



American Miniature Zebu Association, LLC

Education/Promotion/Preservation of the World's Smallest Cattle

PO Box 2095, Lady Lake, FL 32158 352-391-0977

November/December 2018

Life At The Stephens Farm

Hello! We are Eddie and Susan Stephens of The Stephens Farm in Locust Fork, Alabama.

Even though we haven't been fortunate enough to meet many of our AMZA friends and enjoy your friendship personally, we feel like we know many of you anyway! We know that those Miniature Zebu Shows and County Fair Shows that John & Kathleen Schmidt inform us of are surely wonderful experiences. Maybe someday we will be able to attend one!

Life on our little farm is hectic to say the least! Eddie has retired from the Military but still continues to work at his every-day job. And I, even though I don't currently work outside the farm, have an everyday job here, too! We have always said, "After a bad day, just go outside and hug a Zebu. That will make everything much better!"

As Eddie mentioned to me only yesterday, it seems as though there is ALWAYS something going on around here! We are terribly protective of all our animals. Between coyotes, foxes, raccoons, snakes, and dogs belonging to other people, it is an on-going job to keep all our babies safe. But, between those horns and their hooves, they are pretty self-protective themselves. We had a little heifer who looked as though she were "pointing" like a dog and looking intent upon something. That something turned out to be a snake. How intuitive that she stood so still with her front hoof up for a goodly amount of time "pointing" that snake! Only yesterday Eddie had to relocate a bothersome raccoon to a new zip code! He simply had to go! Wish we could relocate red ants, wasps, and yellow jackets, too. Grrrrrr!

As we are sure many of you do, we recognize each Zebu by his or her actions and their distinctive sounds! Our matriarch, Loretta, has an indoor and an outdoor voice! We get the biggest kick out of hearing her "silent little" moo which seems to grow into a full-fledged moo while waiting to be fed! And, our precious Whispering Bill...we love to hear him refute his name by snoring like a big bear!



Whispering Bill



Eddie, Loretta and Little Shania



Life At The Stephens Farm Cont'd

What a joy it is to see “Pete (Conway) and Repeat (Little Sonny James)” as they go about their day. Conway doesn't make a step that Little Sonny isn't directly behind him. One day, Little Sonny Boy wasn't paying attention when Conway stopped. You guessed it, he rear-ended him! Too funny!



Sonny Boy and Conway

Our three cows (Darlin', Patsy and Baby) and their protective donkey (Miss Minnie), are unbelievable together. Miss Minnie watches over those cows as though they were her very own.



Patsy, Baby, Darlin' and Miss Minnie

Then, there is our Snookey...the biggest pet of all. One day, not too long ago, there was a problem on the road in front of Snookey's pasture. Well, instead of running from the noise and the lights, little-miss-nosey Snookey ran TO the action. And, I mean literally she ran to the action! As we watched the commotion, the law officer had to continuously “shew” her away from the fence, but she would return! We finally had to call her to us and she finally “left the scene”! That was such a funny sight! Snookey is currently in with our smallest little bull, Ranger. Hopefully, we will have a baby early in the Winter. Speaking of our Ranger, his sound is surely very distinctive! You would think we had an Elk in our pasture instead of a little bull boy!



**Susan and
Snookey**



Ranger



Life At The Stephens Farm cont'd

Our Maximillion is a most beautiful little man. He can ALWAYS be found somewhere near the three cows, and he also watches over them from his pasture just as the donkey does. It is never a secret who is in season!



Maximillion

And, last but not least, our two little ones...Little Shania and Little Willie Nelson! When the sun shines on Little Willie, he is so black that he looks blue. We wish we could report a color for Little Shania. But, at this time, we would have to say "We will let you know this upcoming Spring!". She is currently a most beautiful and unusual color of black, grey, red, and white all mixed together.



**Eddie
And
Little Willie**



Little Shania

Here at The Stephens Farm, selling our little Zebus is a tearful experience to say the least. Hugging them and saying goodbye is one of those happy/sad experiences. Happy to see them go to a good home but sad to see them leave us.

Well, you have just experienced a "pictorial virtual tour" of The Stephens Farm—where every day is a new experience! We are so thankful to our Veterinarian for guiding us to these precious little Zebus.

We hope you enjoyed the tour. If you are ever in our area, just give us a call and come by! Y'all come see us now... 'ya heah!!

Eddie and Susan Stephens

The Stephens Farm

827 Tabernacle Road

Locust Fork, Alabama 35126

205.681.4584

www.thestephensfarm.com

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4H and FFA Zebu Show

The Winn Parish Fair in Louisiana included zebu Oct. 1-6 in the combined livestock show for Jackson and Winn Parish. This was a local show that is a required show to qualify the 4H and FFA members to enter a district show in Rapids Parish and later an LSU State show in Gonzales, LA.

The young students trained their own calves, learned how to feed and care for them, grooming—including clipping and trimming, and washing. They also learned how to show their animal with and without a show stick.

