

The Official Publication of the International Miniature Zebu Association



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Founded in 1991, the IMZA is the oldest registry of miniature zebu in the world. Our purpose is to collect, record, and preserve the pedigrees of all Miniature Zebu cattle. Additionally, we support our members through education and promotion of the breed, maintenance of a breed registry, and the regulation of all matters that pertain to the history, breeding, exhibition, or improvement of the Miniature Zebu breed.

International Miniature Zebu Association

17500 Hamilton Arms Court, Dewitt, VA 23840

407-717-0084 – email: imzainfo@gmail.com – website www.imza.name



Cover Photo: Julie Gage of C Jewel’s Farm in North Port, Florida, shares her photo of CJF Honey Suckle getting in the “moood” for fall.

Your Contacts at IMZA

PRESIDENT

Judy Rohner
Centralia, IL
618-367-2994
Buffalohillexotics1940@gmail.com
Term expires: April 2018

VICE-PRESIDENT

Dean Schocker
New Liberty, IA
563-370-3848
deanschocker@netins.net
Term expires: April 2019

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Rick Bogle
Sorrento, FL
407-468-9002
rvbogle@earthlink.net
Term expires: April 2017

DIRECTOR

Steve DeMoor
Sanford, FL
407-509-9069
steve@drcritter.com
Term expires: April 2018

REGISTRAR

Kathy Petersen
Dewitt, VA
407-717-0084
imzainfo@gmail.com

DIRECTOR

Matt Loudenbeck
Clinton, WI
262-206-4314
luckyzebu@aol.com
Term expires: April 2017

DIRECTOR

Alan Blumhorst
Nashville, IL
618-424-7979
Alanblumhorst@yahoo.com
Term expires: April 2019

DIRECTOR

Kenneth Cornwell
Vinita, OK
918-244-6452
k.m.minimoos1@gmail.com
Term expires: April 2018

WEBMASTER/NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Barbara McDermott
Christmas, FL
407-568-7337
webmaster@imza.name

Disclaimer: The IMZA CoN*Nection is published three times per year with Spring, Summer, Fall/Winter issues. The views and opinions expressed in letters or other content are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent IMZA policy. The IMZA accepts no liability for any loss, damage, or claims occurring as a result of advice given in this publication or for claims made by advertisers or products or services in this publication.



President's Message

Hello everyone,

I could not be more enthusiastic about the future of miniature zebu cattle or the International Miniature Zebu Association. Lots of change and excitement are in the air! Your IMZA Board of Directors has been working overtime to implement new member programs and to update existing ones. The Board has voted to slash the cost of hardshipping cattle in half, now offering this service at \$25.00 per head. Rick Bogle, member of the Board of Directors and IMZA Show Committee chairman, is working on a new show rule that will make IMZA an equal player in the show arena. Your IMZA cattle will now get the honor and recognition in the show world that they have earned. Please check our website www.imza.name for details as all these exciting developments are finalized and put into action.

The demand for our little cattle is increasing at a very fast rate. Sales are up. Be sure to post all of your "for sale" mini zebu in the online Sale Barn at www.imza.name.

It will soon be time to send the BOD Nominating Committee in search of new nominees for the Board of Directors. Please volunteer to enter the election and to serve with the great group of Board members who are serving you now. Finally, a huge "Thank You" to both our Webmaster/ Newsletter Editor, Barbara McDermott, and our registrar, Kathy Petersen, for outstanding jobs well done! You two make the face of IMZA a happy and successful one.

My best regards and warm wishes to all of you for a barn full of contented little miniature zebu cattle. May your upcoming holiday season be blessed.

Judy Rohner,

President, International Miniature Zebu Association



Two of Julie Gage's cute calves, from C Jewel's Farm, in North Port, FL.

Registration Information

REGISTRATION SPECIAL FOR IMZA MEMBERS

For a limited time, IMZA members may hardship-register an animal for \$25!!!! Regular cost is \$50. This reduced fee will expire 12/31/17. Don't pass this opportunity up to save some money on your Hardship Registrations! Hurry while this offer lasts!

