

## Bednarski Family Hosts GLBGA Field Day

Lush green pastures, beautiful cattle, and a picture perfect farm all describe Jon and Sylvia Bednarski's Sherwood Acres in rural LaGrange, KY. GLBGA members and guests attending the Association's annual field days had a perfect weekend with two wonderful hosts, while enjoying great weather, good food, plenty of education, and a fun time with friends.

Friday evening guests were welcomed into Jon and Sylvia's beautiful log home, where everyone was treated to a tasty barbeque featuring Sherwood Acres beef and Sylvia's scrumptious Kentucky pie, while relaxing on the deck watching Belties grazing leisurely in the nearby fields.

Saturday morning, guests gathered around the barn for presentations by Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, University of Kentucky Extension Beef Specialist on animal nutrition, and Kurt Mason, CPESC District Conservationist USDA/NRCS, on Equip, CRP and Whip programs. Dr. Lehmkuhler discussed a variety of livestock and forage considerations for forage-based finishing. He noted that, while many producers combine grain and pasture for finishing animals, there is a growing interest in utilizing just grass, and advised producers to "work backward," first defining the end product desired by the customer, then determining the targeted finishing weight for the animal to meet the intended quality and establishing an appropriate slaughter age range, and finally defining the production systems needed to achieve the rates of gain to meet the end goal. He explained the animal's growth curve and discussed the advantages and disadvantages of several different feed-stuffs while attendees examined feed samples.

Next, Kurt Mason described a variety of conservation practices and programs for landowners and explained the technical

and financial assistance available to help producers implement them. Jon gave guests a walking tour of the farm while Kurt explained some of the programs that Sherwood Acres had applied, including building a farm pond, protecting forest resources, and safeguarding waterways from degradation.

In the afternoon, a bus ride through the beautiful countryside took guests to the Bednarski's New Castle farm for a tour and then to Kentucky Bison Company and Woodland Farm, owned by Steve Wilson and his wife, Laura Lee Brown, where attendees learned about the American buffalo, the history of the company and their operations, and observed up-close these powerful animals and a great handling facility. Our excursion continued on the approximately 1,000 acres with a trip to the owner's home, personal barn, and amazing gardens, which took us by over 40 giant, hot-bubble-gum-pink snails scattered in the fields and on the trunks of the trees that lined the drive. Photo opportunities abounded both with the snails and in the immaculate gardens.

That evening guests wine and dined at Smith-Berry Vineyard and Winery, enjoying a delicious dinner, dancing to live music and wine tasting. GLBGA and BYG held a silent auction, which attracted the attention of the winery's other guests as well, and raised almost \$500. Thank you to all who participated.

The weekend's events concluded Sunday morning with the annual general meeting where Doug Abney, Matt Ellerbrock and Terry Etheridge were unanimously voted in to serve three year terms on the Association's Board of Directors, followed by GLBGA's director and officer meeting.

Thanks Jon and Sylvia for a truly wonderful, memorable weekend!!