



## Hello, Fellow Shorthorn Enthusiasts!

Here we are deep into an exceptionally cold and snowy winter and the bright spot is: there's no mud, and yet...it still hasn't been as bad as the winter of 2013. For some reason, when I get to February, I just feel like the worst is behind us, even though that's not always the case. At our farm, calving has started and that is one thing that makes us look forward to winter. Still, the other day I was reflecting on... Where did fall go? It flew by so fast that it seems only a short time ago we were enjoying great Shorthorn fellowship and delicious food on a very hot, windy August day at the MSBA picnic and annual meeting here at Narrow Brook. I was thankful for a nice blast of wind when one of the canopies went airborne, then I was thankful that no one was hurt! Be careful what you wish for! Adults enjoyed a long, leisurely visit, kids had a great time playing yard games, and Matt gathered a nice group of cattle to walk through. Talking cattle with cattle friends makes a very enjoyable day! We hosted over 40 Shorthorn friends, welcomed Taylor Peter from Vanderbilt to our Board of Directors, and wished farewell to Stacy Stinson and Meg Bossard as they stepped down. We greatly appreciate the time and talents that both Stacy and Meg contributed to MSBA during their time on the board, especially since Stacy also served several years as our Junior Advisor.

Our board has discussed that MSBA must keep up with the times and advance our organization to make it useful and relevant to our members raising Shorthorn cattle. How we operated in the past is not always what works, or is what is needed, for today's organization or its members. For example, these days, information is immediately at our fingertips and we can easily do our own promotion to sell a bull or heifer by snapping a picture and posting on social media. That's one way you can sell cattle and be fairly successful. On the other hand, being an active member of MSBA can broaden your circle extensively and help you make closer and more satisfying connections that will last far longer than an Instagram post!

We all know the cost of raising cattle today. MSBA membership dues is the least expensive item you can buy, that will do you the most good year-round! An annual membership costs less than two cans of show products or a bag of good mineral and lasts a lot longer because it gives you presence, recognition and promotion through access to our website, additional social media coverage, and the annual sale opportunity at Michigan Beef Expo. Your membership provides a ready source of information and encouragement from fellow breeders! Please reach out if we can be of assistance, especially navigating ASA Digital Beef or other FAQ's. Your fellow MSBA members are happy to help!

We hope to see many of our members at the 36th Michigan Beef Expo in a couple weeks. Please make sure you stop by the booth in the Shorthorn aisle to say Hello! (Expo info is on page 2.)

### MEMBERSHIP DUES & WEBSITE ADS

### We now accept online payments by credit card!

Memberships are \$30 annually or \$75 for three years (renewal in 2029) and \$5 for junior members.

Membership renewal notices were sent by mail or e-mail in January so please get those back to us as soon as possible. Visit our website to access our membership form that you can either print and mail a check, or type into the online form and use the electronic payment option.

A new feature of the website for MSBA members is the opportunity to include a custom ad to personalize your membership listing, feature your breeding program and promote sales. You will also see these ads shared periodically on the association Facebook page. If you'd like to purchase a custom website ad please contact Tara Miller or Carla McLachlan (contact info at right).

### Join MSBA's "JUNIOR TEAM" to Support Our Youth

MSBA has been a proud sponsor of the development of MI Cattlemen's Showcase Series (formerly MI Shows), and it's been good for our kids and families. However, the continuous circuit of weekend events has created a shift in the traditional role of all junior breed associations across the state. At the same time, it has not always been possible for the MJSB Advisor to coordinate our Juniors at the National Junior Shorthorn Show and even, sometimes, the State Junior Show. It is a huge commitment of time, cost and travel for one person. The MSBA board has decided to try a new approach by creating a "Junior Team" that shares the responsibilities amongst the board and interested adult members, working together with MSBA board oversight. For the State Junior Show in late April, board members and volunteers will collaborate to cover the responsibilities. For the NJSS in June, we are seeking a Junior parent or MSBA member who will be designated on-site point person for the week, and coordinate help from the other adults. For the future of MJSB, we see this team approach toward youth development in our state being more successful by utilizing the talent, time and resources of many of us to expand opportunities that will benefit our juniors. Please get in touch with me by phone or e-mail to join the Junior Team!

