Report for 2014 World Galloway Conference

The years 2012 and 2013 have been active for the Belted Galloway Society, Inc. and its membership as evidenced by the number of shows, sales, exhibitions, meetings and promotions that have occurred.

In calendar year 2012 the Belted Galloway Society Council offered free annual memberships to new members if they either transfer and/or registered Belted Galloway cattle at the time of membership application. This incentive along with a noticeable increase in public interest in Belted Galloway cattle raised our membership to over a 1000 member farms for the first time in history. This promotion was so successful in retaining membership for 2013 that it was reintroduced for the calendar year 2014.

The new U. S. Beltie News-Belted Galloway Society, Inc. Facebook page has proven to be a popular site for many members and those folks interested in the breed. During his two-year term, President Jon Bednarski and his wife Sylvia have visited member farms in 40 states on their quest to cover all the lower 48 states. Their plans are to complete their Beltie travels to the remaining eight states in the summer of 2014. Farm profiles written by Jon along with pictures taken by Sylvia during their farm visits have been popular in the Society's monthly newsletter and Facebook page.

Well-known shows in which Belted Galloway cattle have participated are the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colorado, the Big-E in Springfield, Massachusetts, the World Beef Expo in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and the North American International Livestock Exhibition in Louisville, Kentucky. In addition, there were a number of regional shows in New England, the Midwest and Idaho that included Belties. Some of these shows had over 60 entries.

The Southwest Belted Galloway Association initiated a show and sale in the spring of 2012 and 2013, plus have a third one scheduled for 2014. Additionally there were several exhibitions around the country in which Belties were the primary attraction. The 2012 National show in Louisville, Kentucky set the record as the largest Belted Galloway show ever held with 107 entries. The 2013 show was nearly as large.

The National Sale in Fryeburg, Maine completed its 24th sale in 2014. The sale is held in conjunction with a large youth show and has set the standard for Beltie sales In the United States.

2012 was the first year that the Annual General Meeting was held at a public event rather than at a member farm. The meeting, which followed the Kathi Jurkowski Junior Show, had a near record attendance. One of the three major events for the Belted Galloway Society, the Belted Galloway Premium sale, was held at the NAILE in Louisville, Kentucky during November 2012 and 2013. The sale is held in conjunction with the National Junior and Open Show and the Society's Annual General meeting. Silent auction items plus donated steers years raised significant funds for future Junior projects.
The 2014 meeting and Premium Sale are scheduled to be held there as well.

The promotion committee started a calendar contest in 2012 in which members could submit their photos of Belted Galloway cattle for possible inclusion in the calendar. A significant number of photos were submitted from which 13 were chosen to appear in the calendar. The winning photo was submitted by the Romani family of Harmony Acres, Rhode Island. The second place photo was submitted by the Reilly family of Ledgestone Farms, Texas. The calendar proved to be very popular, and was produced in 2013 and will be available again in 2014. In addition to the calendars promotional

items like Beltie flags, cookbooks were furnished by the Belted Galloway Foundation, Inc. to raise funds for scholarships.

In 2012, Five Belted Galloway bulls were entered by Tom and Robin, How Now Farms, Iowa in a bull feeding test station run by Kirkwood College. Their entry was the first time in several years that Belted Galloway bulls were involved in an official feeding station.

President Bednarski was able to attend the Galloway World Congress held in Ontario, Canada during 2012. Jon was impressed by the diversity of Galloway owners and their operations. He felt the meeting was an excellent opportunity to meet Galloway and Belted Galloway Breeders from all over the world.

The Society members are making plans to attend the World Galloway Congress in Scotland in 2016. The Society has made a proposal to host either the 2018 or 2020 World Galloway Congress in the United States.