and many adults and although he did not have a name at the time, we gave him a title of 'Victor'.

Happily for Ray and Pat, Victor has now been sold but not at any considerable profit—at least he has a good home as a pet and grass eater at a Bed and Breakfast establishment.

While there was no flood of orders for animals, promotion of the breed was undoubtedly a success.

semen

M.H.I. stock a large quantity of semen for your breeding program needs
Trooper and Spot 9 are immediately available.

E.T not working? cow needs bull?

We have thirteen working bulls—why not buy a bull?