IMZA on Facebook



Have you checked out the IMZA on Facebook lately? Here are some of the topics being discussed :

- Calling all members: **MEMBERS--WE NEED YOUR STORIES and PICTURES FOR THE IMZA CON*NECTION!!!** Please share your tips, happenings, events and human-interest stories so everyone may benefit from your experiences!!! Send to webmaster@imza.name.
- Check those Reports of birth certificates folks--I am seeing an increase in reports of births coming in that the parents were never updated. When you do a Report of Birth and get your certificate, there is an expiration date to them. When your zebu turns three years old, you need to update it to the official registration. You need \$10 for a member and \$20 for a non-member, a picture and a measurement. This can be done right on-line--easy as can be!
- Have you used our new on-line registration forms? You will notice that our forms look different. They are much easier for you to complete now. Please note you will need your membership number for each registration that you do, as well as the buyer's membership number. If the buyer does not have a member number, please just enter 0000. If you do not know your membership number, please email Kathy Petersen, Registrar, at imzainfo@gmail.com, and I will send it to you as soon as possible. Please keep that number handy so your registrations are not delayed. Please allow three to four weeks for processing, although most are processed within seven to 10 business days. Office hours are Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. EST. Check out our Facebook page (International Miniature Zebu Association) to see what our members and others have to say about these topics!
- The average lifespan of a Zebu is 12-16 years.
- Zebus are the only type of cattle that live in tropical rainforests. They can be also found in open plains. Zebus originate from South Asia, but due to their ability to survive in hot and humid environments, they have been easily introduced to the tropical parts of Africa and South America

IMZA Members: Send in your articles, photos, show reports or unique events with your miniature zebus for publication in the IMZA CoN*Necton and on the IMZA's website. Sharing your experiences with your fellow members helps everyone learn, including potential new miniature zebu owners! Send to: webmaster@imza.name.

Founding IMZA Member, Dick Heiken, Passes Away

It is with sadness that we announce that Richard "Dick" Heiken, age 81, of Norwalk, died peacefully Monday, August 22, 2016, surrounded by his family at home.

Dick owned Heiken Plumbing, 51 Car Wash, A Storage Inn, and finally Heiken's Ark. He was a long-time member of the Home Lodge No. 370 A.F. & A.M., as well as the Za-Ga-Zig Shrine, of which he was the Potentate in 1989.

He is survived by wife, Kathy; children, Randy (Linda) Heiken, Carole (Steve) Croatt, Lia (Kevin) Potratz, Chuck Rhoades, and Monica (Rob) Friedman; grandchildren, Michelle (Brad), Larry (Denise), Danny, Stephanie, Lauren, Jake Friedman, Jake Potratz, Claire, Kylie, and Kate; and great-grandchildren, Michael and Megan.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Merrill and Edna Heiken; and his daughter, Sandi DeHaan.



Dick and Kathy began their love affair with many species of animals in 1987, including miniature zebu. Dick grew up on a farm but found he could not make a living as a farmer, so he started working in a factory and then became a plumber, which morphed into several business adventures, including self-service car washes and miniature storage units. Dick and Kathy were married in 1980, and Kathy kept the business records for all their ventures. They had camels, pot-bellied pigs, Tennessee fainting goats and other animals when they were smitten with a pair of miniature zebus (King and Missy) purchased at the Lolli Bros. Alternative Livestock Sale in Macon, MO, in 1990. They added to their menagerie in 1991 with Watusi cattle, miniature donkeys, Grant zebras and Jacobs sheep. In 1992, they added reindeer, peacocks and llamas. So, you see, theirs was truly an "Ark."

Dick and Kathy Heiken were founding members of the IMZA, and were in attendance at the formation meeting on April 15, 1991. They presented their zebus many times at the Iowa State Fair, Avenue of the Breeds; and they also did an episode for the TV show on the RFD channel about their miniature zebus and fainting goats.



Founding IMZA Member, Dick Heiken, Passes Away (continued)

When asked by Maureen Neidhardt , former IMZA Newsletter Editor and Registrar, years ago what advice the Heikens had for newcomers, they responded with these comments: “Do your research on the project, sift through and use what will work on your farm in terms of facilities, and then make your decision—but don’t get them unless you love them! They are very nice animals to have if you have the time to work with them and keep them calm and gentle. Start small in numbers and gradually grow your herd if this fits your lifestyle and enjoyment. To do justice to them, you need to be able to find the time to work with them. In general, only raise the breeds and species that you care for, always understand that you never have all the answers and that you can go to your friends to learn what you are in question about. All of this effort is then a joy. It is an art to have the know-how and a blessing to be able to do it--and then it does not really feel like work.”