Warmly...Tara Miller, MSBA President

**FEBRUARY 2026**

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### MSBA OFFICERS

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### DIRECTORS

Courtney Vance  
Taylor Peter  
Cami Marz-Evans  
Caleb Vance

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Hayley & Claudia Albrecht,  
Albrecht Livestock, Kingston

David and Nicolette Bal,  
Bal Family Farm, Norway

Mike Brown,  
Brown Ridge Farm, Middleville

Bret & Jamie Kraemer,  
JnE Livestock, Norway

Josh Kastel,  
Kastel Show Cattle, Hudson

Morgan & Gordon McKay,  
McKay Farms, Holly

Nolan Murray,  
Murray Farms, Ubly

Cody & Taylor Steinhaus,  
Steinhaus Ponderosa Farms, LeRoy

**P.S.**

*We would love to feature our junior members exhibiting Shorthorns and ShorthornPlus and publish their show results on the MSBA website junior page, Facebook and the MSBA Bulletin.*

*Please make a point to forward quality photos and show results by e-mail:  
[michiganshorthorns@gmail.com](mailto:michiganshorthorns@gmail.com)*

## 36th ANNUAL MICHIGAN BEEF EXPO, FEBRUARY 20 & 21, FARM BUREAU PAVILION at MSU



The Shorthorn offering is one of the best we've had in recent years! We have an excellent set of eight open females, one bred female and five bulls consigned. Our consignors have done an exceptional job bringing their best! All are AI-sired, with sought-after pedigrees that will be competitive show prospects for your junior and/or productive additions to your herd. If you have not already, take a look at the catalog and watch for videos to be posted soon on CCI.live. Scan the QR code or search: [micattlemen.org/events](http://micattlemen.org/events) to access the schedule and sale catalog.

If you are planning on purchasing a Shorthorn bull this year, the Expo is where you need to be! There are fewer breeders raising bulls, especially locally, because the market is just too good to hold them over from fall. That alone should say something about the depth and quality of this bull offering. The days are long past when you can buy a bull off the farm in June to turn in with your cows on July 1st. (It's a fact, based on the number of calls we get in May and June looking for Shorthorn bulls.) You'll want to plan ahead if you are planning to make a Shorthorn bull purchase and be in the seats or online on February 21. Many thanks to Carla McLachlan for her coordination efforts, the Shorthorn offering will not disappoint! We hope you can join us at this premiere Michigan beef cattle event.

### EXPO SCHEDULE

The "Friday Night Lights" auction on February 20 features elite frozen genetics including several Shorthorn lots of embryos and semen. The reception starts at 5 p.m. and the sale starts at 7 p.m. The Saturday sales start at 10 a.m. and the sale order has us as the third breed, so we are estimating the Shorthorn sale to start around noon or shortly thereafter. Both sales will be broadcast and offer online bidding on CCI.Live.

### MSBA SILENT AUCTION – Will you help?

Again, this year, we will hold our Shorthorn Silent Auction in our hospitality booth at the Michigan Beef Expo. Please consider bringing an item to donate to help support MSBA's promotion efforts. Drop it off as early as Friday, and no later than 10 a.m. on Saturday. We will close the silent auction 30 minutes after the conclusion of the Shorthorn sale. Proceeds will be used for MSBA activities and outreach to potential new members.

## MSBA Sponsors "MI Cattlemen Showcase Series" for Youth Across the State

After ten successful years and overwhelming growth, the MI Shows junior show organization transitioned into the MI Cattlemen Showcase Series last fall. Michigan Shorthorn Breeders Association jumped on board in year one of this excellent program and has proudly been a sponsor every year since! The Shorthorn and Shorthorn Plus divisions continue to be two of the largest divisions of steers and heifers represented in the program. It is only because of the generous sponsorship of organizations, businesses, farms and individuals across the state that the MI Cattlemen Showcase Series can reward youth for their achievements in and out of the show ring.

