

# MONTANA SHORTHORN ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2020 NEWSLETTER

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Grant and Beth Carter



**Where are you from? Tell us a little about yourselves.**

"Beth was born and raised on a ranch just west of Emmett,

Idaho. She grew up about 8 miles from where we currently live in Emmett. Her parents still own and run the ranch. Grant was born in Raleigh, North Carolina and raised in Minneapolis, North Carolina, which is a very small community, about a mile from the North Carolina/ Tennessee border. He grew up on a small Christmas tree farm. Grant

**ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE MONTANA SHORTHORN ASSOCIATION ARE VALUABLE BECAUSE THEY PROVIDE AN AVENUE TO PROMOTE THE BREED AND PROMOTE YOURSELF AS A PRODUCER.**

moved to Boise, Idaho in 1998 and met Beth in 1999 on a blind date. They were married in 2006 and moved to Emmett,

Idaho in 2013. Grant is a software engineer for Microsoft."

**What are the most influential Shorthorn genetics in your herd? Why did you choose them?**

"Our herd originated from calves purchased from the Farrins' herd in Midvale, Idaho. They have a heavy Cardey influence along with some Jakes Proud Jazz. We

### JUNE 6, 2020 ANNUAL ASSOCIATION MEETING

An annual meeting was held in Dillon, Montana on June 6, 2020. Several sections of business were reviewed and discussed. The future of the Montana Shorthorn Association is full of excitement. There will be lots of changes, all for the better and lots of things to look forward to, including:  
\*Monthly Newsletters- with member spotlights, member classifieds, Association updates, interviews with people of the industry (vets, showman, breeders, etc) and highlights of different cattle that have helped to make the breed what it is today.

\*Free advertisement on our Facebook

\* The occasional Montana Shorthorn Association swag

have three cow families in our herd, and they are all very different. Our first is our most docile cow family, they are the best show cows we have. They are deep and long with fantastic udders. The second cow family is our largest, in terms of physical size. They are very big and are also quite docile, but this family is our smallest in terms of numbers. Our third family is a solid red, moderate framed set of cows, who perform great in terms of rate of gain. This family would be the most commercially viable family we have. We have added influences from Jungels Shorthorns in North Dakota and Cedar Lane Farms in Ohio. Both Deliver something different and very desirable to our genetics. The goal is to diversify our genetics by using bulls from other regions."

**What is your most memorable story while showing cattle?**

"We were at the Western Idaho Fair two years ago. There had been some teenagers that jumped the fence without paying to get in and the security officers were chasing them. They decided to duck into the beef barn to hide from security. We were over talking with Don Cardey, on the other side of the barn from our cattle. We look over to see that the security officers are right in from of our cattle and we weren't sure what was going on. We went sprinting over, concerned something

terrible had happened to our cattle, only to find out that the officers were only dealing with the teens. We do have a couple other great stories, but they probably aren't appropriate for this type of forum. We might share those over a cold beverage sometime, if anyone is interested."

**Which show and where do you enjoy going the most?**

"This year we had planned on going to California State Fair, Western Idaho Fair, Eastern Idaho Fair, and Washington State Fair. California was cancelled due to Covid 19, but so far, the others are still happening. We enjoy the Western Idaho Fair most, because it is very close to home. We get to sleep in our own bed which is very nice. Plus, they pay out the best premium money."



**How did you get started in the cattle world?**

"Beth grew up on a ranch, so she's been doing it since birth. She has been a member of 4-H for most of her life and has always had a love for cattle. Grant got involved with cattle, after meeting Beth."



**Why Shorthorns?**

"Docility, quality and color. Not everything looks the same and they have such a great disposition. If we had kids, they would be showing Shorthorns simply because of the disposition. The meat quality is excellent, and we would not hesitate to compare a properly fed Shorthorn, against any other breed in terms of meat quality."

**What is your greatest accomplishment in the Ag World?**

"Best is the vice chair of the American Shorthorn Association Promotion Committee for 2020. Beth was inducted into the Idaho 4-H Hall of Fame in 2017. She was also the Idaho Farm Bureau Excellence in Ag winner, in 2004. She has many 4-H accomplishments. Both Grant and Beth are BQA and BQAT certified."