The IMZA expresses its sincere condolences to the Heiken family.



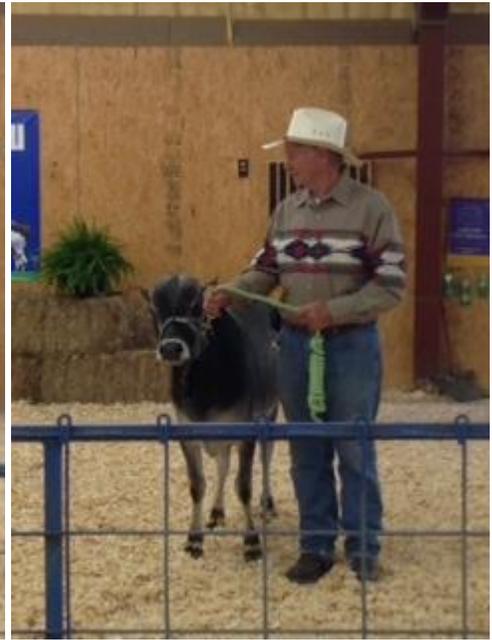
EC Ahern from Sniper Creek Farm, Hickory Grove, SC, sends in this photo of his little calf, SCF Little Plinker, H2-7130.



Katherine and James Alcock-Hoddinott send in this picture all the way from Australia of their two new miniature zebu calves, Eluna on the left, and Rocky on the right, born in August, just two weeks apart. They now have 32 miniature zebus and are expecting more new calves any time. They are very proud of their herd and love this breed.

Miniature Zebu Shows

Ann Moore sent us these pictures of David Moore of Calumet, OK, showing a bill and a heifer for his first time in Oklahoma's first Zebu Show, T&L's Miniature Zebu & Livestock Show. He placed 4th and 2nd respectively. He had a great time and enjoyed meeting other zebu owners.



Upcoming Miniature Zebu Shows in Florida

Mark your calendars for the last week in January 2017 for the Polk County Youth Fair Show in Bartow and early February for the Florida State Fair in Tampa. For further information on Florida shows, please contact Rick Bogle at 407-468-9002 or rvbogle@earthlink.net. Further updates will be posted on the IMZA's website at www.imza.name.

Add your Link to IMZA's "LINKS" page on www.imza.name

Don't forget that the IMZA's website has a "LINKS" page where your farm name, location and website link can be listed? It is FREE! This "LINKS" page is different than the member directory listing. The "LINKS" page has an actual LIVE link to your website!!! Just email webmaster@imza.name and give us your information! Your farm will be added on the next website update.

Remember also that when you become a member of the IMZA, you can advertise your IMZA-registered miniature zebus for sale on our **FREE SALE BARN** on the IMZA's website at www.imza.name. This is a very active part of the website—people report they are selling their miniature zebus quickly through the Sale Barn. **It's FREE to IMZA members.**

Find Zebus like these on the IMZA's FREE Sale Barn on at www.imza.name



Tips for selling on the IMZA Sale Barn:

- Be sure your animal is **IMZA-registered** and that you are a **member** of IMZA
- Fill out the simple form on the Sale Barn page with all information about your animal
- Don't forget to **email the picture** to go with your listing to webmaster@imza.name
- Please **be sure your picture is no larger than 100kb** (about 400 pixels by 400 pixels). If you need to re-size your picture, you can find a free picture-resizing tool at www.picsize.com. It is very simple to use, and it allows you to crop your photos, as well.
- When you have sold your animal, please let your webmaster@imza.name know—and **please let her know on which page your animal is**, or give the date of birth and sex of the animal so it can be found easier on the website.



Ann Moore sends us this cute photo of her granddaughter teaching her calf to lead.

Another great Showing of Miniature Zebus at the Mississippi Valley Fair

Dean Schocker took his zebus to the Mississippi Valley Fair in Davenport, IA, again this year in August. There was more interest than last year. During peak hours, Dean said they had 250 people an hour come through to see the zebus.

