



photo courtesy Wilbers Farm

SEE WHAT IS NEW AT SPGCA!

WINTER 2021/2022

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Teddy Talks

Hello Fellow Breeders!

My article today will be on how to keep our South Poll gene pool from getting stagnant.

Any farm that starts with good cattle that are either commercial or another purebred breed that are good quality cows and breeds up to South Polls will bring some good things to help our breed.

One of our great South Poll herds is in Missouri. This herd has been bred up to purebred status from a good base of Beefmaster cows. They consistently have a 95% pregnancy rate in a 45 day window.

These purebreds are what fullbloods need to keep the gene pool fresh and improving!

Please don't get hung up on purity of fullbloods. I have seen some sorry fullbloods and I have seen some beautiful purebreds. A pedigree does not signify a great cow.

If we worry more about good cows that do what a cow should do and less about the pedigree, we will improve the breed as we go forward!!

Teddy Gentry



**ALL BREEDS SALE
MARCH 2, 2022
1 p.m.
NRG Center
Houston, TX**

**We will have 2 pens at the sale
5 bred heifers**

(pictured on front cover)

**5 open heifers (pics coming soon)
Watch www.southpoll.com
for more info!**



Photo Contest!
**We want to see your
BEST Photos!**

Submit your ORIGINAL photos to Ann at southpollgrasscattle@gmail.com for publication in the Newsletter or maybe even some of our advertising!

Winners will receive a prize from SPGCA!

2022 Field Day & Auction Plans!



*Click Here to Register for the 2022
Field Day!!*



Register Now

*From the
Kitchen*

Chicken Fried Steak

From the kitchen of:
Ann Demerath

This recipe has been in my family for a LONG time....It's sort of a trademark recipe....So this just shows how much I love y'all :)

Ingredients:
4-6 pieces of South Poll tenderized steak also known as Minute Steak or Cube Steak
3 large eggs
Splash of milk
2 sleeves of saltine crackers crushed fine
Oil for frying
Salt & Pepper

Trim any excess fat or gristle from meat

Whisk eggs and milk in a bowl big enough to dip the meat

Place the cracker crumbs on a piece of waxed paper or parchment paper

Heat oil in electric skillet or cast iron --don't cover the meat, just enough to keep it from sticking

Take the trimmed meat and dip quickly into the egg/milk mixture and then straight into the cracker crumbs. While coating the meat with cracker crumbs, press the meat out to thin it. Place in the hot oil and fry until golden brown on one side, flip, and season with salt and pepper. Cook until the other side is browned and season that side as well.

This is a bit of a process, so I place browned meat on a baking sheet and place in a warm oven to keep warm until all the pieces are done.

Serve with baked potatoes, a vegetable or if you are feeling especially decadent, make mashed potatoes and white gravy to go along with it. Leftovers make amazing sandwiches the next day!



Is the Question....



Is it a Fullblood or Purebred?

Really the Question we should be asking?

Before we delve into this question and some thoughtful alternatives, maybe it would be good for us to step back and look at the South Poll's two main registration categories: Fullblood and Purebred. We often hear these terms used in such a way that they're being used interchangeably without a true understanding as to their meaning. So to help us understand the two different categories, here is an educational primer on the differences. Remember we can also register South Polls as percentage cattle from 50% on up.

FULLBLOOD VERSUS PUREBRED

One of the primary functions of SPGCA is to provide cattle registration services for South Poll cattle including Fullblood, Purebred, and percentage cattle. The topic of Fullblood and Purebred can be a confusing and potentially controversial topic for breeders and members.

A look at the SPGCA regulations reveals definitions for the various categories of registrations.

Fullblood designated animals are four-way crosses consisting of $\frac{1}{4}$ Red Angus, $\frac{1}{4}$ Hereford, $\frac{1}{4}$ Barzona, and $\frac{1}{4}$ Senepol and must be descendants of foundation Bent Tree Farms animals. Further, Fullblood status will not be designated for animals that are bred up (see below). Fullblood designation/registration also requires information to be recorded including sire, dam, birthdate, birth weight, and calving ease. Fullblood cattle have to be red or red/whiteface in color and "white eye" calves cannot be registered as a Fullblood. If an animal is registered with a multiple registered sire (MRS) and/or dam, it is not eligible to be registered as a fullblood.

Purebred designation can be attained from animals that are "bred-up" (assuming one parent originates from foundation Bent Tree animals). For females, $\frac{7}{8}$ th is considered Purebred South Poll and for bulls, $\frac{15}{16}$ th is considered Purebred South Poll. Purebred designation/registration has no data/information recording requirements and Purebred cattle can be any color including black.

Additionally, percentage designation shall be extended to all males and females that are as much as 1/2 and less than 7/8th South Poll for females and 15/16th South Poll for males. To be eligible for registration at least one parent of percentage cattle must originate from foundation Bent Tree animals and be registered with the association. A simple percentage chart is included below to help further explain designations.

