



Official Newsletter of the

**NWLA**

[www.NWLowline.com](http://www.NWLowline.com)

## What's Happening This Summer

There are two Lowline shows and an exhibition planned for this summer. We encourage everyone to get their Lowlines out there and show the public the benefits of our breed. If showing isn't for you this year, please consider attending the shows anyway. It's an opportunity for you to meet other breeders and people watching the show. Also, listening to what the judges have to say about conformation is a great learning experience.

### Southwest WA Fair Lowline Show

August 20-22, SHOW DAY TBA on website  
Southwest Washington Fair, Chehalis, WA

Good low key fair if you'd like to try out showing. Fullblood and percentage will be shown together. Haul in Friday 6am—noon. Haul out begins 6pm Sunday.

**Register by Aug. 1. Exhibitor's handbook and more info at [www.southwestwashingtonfair.net](http://www.southwestwashingtonfair.net)**

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### North Idaho Fair Lowline Exhibition

August 25-29  
Kootenai County Fair, Coeur d'Alene, ID

**Register by Aug. 1 to Jacqui at 208-659-6622 or [jacquidodd@yahoo.com](mailto:jacquidodd@yahoo.com).**

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### 5th Annual Northwest Lowline Classic Show

September 9-14, SHOW DAY Sat. Sept. 11  
Spokane Interstate Fair, Spokane, WA

**Register by Aug. 10. Class list and entry forms for open classes and youth showmanship on [www.NWLowline.com](http://www.NWLowline.com).**

Host hotel info on website also. Questions contact Jacqui at 208-659-6622 or [jacquidodd@yahoo.com](mailto:jacquidodd@yahoo.com).

## NWLA Annual Meeting & Social

Come to our annual meeting and brunch buffet social!

*Where:* Longhorn Barbecue

*Date:* Sunday Sept. 12

*Time:* 9am. Annual meeting first followed by the brunch.

*Cost:* \$7.50 adults, \$3.75 kids.  
Subsidized by ALR. Reg price is \$15 adults & \$7.50 kids.

*RSVP:* by Aug. 15 to Donna Boekel, 1180 W. Boekel Rd., Rathdrum, ID 83858. 208-659-6622.

## ANNUAL DUES WERE DUE JULY 1, 2009

If you haven't already sent in your dues, please send them as soon as possible with additional \$10 late fee to:

### Northwest Lowline Association

c/o Maggie Hansen  
8808 E. Greenbluff Rd.  
Colbert, WA 99005

### Annual Dues

*Active Membership*  
\$25 plus \$1 per registered Lowline up to 50 head

*Associate Membership* \$25

## 5th Annual Lowline Classic News

Jacqui has been working with Dick Blakely, the show superintendent at the Spokane Fair, for the last 6 months. We apologize for the late notice with regard to show information but we just received this notice from the fair a couple of days ago. The fairs have been hit by the recession just as we all have been and because of this the Fair gave us the following choices:

1) Continue having the Fair manage the show. However, there would be no additional classes such as the steer classes and our percentage Lowlines would be shown in the "grade" classes with other breeds such as Limousin and Brahma.

OR

2) We (NWLA) manage the show. This means that we hire our own judge, determine our own classes and pay out our own premiums. The Fair would still collect their entry fees which is whatever they determine for that year. We handle registrations. The Fair would give us \$4400 to do this.

It was determined that for the 2009 show, \$5300 was distributed to Lowline participants. So the \$900 shortfall for premiums and approximately \$500 to hire a judge and any other incidental expenses will need to come out of NWLA's bank account. Currently there is approximately \$3700 in the bank account.

## Volunteers Needed to Help Make Our Show a Success

We need the following volunteer positions filled for Show Day in Spokane on September 11th.

RING STEWARD—helps judge in the show ring

GATE PERSON—makes sure the animals are in the correct order going into the ring for the right class

ANNOUNCER—announces classes and class winners

2 PEOPLE TO HELP AT ANNOUNCER'S TABLE—keep track of class winners and order of placings.

Please contact Jacqui by Aug. 10 if you would like to help out.

The board voted on #2 and also voted to keep premiums the same this year. The board will revisit premiums next year and may consider lowering them to adjust for the shortfall. The board will also look at other way to bring in more funding for the show such as sponsorships.

Additional Items:

-The show will feature Junior Showmanship classes for four age groups. Beverly Shirts will be handling this. See the website for entry forms and age groups.

-The show will feature two steer classes; a Fullblood/Purebred Prospect Steer class and a Percentage Prospect Steer class. Steer classes will be eligible for premium money. More info on class list on website.

-We will be hiring our own judge. A judge has not been secured yet but will be announced soon.

## Would You Like to Have a Say in the Future of NWLA?

The following positions will be up for nominations and vote at the annual meeting on Sunday Sept. 12.

-President - 2 yr term

-Vice-President - 2 yr. term

-Secretary - 2 yr. term

### Committee Chairs - all 1 yr. terms

-Education/Youth Committee Chair

-Show/Sales Committee Chair

-Marketing/Promotions Committee Chair

-Newsletter/Website Committee Chair

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## Junior Nationals - Something for Everyone

Hello everyone!

I am happy to report that the first American Lowline Junior National Show was a huge success! We had 40 junior members attend with 60 head of cattle present. I personally had a great time. I met junior members from all across the country and was able to make many new friendships.