**What is your goal when breeding the perfect cow? What does she look like?**

"Since we are mostly showing our cattle, we are concerned with what makes a great show cow. We want very deep cows with good utters. We want feminine females and muscular bull calves. We want straight top lines. We want cattle that have very good

dispositions and we cull cattle that do not. We do not keep bull calves, so we want them to be very marketable with good bloodlines backed with genetic testing.”

**What advice would you give to your fellow producers?**

“Since we are small in terms of our numbers, we are working on

building three distinct cow families. One of those families is leaning toward what commercial buyers want. Our goal is to develop that into a full-fledged commercial herd at some point. Promotion is also very important, and it takes work as well as time in networking with people and promoting your name.

Organizations like the Montana Shorthorn Association are valuable because they provide an avenue to promote the breed and promote yourself as a producer. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn from others.”

## 2020 MONTANA SHORTHORN ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

June 6, 2020

**President:** Kelsey Friedly

**Vice President:** Lukrisha Mattison

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Bonnie Klose

The Montana Shorthorn Association looks forward to serving you, as a source of connection and promotion of

the Shorthorn breed. Please feel free to contact us any time!

Follow us on

**Instagram:**

@montanashorthornassociation,

**Facebook:** Montana Shorthorn Association as well as our

**Website:**

[www.montanashorthornassociation.org](http://www.montanashorthornassociation.org)

We look forward to getting to know each and every one of you!

Kelsey Friedly

friedlyshorthorns@gmail.com

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

LOOK FOR OUR PROFILE PICTURE OF THE RED BULL HEAD, WITH MONTANA SHORTHORN ASSOCIATION WRITTEN UNDERNEATH



## THE SPUR LINE FEEDSTORE

Jordan Aller and Heidi Torgerson

### **Tell us a little about yourself and your feed store.**

“Jordan Aller and Heidi Torgerson started the Spur Line in Livingston MT in 2010. Both determined 5<sup>th</sup> generation Montana women, they are one of the few independently owned and operated feed stores in the state. They pride themselves on their customer service, long standing customer relationships, innovative thinking and involvement in the community.”

### **What are the essentials in your opinion, for mineral needs of a cow herd? How do they change throughout the seasons?**

“Minerals are the essential foundation to any feed program. Forages can rarely meet all the nutritional requirements for a cattle herd. A quality mineral program can fill in those nutritional gaps and help the herd perform up to its genetic potential. Ideally, forage and hay samples are taken to determine what minerals may be needed for the pastures or hay that you are feeding. Liver biopsies are also a helpful tool to determine where you may have gaps. But, all of that can be time consuming and costly. In general, a quality chelated mineral program formulated for your area will work. Consumption should be monitored closely as over consumption can be costly and underconsumption can cause herd health issues. Different formulations can help with keeping consumption on target. Usually a 12-6 mineral (12% Calcium 6% Phosphorous) on green grasses and hay and a 12-12 mineral when forages turn brown. We have customers that feed both kinds year-round depending on individual herd needs. Be careful when comparing mineral tags. The consumption rate is one thing to look at as the per ton price may be cheaper but when priced out on a per head per day price, it is more for a 6 oz mineral than a 2 oz mineral. It is also getting much harder to determine what level and quality of chelated mineral are in a product. You are not always comparing apples to apples in that area.”

**Different areas require different mineral supplements. What are some signs we can look for in our cow herd, to know they are needing something more?**

“By the time you see symptoms in your cow herd (poor coat, poor immune response, calving issues, foot rot and pink eye prevalence) you have already been at a mineral deficit for some time. Hay samples and forage tests can be huge tools in being proactive for what the herds needs may be. Keeping mineral in front of them year-round is very beneficial.”

### **On the cattle show side of it, what is your bestselling feed product and why?**

“There are so many options out there for show animal feed and supplements that it can get overwhelming. We love the Payback Champion line of feeds, especially for the beginners, because it is simple and doesn't require a lot of mixing/supplements to get great performance. They have some fantastic formulations that are affordably priced.”

### **What advice would you give someone just starting out in the show world, on learning a feeding program for their animal?**

“Always ask questions and keep learning. Talk to your local feed store about products to use but at the end of the day make a decision and stick with that program that works for your animals and your budget. Don't switch around based on who won at the last jackpot. The care and herdsmanship put into an animal is as important as your feed program.”

You can contact Jordan and Heidi at the Spur Line at 406-222-7712 or [www.thespurline.com](http://www.thespurline.com). They are always happy to visit with people locally and across the state to answer questions, solve problems or just bounce ideas off of.”