South Poll Percentage Chart*

| Percentage of Bull | Percentage of Cow | Percentage of Calf | Designation |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Fullblood | Fullblood | Fullblood | FB female/FB bull |
| Fullblood | Purebred | Purebred | PB female/PB bull |
| Purebred | Fullblood | Purebred | PB female/PB bull |
| Fullblood/Purebred | 0 | 50 | 50% |
| Fullblood/Purebred | 50 | 75 | 75% |
| Fullblood/Purebred | 75 | 87.5 | PB female/87.5% bull |
| Fullblood/Purebred | 87.5 | 93.75 | PB female/PB bull |
| 0 | Fullblood/Purebred | 50 | 50% |
| 50 | Fullblood/Purebred | 75 | 75% |
| 75 | Fullblood/Purebred | 87.5 | PB female/87.5% bull |
| 87.5 | Fullblood/Purebred | 93.75 | PB female/PB bull |

A few FAQs are included below to help members better understand Fullblood and Purebred designation and related information:

If you mate a Fullblood to Purebred what do you get?

If you cross a Fullblood with a Fullblood, and aforementioned requirements are met, the progeny will always be a Fullblood. If you cross a Fullblood with a Purebred animal, the offspring will always be Purebred.

What does breeding-up mean?

SPGCA has an open herd book which indicates that percentage South Poll cattle can be registered with the association and Purebred South Poll cattle can eventually be generated. In breeding up (sometimes referred to as upgrading or grading-up), for example, a registered (Purebred or Fullblood) South Poll sire can be mated to a cow of another breed and the offspring can be registered in succeeding generations at 1/2 (50 percent), 3/4 (75 percent) and 7/8 (87.5 percent).

How many generations does it take to breed-up from a non-registered animal (or animal from another breed) to a registered animal?

Once progeny reach the third cross (7/8) for females or fourth cross (15/16) for males, they are termed Purebred.

What is better a Fullblood or a Purebred?

The SPGCA provides cattle registration services and equally promotes both Fullblood and Purebred cattle and fully recognizes that Fullblood or Purebred designation is not itself an indication of quality. Rather the SPGCA recommends that breeders focus on well-bred, breed-worthy individuals from registered parents that meet the standards of the South Poll breed.

OFFICE UPDATE

By: Ann Demerath

Hello from the office!

November 1 marked my 2nd year to be your SPGCA secretary and I am still in awe of this job and all of you! You are simply the best folks to work with! Thank you all for your patience, blessings, and for being you!

There are some fun things happening in the office--let me see if I can get you all up to speed. First- the 2021 numbers!

| | | |
|---------------------------|------|-------------------------|
| Active Animals Registered | 2150 | 147% increase over 2020 |
| Animals Transferred | 1516 | 111% increase over 2020 |
| New Members Added | 128 | 135% increase over 2020 |
| Non Active New Members | 123 | 126% increase over 2020 |

You might be wondering what all that means, let me help. Active animals registered is how many we added into the system via producers. Animals transferred is pretty self explanatory, but it is how many traded owners. New members added are folks who have never been members before and have paid dues and received new membership packets. Non active new members are folks who have had cattle transferred to them, but have not made the leap to join our association. Really, the long and short of it is that SPGCA is GROWING!

Please take the time to read the articles in this newsletter--there is a lot of information in here that will help us all work together in the most efficient manner. We are working hard to meet all of your needs for questions, registrations, transfers and anything else, all while trying to keep costs low for you. Some of the items will be big changes for you, but, in the long run, will make SPGCA stronger and still affordable as well as fun!

In December, the decision was made to hire someone part time to help out in the office. We were lucky enough to find someone right down the road from the office who is flexible enough to join me in the office! Her name is Sarah Lewis and is originally from California. She and her husband Chris, have 4 kids, ages 20-14. We are hoping you all get a chance to meet her at the Field Day.

Speaking of Field Day!! You all better be making your plans to attend! Stoney and Julia Ware of 4th Quarter Ranch are our hosts! I can't even begin to tell you how much fun this event is going to be. The good folks at Tangi Travel and Tangipahoa Parish have some amazing things on tap! There will be incredible food and some super fun break-out sessions, and as a bonus, we will be an hour north of New Orleans too, so budget in some extra tourist time if you can!

Hope this finds you all safe and warm! Only 44 days until Spring!

So, lets get back to the beginning of this article and the title....

Is the question.....**"Is it a Fullblood or Purebred"** Really the question we should be asking?

Perhaps it shouldn't be a question at all - it should be about quality! - Whether Fullblood or Purebred, a South Poll should represent the qualities and traits they were developed for: fertility, longevity, adaptability, exceptional udder quality, moderate frame, the ability to mature and finish well on grass, good feet & legs, slick haired, pest resistant, fescue tolerant, gentle and hardy.

If there's a question perhaps it could be - How would a South Poll herd bull better adapt my commercial herd to my environment and management practices? How would a herd of South Poll females create a marketable calf in my market with my current management and environment? Being moderate framed, would it allow me to have more cattle per acre, increasing my production?

Could we ask what is the productivity or fertility of the cattle's dam or sire that we're looking at rather than if it says Purebred or Fullblood on the registration papers? Did the dam or sire have calves that matured and produced offspring every year? If someone thinks they only want Fullblood or Purebred, that is their choice, but it doesn't necessarily make one better than the other. Again, it should be about their quality not designation. Indeed, as the breed progresses, introduction of new genetics into the South Poll population through the breeding-up process to create Purebreds may be important and also result in hybrid vigor (heterosis) advantages too.

