

VALUE

Highland cattle can be valuable in both the commercial and niche markets of today's cattle industry. Highland cattle are a great fit to answer the growing demand for natural and grass fed beef.

Highlands can perform on grass alone and the resulting beef has outstanding richness and flavor. They are slow-growing, and this extra time produces meat that is lean and flavorful. Highland beef answers today's market demand for meat that is lean and low in cholesterol.

Wise commercial cattlemen benefit greatly from the use of Highland genetics in their cow herds. Highlands in a cross breeding program contribute hardiness and maternal ability. The offspring exhibit that most important quality of hybrid vigor. Highland cross calves tend to lose the recessive traits of horns and the longer Highland hair.

As you would soon learn from talking with any Highland owner, the most satisfying and best use of these cattle may be the pride taken in being a steward of the "Grand Olde Breed."

The Northeast Highland Cattle Association

The Northeast Highland Cattle Association (NEHCA) has more than 200 paid members.

Benefits of belonging to NEHCA are:

- Contact with area breeders where you can purchase registered Highland Cattle
- Subscription to *The Chanter*, NEHCA's periodical, an informative newsletter and advertising forum
- Eligibility for NEHCA Highland Shows
- Farm Tours — a great way to see cattle and meet breeders/owners
- NEHCA Junior Division, a thriving youth organization
- Voting privileges at the Annual Spring Meeting
- Use of NEHCA's promotional tabletop display
- Promotional Highland literature
- Access to the password-protected animals-wanted section of the NEHCA website
- New Owners Support Program



We welcome new members.

For additional information contact the
Northeast Highland Cattle Association

223 Moul Rd., Hilton, NY 14468
(585) 392-9062

or visit us at

www.highlandcattle.org/nehca

Highland Cattle

A Profile

Northeast Highland Cattle Association

Highland Cattle

Scottish Highland Cattle evolved in ancient times in Northern Scotland. These cattle have been tended by man for ages, with written records going back to the 18th century. The Highland Cattle Society was established in 1884 and the first Herd Book published in 1885 in Scotland. Highlands were first brought to the United States in the early 1920s. Highland cattle were shaped by the harsh environment into the moderate-sized, hardy, self-sufficient cattle that we have today.

Highland cattle are the most picturesque of all cattle breeds. Their majestic appearance is characterized by elegant horns and a long, thick, double coat of hair. Highland cattle are very agile on short legs and are efficient grazers with wide muzzles. Hair coats are generally one solid color with individuals ranging from black to dun to silver or white, or some shade of red from yellow to mahogany. Some may exhibit brindle streaking. Highland cows weigh 1000-1300 lbs, while mature bulls can weigh 1700-2000 lbs. or more.



Highlands make outstanding brood cows.

TRAITS

Highland cattle were able to thrive in the harsh geography and climate of the northern British Isles due to their hardiness, their outstanding maternal instincts and their ability to reproduce under difficult conditions.

During their lifetime and with reasonable care, many cows may have a dozen calves or more. The double coat of hair performs a vital protective role and enables them to survive the harshness of the elements like sun, rain, wind, snow, and insects.

Highland cattle are thrifty. They expend less energy by keeping warm with their hair—the inner coat is thick and woolly, designed to act as a blanket to retain heat, and the outer is long and shaggy and protects the inner coat from becoming damp and cold. Even well-fed Highlands enjoy browsing on leaves, twigs and plants that other cattle typically pass by.

Highland cattle are intelligent and highly social. They are easily trained and remember patterns from year to year. They respond to human contact and many Highland bulls are noted for their docile, even temperament.

Cows calve almost entirely without assistance and are very protective. Use great care in approaching even a pet cow with a new calf.



Highland bulls are good-natured, and can be expected to service through age 12.

Calves are moderate-sized and very vigorous, most often standing and nursing soon after birth.

CARE

Care and handling of Highland cattle can be relatively low input. They perform best when they receive good quality forage properly supplemented with vitamins and minerals. Your local area veterinarian and nutritionist are the best resources for the health and nutrient requirements needed for your cattle.

Regarding shelter, Highland cattle do well in most parts of the country with as little as some shade in summer, access to fresh water and wind break in winter. While housing is less critical, a handling facility where the animals can be properly restrained is important for the safety of the animals and their handlers.

The American Highland Cattle Association publishes a *Breeder's Guide* both in print and online containing substantial management information: www.highlandcattleusa.org