

GLBGA Youth Group Newsletter

Area 5



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Grooming your Beltie 101

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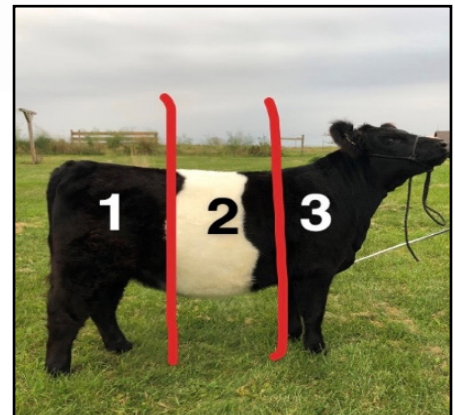
Being confined at home gives you an opportunity to work with, and get to know your show animal. Keeping your animal clean is just as important at home as it is at a show. Training a Beltie's curly hair early will make show day easier.

Getting your animal clean is easier said than done. When you are at the wash rack, either learn to tip the soap bottle into the hose or get a foamer. A foamer uses less soap and helps to get it down into their coat. Get a good plastic scrub brush with teeth that are not too close together, and get ready to spend some time scrubbing. Having a brush with teeth too close together will not allow you to get down to their hide. Spring means caked on mud, sweat and dead hair. Use a curry comb to gently break up some of the mud before you begin washing. If it is still cool out, only wash and work on a single leg at a time. Spring cleaning can take some time and getting them completely wet could cause them to get unnecessarily chilled. Once the weather warms up, and you can start by rinsing them down completely. Follow a pattern to wash so you don't miss an area. Belties are already sectioned into thirds by their belt. You can start in the front or the back. Don't forget to wash the belly, chest and inside of their legs.

Cows are constantly sweating, so if you don't wash it all out, you will see an orange line in their belt. Getting the sweat out will help keep their hair healthy. Rinse them well. Use lots of water to make sure you get the soap out. If you leave soap behind, your animal will develop dandruff. Wash once a week with soap, but rinse daily. Scrape the water using a sweat scraper, don't forget their belly and legs. If you see ANY soap, you have more rinsing to do! Always comb after you wash to train the hair to lay forward. This will also help to straighten curls.

Getting them dry will take some time and patience. It is very important to get them completely dry. No one wants a soggy Oreo. Leaving them damp could result in skin problems. Always blow the hair forward, up and towards the head. Use a comb while you are drying to break apart the hair. If the comb drags, it is probably because they are not completely dry. Don't forget to dry the belly and the inside of the legs and their tail. A mentor once told me, "When you think you are done, keep drying." This work will pay off in the end.

Now that you are done, spend some quality time setting them up and working on showmanship. Don't forget to have fun!



STEPS TO MAKING A LEGIBLE TATTOO

Don't regret your tattoo- if you do it right, it will last a lifetime.

1. Review the tattoo requirements – Herd Letters, ID number and Year Letter.
2. Make sure you have your equipment on hand. Adequate equipment to restrain the animal. A towel or sponge to clean the ear, tattoo equipment with tattoo digits including herd letters, number(s) and year letter and green tattoo ink or paste.
3. Sterilize your tattoo set with alcohol or an equivalent disinfectant. Dirty tattoo equipment can transmit wart viruses and other diseases from one animal to another and usually makes an illegible tattoo.
4. Check your records to be sure of the exact tattoo you will be using. You may want to incorporate the tattoo into the animal's tag and the animal's registered name so it will have more meaning to you later on and will simplify record keeping.
5. Check each tattoo by testing it on a piece of cardboard before you apply it to the animal's ear. It is easy to put the tattoo digits backward in the tattoo gun. Double checking at this point will save problems later.
6. Remove wax and dirt build up from the ear with a damp towel. A dirty ear will prevent the tattoo paste from penetrating the skin and making a permanent mark. Keep in mind, the middle lobe of the right ear is where the Brucellosis (bangs) tattoo will be placed in heifers so make sure to leave this space open for your vet.
7. Rub the green paste in the lobe before applying the tattoo. This step should allow the tattoo paste to better penetrate the ear as the digits are pressed into the skin. Place the tattoo pliers parallel with the ear ribs and press firmly. Then thoroughly rub the tattoo paste into the holes with your finger to make sure you have good coverage. This also helps slow the bleeding. Make sure you don't tattoo over one of the veins in the ear.
8. You should always check tattoos carefully before you exhibit or offer your animals for sale.

Ground Beef & Spinach Tortellini Skillet

A simple cheesy pasta dish that's ready in less than 30 minutes!

Ingredients

- 20 ounce package tortellini
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 large onion
- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 3 teaspoons minced garlic
- 2 teaspoons Italian seasoning
- 1 (24 ounce) jar pasta sauce
- 2 cups fresh spinach
- 1/4 cup Parmesan, Asiago & Romano grated cheese
- 1/2 cup mozzarella cheese, shredded

Instructions

1. Cook tortellini according to directions.
2. In a large (12 inch) cast iron or non-stick skillet, add olive oil and onions. Cook onions until tender.
3. Add ground beef and garlic and cook until ground beef is no longer pink.
4. Stir in Italian seasoning, pasta sauce and spinach. Cook for about 5 minutes or until spinach is wilted. Carefully stir in cooked tortellini.
5. Sprinkle cheese over top.