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Miniature Herefords Make A Huge Impact On Couple's Life



Karl and Nancy Falster raise Registered Miniature Herefords at their small farm in Cibolo. Pictured here is their 41 1/2-inch-tall herd bull, Dagmar. The breed is an ideal choice for them because they can be raised on less acreage and produce more meat per pound than standard-sized Herefords. For more about Falster Farm, see pages 4 & 5.

District Meetings To Be Held In April

District 9 - Tuesday, April 8 - K C Hall, Schertz

District 6 - Wednesday, April 9 - Stockdale Community Center

District 3 - Thursday, April 10 - First Methodist Church, Gonzales

District 11 - Tuesday, April 15 - St. Michael's Church Hall, Cuero

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Miniature Herefords . . . (Continued from Page 1)



LEFT: Poe Miss Bonnie allows Nancy to admire her new calf, San Antonio Rose, the newest addition to Falster Farm.

BELOW: Karl feeds one-month-old Rosebud a snack. Rosebud’s breeding was to fix a rare genetic trait that displays a white skirt across the back legs of the Hereford Show Cow.



Growing up in San Antonio, Nancy Falster always had big dreams of someday being a farmer and rancher. Her dreams have finally come true, sort of. Nancy and husband, Karl, are cattle ranchers in a small, or miniature, way.

Karl and Nancy Falster raise Miniature Hereford cattle at their home in Cibolo. What started as a whim, when Nancy saw an ad promoting the breed, has become a passion for the couple. They wanted some animals on their ranch that were larger than chicken and goats. Miniature Herefords were ideal because the Falsters didn’t have large acreage to work with.

There were other breeds of miniature cattle to choose from, but Karl grew up around Hereford cattle and liked a number of traits that the Hereford offers. One of the main selling points was the breedability of the Hereford, since the breed is fertile at one year of age. He also liked the fact that Hereford cows are generally very strong mothers. And the cattle, when crossed with other breeds, produce excellent quality Certified Hereford Steaks™.

All of these considerations led the Falsters to purchase a Miniature Hereford bull and two cows, and Falster Farm was born. After some initial difficulties (such as surviving the flood of 2000 that literally swept the cattle away), the Falsters have established a successful stud/breeding program.

Karl cites several advantages of the Miniature Hereford, including the fact that, pound for pound, they produce about 1/3 more meat than standard-sized animals. He says their feed consumption is also less, stating that you can raise two Miniature Herefords on the same land that you can raise one standard-sized animal on. And, with the added bonus of getting more meat per pound, they’re an ideal choice for today’s rancher who, many times,

owns only a small tract of land. Falster adds that, from a profitability standpoint, the breed should be more in the range of the classic Herefords.

The Falsters also like the fact that the small breed is more manageable than standard-sized cattle, something Nancy learned from experience. She says, “The nice thing about these cattle is that if a full-grown animal steps on your foot, you say “ouch,” instead of getting rushed to the hospital. That’s important to me.”

The Falsters are always learning from the cattle and thinking about the future of their business. Nancy recently became interested in an article she read about a female veterinarian from Canada who has been successful in implanting two

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District Meetings Will Be Held For Members In Districts 3, 6, 9, & 11

District Meetings will be held in April for members in GVEC Districts 3, 6, 9 , and 11. Business at each of these meetings will include the selection of one individual to serve on the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee will be comprised of the four individuals selected at these District Meetings (one per District Meeting) and three individuals appointed by the Board of Directors.

The Nominating Committee will then meet to select a candidate for director from each district in which a director election will be held. The election of the four directors will be held on June 27, 2003, at Gonzales High School in Gonzales.

Registration for the District Meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m., with the business meeting to follow at 7:00 p.m.

District Meeting notices have been mailed out to all GVEC members living in Districts 3, 6, 9, and 11, inviting these members to attend their District Meeting this month. The dates and locations of the 2003 GVEC District Meetings are listed at right.



GVEC Business Division personnel are shown registering members at a GVEC District Meeting.

District Meeting Locations

Tuesday, April 8 - Dist. 9 - K C Hall, Schertz

Wednesday, April 9 - Dist. 6 - Stockdale Community Center

Thursday, April 10 - Dist. 3 - 1st Methodist Church, Gonzales

Tuesday, April 15 - Dist. 11 - St. Michael's Church, Cuero

Registration - 6:30 p.m. Business Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

Miniature Herefords . . . (Continued from Page 4)

miniature Hereford embryos into standard-sized cows, thus producing twins each birth. They are looking for an interested party to joint venture with them in this new procedure concept.

The Falsters' herd bull, Dagmar, is the son of the #1 show winner in the Registered Miniature Hereford world. As their original herd continues to propagate, the Falsters continue to add to their herd by purchasing show-

quality heifers to further enhance their bloodlines. Dagmar's newest daughter, 36-hour-old Miss Yellow Rose of Texas, is the latest prize on the farm.

In addition to their herd of Miniature Herefords, Falster Farm also includes pasture-raised poultry (and eggs), organic vegetables, and Barbecue, the pygmy goat, who begs for equal time anytime someone shows up to view the cattle. He's a favorite

guest when Nancy takes him to visit at local nursing homes.

The Falsters are animal lovers who have created a niche that they truly love in a quiet, rural surrounding. There is more to see and more to tell, but no space to do it. So, for more information about Falster Farm or about Miniature Herefords, visit their website at www.FalsterFarm.com. The website is informative and offers a glimpse of all the irons the Falsters have in their fire.