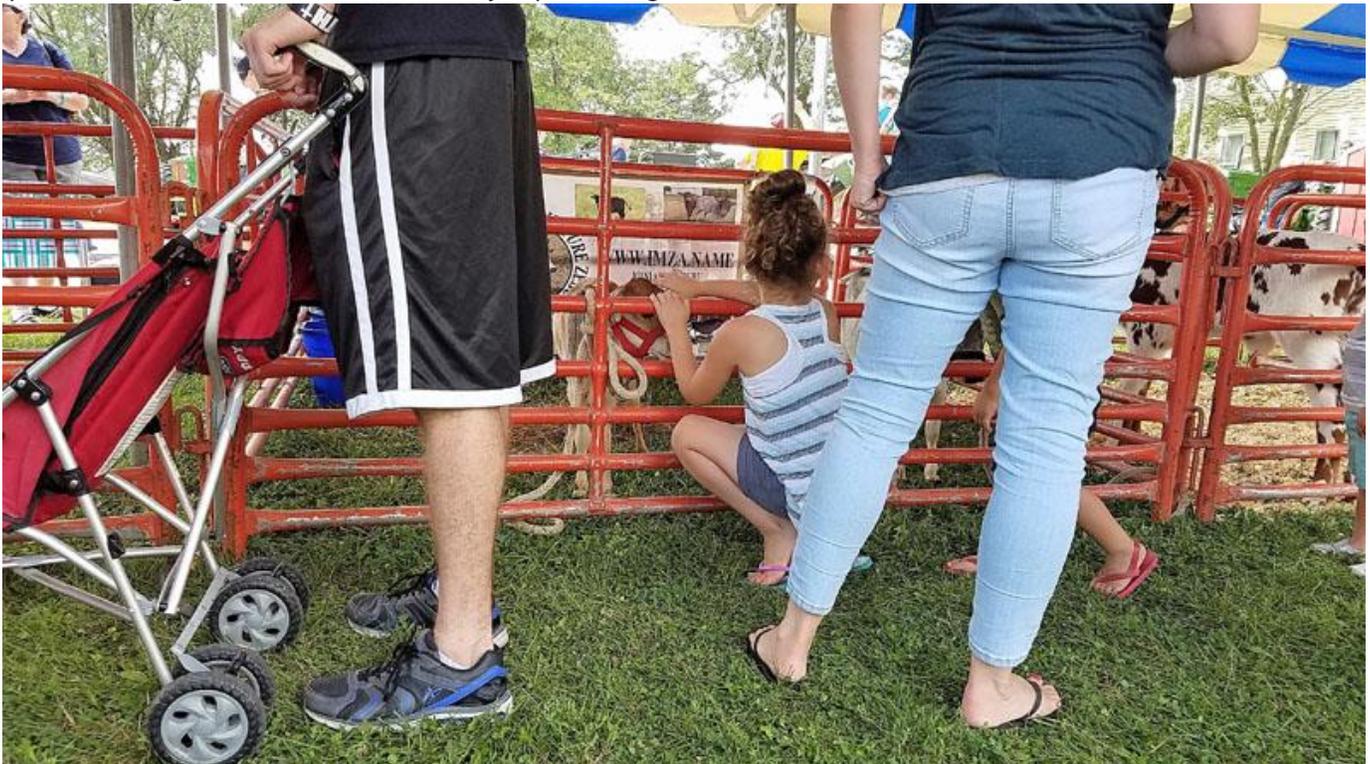


Another great Showing of Miniature Zebus at the Mississippi Valley Fair (continued)

Dean spoke to many repeat fair-goers asking about miniature zebus. One lady had talked to Dean last year and then spent a year researching miniature zebus, subsequently buying two bull calves. Dean also had a local sale barn owner inquire about them, and he also bought two bull calves.



Once again, Dean got recognition from the Farm Bureau, and a friend of Dean's heard people talking about his zebus as they were walking around the event. Great job promoting miniature zebus, Dean!



