## PUT PROFIT AN GOOD LUCK IN YOUR PASTURE

("ALL AMERICAN" CATTLE
EXTRA EDGE FOR SUCCES

BY: GENE KANTACK

Both of the above attributes are more than welcome in any setting. The small acreage and hobby farm needs a bit more than most.

Belted cattle have long been revered as a good luck charm. Dating back to 1045 in Bohemia there are anecdotes of belted animals. They have been mentioned in Europe and Asia from early dates. Many a farmer kept at least one as a good luck symbol judging from early photos and artwork. There are other good reasons. They are good cattle. Highly maternal, they are blessed with good genetics for beef and milk.

We have been fortunate enough to discover a small registered Belted Galloway bull. When he was crossed with our smallest Lowline Angus cow for an embryo flush, the result was two small belted crossbred bulls with the best of both breeds. Their high quality has been proven by ultrasounding. They have correct conformation, easy on the eye good looks, and a gentle disposition. All this in a good luck charm.

Now you can literally "Have it All". We call them "All Americans". They fit all of the ideal categories for small acreages. Some of these are: secure profitability, strong novelty, pet appeal, forage efficiency, ease of handling, and a quiet gentle nature. It will take a while to produce some numbers now that we have the genetics in line to reinforce the superior qualities of this new breed. Don't look for one in every pasture just yet. We also need more time to develop progeny expecta-

tions, (EPDs).

Producing these animals was not an easy task. The belt may well have been the easiest part. The accompanying positive traits and their size was more difficult. Our byline is "All The Best". Our

thanks in advance to those who have purchased Bullseye and Bullseye Jr. semen to date and have promised feedback. This information will indeed be very useful.

The seedstock market for miniature cattle is now well established and for good reasons. They are very easy to keep and maintain, more efficient forage converters than their larger cousins, and offer more possibilities for their owners. These attributes and the high prices established for minis, allows a small acreage to produce well with little management. The tax benefits don't hurt either. If you must, they are easily compatible and mix well with all other livestock alternatives relishing some plants your other animals may not prefer to give a cleaner pasture. They also offer a wider market, diversity, and the security that can bring.

Since gentleness is one of the traits being carefully cultured, several additional opportunities are possible, including 4H, petting zoos, and backyard pets. They come running for treats and are easy to halter train. Pride of ownership comes with owning something valuable not everyone else on the block has in their pasture.

Because of the other traits cultivated and proven by ultrasounds and gene star testing, "All Americans" share the potential to produce quality pasture to plate beef if that is the goal. This is true for them and their first generation cross on any good beef breed. This potential comes from both the Lowline and Galloway side and, in conjunction with the efficiency, offers a secure floor of profitability.

Don't worry. The seedstock and novelty values will supercede this alternative for a long time to come.

At present only semen is available. Still an attractive and inexpensive way to start a change of luck of your own. Later this year some first and second generation calves are due. The numbers will depend on the success of our A.I. and embryo transfer program.

If you wish to be informed keep in touch, visit www.minicowswest.com, email easy4s@msn.com, or call (208) 524-2232

Until then, "All The Best", from Minicoustwest.