A couple of years ago at the field day the top bull sold was a Purebred, and at last years field day, several Purebred heifers brought between \$4,000 to \$5000 each. If that is not showing the ability of Purebreds to produce financially, what does?

So, do you think that you could pick out a Fullblood or Purebred from a lineup? Take a look at the three choice examples of South Poll cows and bull on the front title page. What category do you think they are? Top middle female picture is a Fullblood. Bottom left is a Purebred female and the bottom right bull is a 75% South Poll. Each are fine examples of the South Poll breed.



Happy Winter!

Ann Demerath



Photos by Jerrod Young

SPGCA 2022 Goals

Hello everyone! I hope you all have had a great holiday season and we would like to wish you all a Happy New Year!

The SPGCA would like to encourage everyone to participate in implementing the following goals with the hopes of making this great breed even better. We are concentrating on improving calving records, whole herd reporting, birthweight, online accounts, and proper submission of cattle registrations.

Calving Registrations

Keeping your registrations current for each year is important for accuracy, so please submit your calves on a yearly basis. This will help us keep a better inventory on all animals and it makes record keeping easier for you if done on an annual basis.

Whole Herd Reporting

We will begin to reinstate Whole Herd Reporting, which requires all our members to keep online cattle records through your Livestock Genetics account up to date. This is vitally important to our breed and knowing our numbers. Whole Herd Reporting will help you better keep up with a whole herd report coming out each year. SPGCA will be sending out these reports in alphabetical order sections after the first of the new year. Most of these will be sent electronically, so please watch your email accounts and the SPGCA Facebook page for updates.

Birthweight

Birthweight is an important item on your calving records and registration papers. The birthweight is required on all calves registered as "Fullblood." If no birthweight is submitted, it will classify the animal as "Purebred" until the current data is submitted.

Online Accounts

The Association uses a service called Livestock Genetics for our registry database. Livestock Genetics offers an online registration option that will make registration easier for producers to do on their own without having to wait for the SPGCA office to process the paperwork. This profile is different than your South Poll website login information. The accounts will all need to be setup in the following manner

- Usernames will be required to be formatted as last name. first name (smith.bob)
- Passwords will be of your choice- if you forget your password, please let the office know and we will send you a password reset

Once we have all these options and a short instructional video set up, we will send out an announcement via email to let you know that it is ready for you to sign up for your account. When your account is functional, it will allow you to login and register and transfer your own animals, which will help in the speed of getting your animals registered and transferred. Livestock Genetics hopes to have features to make this easier "live" by March 2022-keep an eye out for announcements.

Proper Submission of Information

An issue that arises with registrations is that they are not completed when submitted with all the required information. Many times, a sire is missing, birthweight is missing, calves are missing, etc. We are receiving registrations on notebook paper, different types of spreadsheets, etc. in the SPGCA office. If you are submitting information to the office for processing, you must use the form located on the South Poll website.

This form is accessible by the following:

- www.southpoll.com
- Cattle Tab
- Cattle Forms

This form can either be completed by filling out on the computer and emailed into the office, or you can print them out, fill in by hand, and send into the office. If you are planning to use the online registration options, this is still a handy way to keep track of all the information you need to register a calf. There will also be a short tutorial video coming out on how to use this sheet.

PLEASE USE THE REGISTRATION FORM ON THE SPGCA WEBSITE STARTING MARCH 1, 2022. Any registration not completed on the form from the SPGCA website will be sent back to you to be corrected and resubmitted.

The above information will help with keeping our records current and correct which in turn will help you as well. These steps will also help us track fertility, longevity, birthweights and other vital information to help us analyze and market our South Poll breed in hopes of continually improving upon our genetics, production and efficiency on grass.

If you have any questions, please contact any SPGCA board member or Ann at the SPGCA office and we will be happy to help.

Thank you,
South Poll Board of Directors



2.18.22--Ark-LA-Tex Regen Ag Conference --Greg Judy speaking
2.22.22--Spring Forage Conference Springfield MO--come visit us at our booth!
2.28.22 thru 3.6.22--International Room Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo
3.2.22--Houston All Breeds Show NRG Arena Houston, TX
5.18.22 thru 5.20.22--Grassfed Exchange
6.24.22 thru 6.25.22--Field Day & Auction Roseland, LA



Houston 2022 Bred Heifers

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**COMING
SPRING
2022**



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&

SELECT HERD BULL SALE

ONLINE AUCTION FORMAT

30-40 FEMALES

3-4 HERD SIRES

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!!

WWW.SUMNERSFARM.COM



Photo: Devin Dean Desoto Farms

In the next issue

- Guest Article
- Field Day plans
- Teddy Talks
- More!

Let's keep in touch

South Poll Grass Cattle
Association
5235 Gravel Point Road
Mountain Grove, MO 65711

256-996-8355
southpollgrasscattle@gmail.com
www.southpoll.com