My Mini Milk-Cow Venture by Dorcas Stauffer

I could see her in my mind: a friendly, little milk cow who gives only enough milk for our family. No need to make cheese to use up excess milk—just enough fresh, healthy milk. I tried a mini Jersey heifer. She was a sweet pet, though larger than I'd hoped for—and expensive, indeed. Unfortunately, she didn't raise a calf even after repeated breeding. I took this as an opportunity to find a mini cow that suits me better. Here's where mini zebu cows came in! They're the size I wanted; they give an appropriate amount of milk; and they are more affordable. It was a stroke of good luck when I found a mature cow named Sweet Pea that the owner (Alan Blumhorst) was willing to part with. Alan did recommend choosing a bottle-baby heifer and raising her with close human contact for a gentle milk cow. Wait three years for my little milk cow? Instead, I waded into months of training Sweet Pea.

My plan was to have a good start on earning her trust till she was expected to calve, a month or more after I got her. Surprise!! Ten days after she came home, she delivered the littlest, cutest calf I have ever seen! This was a wee red bull I named Bonzi Boy. Now I saw firsthand how much easier it is to train a calf than a cow.



Above photo shows Sweet Pea and Bonzi Boy, Summer 2015.

For weeks, I spent an hour a day gentling Sweet Pea. Whenever I approached her quietly and gently, we made progress. If she wasn't scared, it was amazingly easy to handle her. In three months, I could milk her in action. The catch was she wouldn't let down more than one-fourth cup of milk at a time. How could I get her to see she needs to relax and let her milk down as she does when Bonzi Boy suckles? After a search, I located a zebu milking man in California. He kindly recommended letting the calf begin to suckle, then take him away and milk. Voila! She gave milk! Steadily, I got more and more—and such delicious milk—it's the best milk! I've even heard it's therapeutic compared to regular cow's milk.

Five months into her lactation, Sweet Pea gave over a quart of milk a day, plus Bonzi Boy's portion. Now she is due to have another calf. I'm excited to see how much milk she gives at the beginning of her lactation. A perk with this little cow is that she's an easy-keeper. While dry, Sweet Pea is on good pasture and staying fat without grain. She needs much less grain than a conventional cow.

(continued next page)

My Mini Milk-Cow Venture by Dorcas Stauffer (continued)

Now I've bought (from Larry and Judy Rohner) a one-week old red and white heifer calf, named Amazing Grace. I'm raising her the bottle-baby way for a gentle second milk cow. I touch her all over daily to prepare, while it's easy, for the future day of her first milking. She just loves it!



Above is Amazing Grace, the bottle-baby heifer, Summer 2016.

It sure is a breeze taming a wee calf compared to a six-year-old cow. Would I recommend a friend to try it? Well, I'm ever so glad I did it. Sweet Pea is a productive pet, but it may be more practical to raise a bottle baby, though it takes three years for a zebu to mature. On the other hand, if you are longing to spend an hour a day training your own backyard milk cow, go for it! I enjoyed every day working with my cow, even while I was using every ploy I knew with minimal progress. Kindness, firmness, calming voice, gentle brushing, seeking advice from anyone who knows cows, trial and error, reading books on cows, help from family, and, not least of all, prayer. Oh! . . . and not to forget, lots of humor and hope to keep me going. I mean, Ben (my husband) just shook his head and grinned when he saw me silhouetted in the barn door, drinking with delight the meager one-fourth cup of milk the cow would let down at a time. Hey! It's all been worth it! In only a year, she was transformed from an independent pasture cow to my favorite little milk cow.

My dream is raising and training zebu cows, specifically as milk cows. Envision a wee milk cow in that grassy, big, backyard. If you want to hear more about milking mini zebu cows, I'd be glad to share the bit I've learned. Call me at 212-696-6603.

Thank you, Dorcas, for sharing your experience with the IMZA!

HAPPY HALLOWE'EN and HAPPY THANKSGIVING from the IMZA!



The IMZA would like to wish everyone a healthy, happy and safe holiday season. Julie Gage of C Jewel's Farm Sent in this beautiful photo (below) of her family, both human and animal! Thank you, Julie!



IMZA Membership Information

**DON'T FORGET TO RENEW
YOUR IMZA MEMBERSHIP!!!
Your membership expires in
December 2016!!**

If you haven't sent in your IMZA membership renewal, it's time! You can join on-line from our website at www.imza.name, or you can mail in your membership application. If your contact information has changed, please forward new information to Dennis Beranek at Beranek@derbyworks.net, or contact the IMZA at imzainfo@gmail.com or 407-717-0084.