Some of the activities we had during the week were the quiz bowl, team fitting contest, team marketing contest, state cook-off, no-fit showmanship, and then the actual show. We also had our first annual ALJA board meeting where we announced the 2010-2011 ALJA Board of Directors. Apart from the tornado sirens going off right before we started the team fitting contest, the whole experience was great fun.

The ALJA National Show is being held in Laramie, WY in 2011, which is quite a bit closer than Muscatine, IA. I would like to encourage all the NWLA junior members to come to the Junior National Show next year! Even if junior members can't haul cattle or don't own cattle, they can still come and participate. I had one of the greatest experiences of my life there, and it's guaranteed to just get better and better every year!

Best Regards,

*-Beverly Shirts, Youth & Education Chairman*

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## Three Markets

As Lowline Angus Breeders we need to keep working on representing the breed to the cattle and beef industry. I see three market directions available. The small acreage hobby farmer, the cattleman needing easy calving bulls and the beef supply industry. Taking your breeding program in the right direction is based on the market you are trying to target. Taking every opportunity to promote Lowline angus will keep the demand on the rise.

We have recently had two great Lowline events. One was a fitting clinic in Rathdrum Idaho at Bill and Donna Boekel's place and the other was a Lowline field day in Nampa, Idaho at Bruce and Gretta Ankeny's place. Both events were successful and will hopefully be done again next year. There will be Lowlines shown at the Southwest Washington Fair in Chehalis, Washington, and an exhibition at the Coeur d' Alene Fair as well. Our main show the Northwest Classic at the Spokane Interstate Fair is shaping up to be another great show with the best Lowlines the Northwest has to offer. It is also when our annual membership meeting is held and we encourage all of our membership to attend as it is the only time out of the year that we have a meeting for the members.

Lowlines are also working their way into a lot of 4\_H clubs around the northwest. Halfblood steers are making weights and fullblood females are being used as great breeding projects.

*-Alan Bradshaw, Marketing and Promotions Committee Chair*

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## Ultrasound Scanning Beef Cattle for Body Composition

Ultrasound scanning for carcass traits is a useful tool for obtaining valuable carcass information from a live animal. Ultrasound technology uses sound waves to develop images of body composition. Body composition traits that can be measured include 12th to 13th rib fat thickness, rump fat thickness, ribeye area, and intramuscular fat percentage (marbling). Each of these traits is at least moderately heritable and is significant in the determination of red meat quality and yield for individual animals.

### Body Composition Traits

#### Rib Fat

Rib fat (also called fat thickness or backfat) is an external fat measurement taken between the 12th and 13th ribs. It is measured in inches. Rib fat is used in USDA yield grade calculation and is the most important determinant of retail yield. Higher amounts of rib fat decrease cutability and produce less desirable yield grades.

#### Ribeye Area

Ribeye area is the surface area of the longissimus dorsi (ribeye) muscle at the 12th rib interface on the beef forequarter. Ribeye area is expressed in square inches. Retail product yield increases and numerical yield grade decreases as ribeye area increases. This image is often the most difficult to collect and requires a highly skilled interpreting technician. Both rib fat and ribeye area are taken from the same image.

#### Rump Fat

Rump fat refers to the depth of fat at the juncture of the gluteus medius and superficial gluteus medius muscles. This measurement is expressed in inches. It is taken from an image collected between the hooks (hips) and pins of the animal. The rump fat measurement, together with the rib fat measurement, is used to determine more accurately the overall external body fat. This improves the accuracy of predicting percent retail product. In most cases, an animal will exhibit more fat over the rump than the rib, so often more variation is displayed in rump fat measurements than rib fat measurements. This image is highly repeatable and is the least difficult to collect or inter-

#### Intramuscular Fat

Intramuscular fat percentage (%IMF) is the percentage of fat in the ribeye muscle. It is often called marbling and is observed as flecks of fat in lean tissue. Degree of marbling is related to intramuscular fat percentage and is the primary factor determining quality grade. Higher levels of intramuscular fat improve quality grade. This measurement should be collected when cattle are maintaining a high level of nutrition. The field technician collects four images and the values generated by the interpreting software are averaged for an overall intramuscular fat percentage.

*-From Mississippi State University Extension Service*

For more Info about Ultrasound, there are some good articles on [www.BeefMagazine.com](http://www.BeefMagazine.com). Use keyword "ultrasound."

### Executive Board Members

#### Interim President

Jim Eldridge  
Sweet, ID  
208-584-9335  
[jjim@eldridge.com](mailto:jjim@eldridge.com)

#### Interim Vice President

Vacant

#### Treasurer

Maggie Hansen  
Colbert, WA 99005  
509-238-6132  
[gbluffcider@yahoo.com](mailto:gbluffcider@yahoo.com)

#### Secretary

Beth Johnson  
Meridian, ID  
208-518-5987  
[gr8fancy@yahoo.com](mailto:gr8fancy@yahoo.com)

#### Education & Youth

Beverly Shirts  
Athol, ID  
208-623-2100  
[horseluvrgirl@hotmail.com](mailto:horseluvrgirl@hotmail.com)

#### Show & Sales

Jacqui Duran  
Athol, ID  
208-659-6622  
[jacquidodd@yahoo.com](mailto:jacquidodd@yahoo.com)

#### Marketing & Promotions

Alan Bradshaw  
Meridian ID 83642  
208-869-8006  
[hamilton1090@msn.com](mailto:hamilton1090@msn.com)

#### Website & Newsletter

Shelley Dodd  
Monroe, WA  
360-282-5494  
[doddsrd@earthlink.net](mailto:doddsrd@earthlink.net)

**WWW.NWLOWLINE.COM**