While it is much the same program (juniors nominate their heifers and steers to collect points at sanctioned events for the show season and the program tracks participation and provides year end awards in multiple divisions), participants now pay a youth membership to Michigan Cattlemen's Association. In addition, the program requires involvement in the educational contests and showmanship to be qualified to win top prizes. The "Michigan Bred" award offers breeders the opportunity to nominate calves they have bred and sold to compete in a special division. The Showcase Series is more than a lineup of shows – it's a platform for youth to connect in the industry, learn valuable skills, and carry forward the legacy of excellence of the Michigan beef cattle business. [View the participating shows and entry info on the MCA website at: micattlemen.org](http://micattlemen.org)

## 2026 Michigan Shorthorn State Show – Open Show at "Middle of the Mitten" on April 26

Plans are underway for the Michigan Shorthorn State Show to be held in conjunction with the Middle of the Mitten Show on Sunday, April 26 at Midland County Fairgrounds. This Open Show is for both youth and adults showing Shorthorn and ShorthornPlus in four divisions: Heifers, Steers, Bulls and Cow/Calf Pairs. All youth and adult exhibitors are invited to join Michigan Junior Shorthorn Association (MJSA) or Michigan Shorthorn Breeders Association (MSBA) via the website: [michiganshorthorns.org](http://michiganshorthorns.org). Membership forms will also be available at check-in. In each show division, Michigan Shorthorn State Show awards will be presented to the highest-placing current members of MJSA or MSBA. The MJSA Showmanship Contest is open to MJSA members only; youth can join MJSA and enter the contest at check-in.

**TENTATIVE SHOW SCHEDULE:** MJSA Showmanship Contest will be the first event of the day, followed by the Bull and Cow/Calf Pair divisions. Heifer and Steer divisions will show in the breed order that is determined and posted by Middle of the Mitten officials.

**ENTRIES:** Heifers and Steers: [Showman.app/Cattle Shows \(scroll to April 26\)](http://Showman.app/CattleShows)    Bulls and Cow/Calf Pairs by e-mail: [michiganshorthorns@gmail.com](mailto:michiganshorthorns@gmail.com)

Come be a part of a great statewide Shorthorn event! Watch for info via MSBA Facebook or e-mail. Contact Tara with questions: 517-749-8187 or [narrowbrookfarms@gmail.com](mailto:narrowbrookfarms@gmail.com)

### SEEKING AWARD SPONSORS FOR STATEWIDE SHOWS

We are actively seeking award sponsors for our two show events coming up in 2026:

- Michigan Shorthorn State Show
- Michigan State Fair

Sign-up sheets will be at the Expo Shorthorn Hospitality booth. Members reading this newsletter will get first dibs!

*Contact Trish Steele, MSBA Treasurer, to claim your sponsorships before the Expo! Call or Text: 989-615-3933 E-mail: [TrishSteele22@gmail.com](mailto:TrishSteele22@gmail.com)*



### MICHIGAN SHORTHORN STATE SHOW – \$30 each

*MJSA Showmanship Contest Champions – Junior, Intermediate & Senior*

*Grand & Reserve Purebred Heifer*

*Grand & Reserve ShorthornPlus Heifer*

*Grand & Reserve Purebred Steer*

*Grand & Reserve ShorthornPlus Steer*

*\*If Bulls and Cow/Calf Pairs are entered MSBA will sponsor the awards.*

### MICHIGAN STATE FAIR – \$40 each

#### JUNIOR SHOW AWARDS

*Grand & Reserve Purebred Female*

*Grand & Reserve ShorthornPlus Female*

*Grand & Reserve Purebred Bull*

*Grand & Reserve ShorthornPlus Bull*

#### OPEN SHOW AWARDS

*Grand & Reserve Purebred Female*

*Grand & Reserve ShorthornPlus Female*

*Grand & Reserve Purebred Bull*

*Grand & Reserve ShorthornPlus Bull*

## Accolades in National Show Rings

Congratulations to MSBA members, Steve and Julie French, Little Cedar Cattle Company, Beaverton who had an outstanding show season in the bull shows at both the 2025 North American International Livestock Show (NAILE) in Louisville and 2026 Cattlemen's Congress in Oklahoma City. Most recently, in OKC, they won the Reserve Champion Pen of Three Purebred Bulls and EDGE Show Calf Champion Bull, with Little Cedar Prosper. With their junior partner Wyatt Smith of Texas, they also exhibited the Open Show Reserve Champion Shorthorn Bull, Little Cedar WS Trail Boss, who earned Division Calf Champion at NAILE. Also at the 2025 NAILE, Little Cedar showed the Champion Intermediate Bull, Little Cedar Lasting Look, with their Canadian partners Crawford Farms, Foxtail Livestock and Sweetgrass Ranches. What an accomplishment!

**Watch for upcoming issues of MSBA Bulletin. E-mail your NEWS to: [michiganshorthorns@gmail.com](mailto:michiganshorthorns@gmail.com)**