

Great Lakes Belted Galloway Association Annual Field Days to be held in the Dairy State again, or is it the Hairy State? June 8 , 2019 Mauston, WI



Because of the large number of hairy Belted Galloway cattle in the state and surrounding states, we once again will hold our field day in Wisconsin. Why is the breed growing so well in WI? They are rugged and hardy enough even for one of the coldest states. Known as the hill cattle of Scotland, they are now numbering the hills of Wisconsin. With their long hair coats they are well insulated and energy efficient! Not new to being a host, Belted Galloway breeder, John Hamm, in Mauston will be hosting a steer carcass contest as part of the field day activities. For more info contact kathikowski@gmail.com or go to greatlakesbeltie.com.

John and his girlfriend, Mary Allison, live on a small farm near the plant. In addition to the Belted Galloway's Mary has 7 horses, 2 Bassett Hounds, an Australian Sheppard Stock dog named Rusty, 4 pet goats and a coop with about 10 laying hens. Wisconsin River Farm has 31 cows and heifers to calve this spring, 20 steers and heifers in the feedlot and 2 mature bulls. John has 3 children, Jill, Ken and Kyle who have all shown Belties and have helped in the business and the farm.

In 1978 the Hamm family built a meat processing plant to accommodate local livestock producers and sell products using their time tested family recipes. In 1990 a partner agreement was formed between John D. Hamm and former employee David A. Mauer. They started by processing deer during the hunting season out of John's garage. By 1993 a small 2,000 square foot processing plant was built and named Wisconsin River Meats. There have been subsequent additions to the plant over the last few years including a recent large scale renovation. Now the plant is over 8,500 square feet and is equipped with the latest in meat processing technology.

Attendees will then jump on a bus and tour Mount Haven Farms, which is owned by Tommy G. Thompson (yes, the former governor of Wisconsin) and partners Scott and Sheri Schultz. Their farm is located on the hillsides of Elroy, WI. Their herd consists of 57 Belted Galloways. You will see Johnny Cash, their herd sire. Mount Haven is made up of rolling grasslands, forests, and ridges rich in history for the Thompson and Schultz families. Parts of the farm were homesteaded during the Civil War by great grandparents of co-owner Tommy G. Thompson. In 1986 Tommy was elected governor, the state's longest serving governor and former U.S. Sec. for Health and Human Services. Scott and Sheri live in the same home that Thompson's mother was born and raised in.

Because of Tommy's political involvement the property was sold in the 1960's. Ervin Schultz, Tommy's life-long friend and grade school mate started farming the ground. Ervin called Tommy one day and said the old farm was for sale and their partnership was formed. The farm consists of approximately 1,000 acres in the western Juneau County border.

In 1999 with the help of Mary Paul Long, they bought 7 cows to start their Belted Galloway herd. When at the farm, Tommy is very active, disking fields or sorting cattle. Ervin has since passed away and now his son Scott and wife, Sheri, continue the tradition.

Tommy just recently has built a beautiful log home on the ridge overlooking his soon to be vineyard. The Thompson and Schultz family invite you to see their beautiful Mount Haven Farms. Tommy has high hopes of being there to lead the tour.

We thank him and the Schultz family for inviting us to their farm. A haven it is!