IMZA has three main types of membership, as well as a Youth Membership (which allows youth to register their animals at a reduced rate); and a one-year gift membership from an existing IMZA member:

Founding Members: Members who joined the Association prior to 10 October 1991 shall be known as Founding Members, who are also active as long as dues are paid.

Active Members: Members shall be classified as Active after acceptance of proper application and payment of annual membership dues. Active Members shall have the right to vote on Association issues. Active members must own registered Miniature Zebu cattle. The fee for this membership is \$35.

Associate Members: Associate members shall be those who have an interest in the Miniature Zebu breed and its advancement in the livestock industry but who are not actively involved as owners of registered Zebu cattle. Associate members are not entitled to vote or hold an elective office. The fee for this membership is \$25.

Youth Member Registration Fee Privilege:

Anyone 18 years of age or under may become a Youth Member of the IMZA.

The cost of this IMZA Membership will be \$15.00

Youth Birth Report for their first calf will be \$10.00

A Registration or Transfer will be \$5.00

Sponsored Member Fee Privilege:

An active member may gift a one-year sponsored membership to a non-member of the IMZA.

****You cannot purchase this type of membership for yourself. The cost of this IMZA Membership is \$20.00**

IMZA would like to thank all new and returning members for your continued support of the IMZA. Our current membership list is shown on the following pages, as well as a membership application for all those who would like to join!



IMZA Member List

International Miniature Zebu Association

HOME OF THE OLDEST AND LARGEST REGISTRY OF MINIATURE ZEBU CATTLE

October 7, 2016

E C Ahern

Hickory Grove, SC 29717
803 632 7243
snipercreekfarm@bellsouth.net

Maury & Lisa Alexander

Clermont, FL 34714
407 592 1728
idabomb818@yahoo.com

Glenda Allan

Swift Current, SK, CAN S9H4G5
306 773 9720
grammazoo.exotics@yahoo.com
www.grammazooexotics.com

Frank & Karen Allen

Judsonia, AR 72081

Randy & Carla Anderson

Palomino River Ranch
Belgrade, MN 56312
320 254 3324
prrzebu@frontier.com

Karen Androvich

Myakka City, FL 34251

Edison Arias

Valrico, FL 33594
813 661 4656
edisonarias@msn.com

Ed Atwood

Starke, FL 32091
edwin_atwood@yahoo.com

Matthew Authement

Medina, TX 78055
830 460 1645
matt.authement@att.net
www.ar-texas.com

Scott Averill

Tulsa Boys Home
Sand Springs, OK 74063
918 245 0231

Alan & Nicole Bailey

Radcliff, KY 40160
270 877 8013
alanbailey@hotmail.com

Robert V "Bob" Baker

Spokane, WA 99224
509 448 0353
robert624@centurytel.net

Bob Balensiefen

Princeton, IL 61356
815 303 1751
deerhunter92043@yahoo.com
www.rgbexotics.com

Stacie Barnett

Hoyleton, IL 62803
barnettstac@hotmail.com

Donald Birt & Latisha Barteo

Bolivar, MO 65613
417 328 8293
dys_bull@yahoo.com

Gene Baucom

Half Ass Farm
Monroe, NC 28112
704 709 7098
spbaucom@yahoo.com
www.halfassfarmac.com

Gene & Virginia Bellamy

Oklahoma City, OK 73122
408 789 7280
alotacritters@earthlink.net

Jackie Belliveau

Ithaca, NY 14850

Daryl Bennett

Malad, ID 83252
208 220 6258
packerfan2188@gmail.com

Hope Bennett

Wildlife Wonders
Cleveland, GA 30528
706 348 7279
info@zootoyou.net

Dennis Beranek

Rolling Prairie Farm
Milan, IL 61264
309 738 3404
beranek@derbyworks.net
www.rollingprairiefarm.com

Ed & Nannette Bews

Ellensburg, WA 98926
509 962 2773
tangleridge@fairpoint.net

Johnny & Robin Blakley

Buffalo Creek Farm&Creamery LLC
Germanton, NC 27019
336 969 5609
robin@buffalocreekfarmnc.com
www.buffalocreekfarmandcreamery.com

