











## SOUTH POLL NEWSLETTER

**SUMMER 2009** 

## Join the South Poll Grass Cattle Association today! Contact Lisa Jeffery at

## Great turnout for first annual field day

Approximately 300 people from 21 states attended the first annual South Poll Grass Cattle Association field day held June 20, 2009, at the farm of Greg and Jan Judy of Clark, Mo.

South Poll breed founder Teddy Gentry of Fort Payne, Ala., welcomed guests to the meeting and briefly talked about why he started the composite breed and why it was so important for today's grass-fed beef market.

Gentry said he and his wife Linda "were setting at the supper table sometime in 1988 and were talking about the health benefits of grass-fed beef." He noted not a single composite breed they knew of fit their southern environment. He said when he started to develop the breed he used a Barzona crossed with a Hereford. He said he later added the Senepol breed from the Virgin Islands. "We used the Senepol because of their docile nature and to take the hair off the other breeds," he said.

Gentry credits the fertility and longevity of the South Poll breed with making it the best breed to produce high-quality, grass-fed beef. "Having a good animal has nothing to do with fast growth and EPDs. We wanted to make the most profitable cow per acre of grass that you could run," he said, crediting Alan Williams of Mississippi State University with helping him with research that proved a 1,000 to 1,100 cow will produce the most money for the breeder.

"A 1,500-pound cow will eat over three times as much feed as a 1,000-pound cow. "She's got to calve at two years old, not need any extra care and no special attention. She has to calve every year and have a calf that slicks off early in the year. She's also got to be in tune with her environment," he said.

Gentry says the South Poll breeders do not believe in competition with other animals. "My philosphy to show cattle is to take you out in a field and show you my cattle. We want to produce the most tender piece of grass-fed beef you can get," he said, noting that the taste of an animal with a gentle disposition will be better than that of a wild animal.



SPGCA members Jan and Greg Judy hosted the first annual field day and did a magnificent job. There was plenty of good food and drink. The display of South Poll Cattle was well-received and the pasture walk demonstrating the Judy high-stock-density practices and results drew great interest from the crowd of approximately 300.



Shortly before lunch SPGCA Vice President Greg Judy spoke to the crowd and told them how he operates his high-stock-density grazing program and the program's benefits to the cattle, the soil and their bottom line. After lunch Greg led the crowd on a tour of their pastures and showed them a paddock change.

## South Poll Grass Cattle Association

☐☐☐County Road ☐☐ Fort Payne, AL ☐☐☐☐ Phone: ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐



If you have

573-694-1681

information you











"There is a direct correlation between disposition and tenderness. A wild animal just won't eat as good. We're trying to grow our breed slowly and doitright. We want to make sure we keep the quality of the breed up," he said.

Gentry thanked the Judys for hosting the field day and said he's never seen grass as good as theirs. "I've learned a lot here this weekend and I'm going to make some changes on my farm when I get home," he said, alluding to the mob grazing management style Judy uses to graze his herd of 200 cows.

Judy stressed the need to have the right kind of cattle to do what he is doing. "Seven and eight frame cattle won't do what I need them to do. We winter our cows on stockpiles, we don't feed any hay. We take our cattle through the winter with



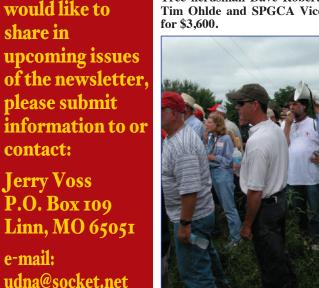
Some of the outstanding South Poll heifers that SPGCA President Teddy Gentry brought to Missouri from his Bent From the left, Bent Tree herdsman Dave Roberts, Kansas Tree Farm in Alabama. The top heifer - as chosen by Bent purebred cattleman Tim Ohlde and SPGCA Vice Presi-Tree herdsman Dave Robert, Kansas purebred cattleman dent Greg Judy judged the four outstanding heifers SPG-Tim Ohlde and SPGCA Vice President Greg Judy - sold CA President Teddy Gentry brought to the field day.

stockpiles," he said.

Judysaidhestartedseveralyearsagowithcustom grazing because he could not afford to buy his own cows. He said when he got his own cows hethoughthehad cattle with good grass genetics. "I was wrong, I didn't. So I sold them and was lucky enough to have Teddy sell me 22 cows and calves and then I really got going," he said.

"One of the problems farmers have to day is that too many people are trying to get their hands into our pockets. There are too many inputs. We, as farmers, are doing all the work and taking all the risks. We used MiG grazing before and switched





SPGCA President Teddy Gentry speaks to the crowd about the advantages of South Polls.



SPGCA members and friends gathered for this photo late on the afternoon of the field day, after the clean-up was completed and after the crowd had left. The four folks in the back row, from the left, are Paul Shanks, Bruce Shanks, Ralph Voss and Jan Judy. In front are Jerry Voss, Lisa Jeffery, Linda Gentry, Teddy Gentry, Greg Judy and David Penn, an intern who worked for the Judys this past summer.

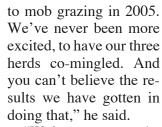












"We've gotten the density of our cattle up, our grass has long recovery periods and we don't need any inputs. We don't need hay and we don't own a tractor. You don't need machinery to run cattle. We're making a good living from running cattle on grass," he said.

"We're trying to put as grazing. Our cows are

trampling 50 percent of our forage. That forage is feeding our animals and our soil every day. They're hitting it hard, laying it on the ground and then letting the plants recover. I used to graze my grass six to eight times a year, but that doesn't work here. If you don't get rain you're out of grass in July or August," Judy said.

Guests were asked to grade four heifers that Gentry brought from his Bent Tree Farms in Alabama and were later given measurement and testing data on the heifers to see if they had chosen correctly with their eyes only.

Judy, Bent Tree Farms herdsman and Gentry's



Teddy Gentry and his wife Linda, left, slowed down for a minute to have this photo taken with Lisa Jeffrey, association administrator, and Dave Roberts, Bent Tree herdsman.



Late in the afternoon a guitar pull was held, with these four singer/songwriters participating. From the right are Teddy Gentry, Dillon Dixon, Chas. Sanford and Damuch litter on the ground vid Rice, a young Ashland resident. Rice, who was blind from birth, is a long-time as possible with our mob fan of Gentry's and for years had dreamed of singing with him.

cattle partner Dave Roberts and Angus cattleman Tim Ohlde judged the heifers and the winning heifer was auctioned off for \$3,600 that was donated to the association. The day also featured lunch, farm tours of the Judy farm, a silent auction and a guitar pull that included Gentry, Chas. Sanford, Dillon Dixon and local musician David Rice.

Next year's field day will be held at the Tom and Toyah McGrady farm in Montgomery, Tex-



Teddy Gentry and Greg Judy shortly before lunch spoke to the crowd spread out on the lawn behind the Judys' home. At this time the crowd could have used umbrellas to protect themselves from the sun. Not much later umbrellas would have come in handy for protection from a raging thunderstorm that soaked everyone that wasn't close to a vehicle or building.