Each animal was put in a halter class determined by the age and sex of the animal. Not only did all students show in at least one halter class, but was required to enter showmanship classes with all other students their ages.

The showmanship judge based his decisions on each student's ability to show the animal and answer questions about the animal or the zebu breed. Examples: 1. What would you change about your zebu if you could? 2. Gestation period? 3. What do you feed it and how much?

About 30 minutes before the show began the County Agent gave a written test to all students. This test really let each student know about very important facts participants should know. Including body parts of cattle.

Roger Maxwell gave a workshop to parents and students the day before the show. (This was for all new comers to the breed.)

All the students are looking forward to the district and state shows coming up.



14-16 Year Old Showmanship Class.

There also was classes as young as 3 years old.

Article submitted by

Roger Maxwell

Maxwell Minis

Jonesboro, LA



2018 AMZA Spook-Tacular Miniature Zebu Cattle Show

The 2018 AMZA Spook-Tacular Miniature Zebu Cattle Show was hosted by Stormy Hill Farms—Weirsdale, FL, October 27th. There were 9 Exhibitors with a total of 42 Zebus that attended this one day trailer show. The Judge for the day was Linda Grant, an AMZA Certified Master Judge, from Canada.

Exhibitors—Gillette Farm (Neil, Karen, & Hannah Gillette), Diamond G (Robert Gregoire), Nichols Farm (Lee, Val, & Colton Nichols), Stormy Hill Farms (Rick Ressler & Bobbi Thompson), Ritz Ranch (Cynthia Ritz), SBC Farm, LLC (John & Chris Rogers), Rouse Ranch (Carol Rouse & Levi and Rylie Conner), Amazing Zebu (Michael & Judy Stillman), and Wards Farm (Shawn, Becky, Brady, & Aubrey Ward)

Grand Champion Heifer—Stormy Hill Farms Porchea—Rick Ressler

Reserve Grand Champion Heifer—Stormy Hill Farms Tar Tars Little Miracle—Rick Ressler

Grand Champion Cow—Stormy Hill Farms Patience—Rick Ressler

Reserve Grand Champion Cow—Bogle Farms Pumpkin Spice—Rylie Conner

Champion Challenge Female—Woodhaven Farms June Bug—Rick Ressler

Grand Champion Jr Bull - Rouse Ranch Firecracker—Levi Conner

Reserve Grand Champion Jr Bull—Gillette’s Painted Spirit —Hannah Gillette

Grand Champion Sr Bull—Flying P Ranch Sweet Lazarus ‘Baxter’ - Colton Nichols

Reserve Grand Champion Sr Bull—Stormy Hill Farms Wyatt—Cynthia Ritz

Champion Challenge Bull—Flying P Ranch Sweet Lazarus ‘Baxter’ - Colton Nichols



Upcoming AMZA Sanctioned Miniature Zebu Shows



NORTH LOUISIANA
AGRI-BUSINESS COUNCIL

2019 North Louisiana AG EXPO

IKE Hamilton Expo Center—501 Mane Street, West Monroe, LA

January 18th, 2019



2019 Florida State Fair

4800 US-301, Tampa, FL 33610

February 7th, 2019—Open Miniature Zebu Show

February 8th, 2019—Southeastern Miniature Classic Show



2019 Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo

8400 Kirby Dr, Houston, TX 77054

March 17th, 2019

2018 AMZA Judges Training

The AMZA held Judges Training on October 26th & 27th in Lady Lake, FL. Thank you to Linda Grant, AMZA Certified Master Judge, David Millison, AMZA Certified Master Judge, & Rick Ressler, AMZA Certified Judge, for instructing this Judges Training. Thank you to Carol Rouse & Robert Gregoire who were able to attend. Unable to attend were Angel & Troy Frederick and Cynthia Ritz.



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FILSON LIVESTOCK CALF TABLE

This calf table has a unique design in that it will roll either left or right which makes for easy access to both sides of the animal. The circle concept allows the weight of the calf and the table to always remain in the center of the base. Works well with animals up to 500 lbs.

Options:

- Right or Left hand controls
- 8" taller U-bars (if branding high on hip)
- Drop floor
- Drop sides
- Wheel Kit



Specs: Weight 570 lbs. Width 55" Height 60" Depth 61"

FILSON LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT

Contact Rick @ 352-223-9801 OR

Kendal @ 620-622-4521

102 South Broadway

PO Box 67

Protection, Kansas 67127

620-622-4521 or 800-345-7434

Filsonlivestockequip.com

E-mail: filson@unitedwireless.com

(Ask for Filson Calf Table with Zebu Modifications)



AMZA Members, submit your articles, special, or unique happenings with your miniature zebu for publication in the AMZA Newsletter. Sharing your experiences with others helps everyone to learn and become better Zebu individuals as we all work toward the successes of the Miniature Zebu Breed.

Submit to: AMZA, PO Box 2095, Lady Lake, FL 32158

352-391-0977 amzaregistrar@gmail.com

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