2016 World Galloway Congress, American Galloway Breeders Association Report

The Galloway breed in the United States is seeing continued growth. The demand for high quality Galloway females continues to be very strong. The supplies of these females as well as logistics issues are things we as breeders have to deal with. We are not always able find the desired cattle in regards to the type and or the area of the country they are in. These issues cause an increase in price for the interested parties.

In the United States we are seeing increases for both the pedigreed cattle and the commercial cattle industry. The overall cattle market is down, as are commodity grain prices. The profit margins are very thin in almost all aspects of the Agriculture industry. This scenario makes producers want to minimize their input costs. Many are also considering switching from crop farming to a grazing type operation for beef production. When these producers do their research, they often use the internet as a tool. They search for breeds of cattle that have low inputs. They also search for cattle with a high quality end product. The one breed that keeps coming up is **"GALLOWAY".**

Their struggle starts when they try to locate a breeding herd with a number of females for sale. There just simply are not that many Galloway available. It is the same for pedigreed females and crossbred Galloway females. We either can't find what they are looking for, or by the time we figure in all freight charges, the dollar value gets higher than what some are willing to spend.

Many of our Galloway bull and semen customers are using Galloway to produce replacement females. It is not very often that they are willing to sell any of theirs at commercial prices. They want a premium for them as they are "some of the best heifers we have ever produced".

Much of the demand for our Galloway cattle is the direct marketing of food. The idea of buying local from a person you know is really growing in the United States. The public's concern over food safety and quality is real, and many are willing to pay a small premium for that piece of mind. These people also want a high quality product, which has been raised in a more "Natural" environment. Galloway cattle are ideal for this market.

The demand we have in our commercial cattle industry is partly because we can offer the producer real and true heterosis. Galloway cattle registered in Section 1 of the American Galloway Breeders Association herd book are still Full Blood Galloway. Almost all breeds in the US have or have had open herd books throughout their history. Those breeds are now starting to see that opening their herd book up and allowing other breed influences have been detrimental in many ways to their respective breeds. Most of the beef cattle herd in the United States is Angus based. Almost all breeds in the United States have used the Angus breed in their breed up programs. The commercial cattle producer is wanting a breed that will give them hybrid vigor / heterosis, without sacrifices the black hide, and or quality of the end product.

We in the US are looking forward to getting Galloway blood in our nation's cowherd.

Respectfully,

Harley Blegen, President
American Galloway Breeders Association