Blank Park Zoo Foundation

Des Moines, IA 50315
515 285 4722

Bob Blankenship

Redding, CA 96001
530 246 2213
bob-b@shasta.com



IMZA Member List

International Miniature Zebu Association

HOME OF THE OLDEST AND LARGEST REGISTRY OF MINIATURE ZEBU CATTLE

Alan Blumhorst
Rainbow Ranch, Inc.
Nashville, IL 62263
618 424 7979
alanblumhorst@yahoo.com

Rick Bogle
Bogle Farms
Sorrento, FL 32776
407 468 9002
rvbogle@earthlink.net
www.boglefarms.net

William & Margaret Bohrer
Gastonia, NC 28056
704 864 3036
pboh44@att.net

Josh Bottelberghe
Stephenville, TX 76401
817 487 6077
bottelberghefarms@yahoo.com

Boubel
Spring Branch, TX 78070
stormie919@yahoo.com

Chris Brock
Mulberry, FL 33860
brockcfl@hotmail.com

Kim Broome
Chucky, TN 37641
423 234 0185
kebroome@hughes.net

Leon & Shannon Brown
Armadillo Pass Zebu Farm
Chelsea, OK 74016
918 521 1634
lbrown@pvplus.com

Jason Brunson
Huckleberry Cattle & Exotics
Winnsboro, TX 75494
hccexotics@gmail.com

Hannah Bruse
Princeton, MO 64673
660 748 4388

Robert Burnett
Clermont, FL 34715
407 469 4888
bobsandral@embarqmail.com

Chris & Liz Burns
Red Gate Farm & Nursery
Mount Olive, IL 62069
217 999 1216
redgatefarm@frontiernet.net

Lisa Byland
Valdese, NC 28690
828 432 6415
lbyland@enninks.com

Charles L Campbell
Coweta, OK 74429
918 486 7173
cscampbell1@windstream.net

Paul & Adrienne Carney
Janesville, WI 53548
608 290 8883
pcarney82@gmail.com

Joe Carpenter
Lakeland, FL 33810
863 698 2930
jjc0921@gmail.com

John Carpenter
Lakeland, FL 33810
863 698 2930
jjc0921@gmail.com

Greg Chapman
Nashville, TN 37214
gchapman192@comcast.net

Dennis Cheatham
Morgantown, KY 42437
270 389 0797
medley8345@aol.com

Don & Julie Chegwidan
Russell, KS 67665
785 483 0282
chegkimponies@russellks.net
www.americanshetland.net/chegkim

Bobby Clark
Jubilee Holistic Farm
Floyd, VA 24091
540 750 1038
jhf@swva.net

Janet Clark
Jan's Country Critters
Suamico, WI 54313
920 676 0585

Rebecca Cline
Claremore, OK 74017
918 230 7950
rcline@juno.com

Ray Cole Jr.
Trezenant, TN 38258
731 697 6082
raycolej@yaho.com

Sharon Collins
Lakeland, FL 33810



IMZA Member List

International Miniature Zebu Association

HOME OF THE OLDEST AND LARGEST REGISTRY OF MINIATURE ZEBU CATTLE

Robin & David Conder

Elizabeth, CO 80107
robinslittlecrittteranch@gmail.com
www.robinslittlecrittteranch.com

Kenneth & Misty Cornwell

Vinita, OK 74301
918 323 0141
k.m.minimoos1@gmail.com

Sergio Coronado

Lancaster, CA 93535
661 917 2997
sergiocoronado36@yahoo.com

William & Jerri Lynn Correl

Greenville, TN 37743
423 329 5854
appalachianbuildersllc@gmail.com

Donna Counts

Seagoville, TX 75159
972 287 1815

Sandra Crane

Norco, CA 92860

Tom & Terri Culpepper

Stephensville, TX 76401
817 223 5140
texlotto@yahoo.com
tntzebufarm.com

Monty Dalton

Comance Creek Ranch
Marble Falls, TX 78654
830 693 2744

Norma Kay Dansby

Ft Myers, FL 33966
239 940 7372
nkdansby@centurylink.net

Cindi Darling

Liars Lake Ranch
Sparta, MO 65753
417 634 4115
watusi@liarslake.com

Lisa Davis

Coweta, OK 74429
918 630 3161
hopespringsranchllc@gmail.com

Mark Davis

Luther, OK 73054

Frank & Elizabeth De Bem

Hancock, NH 03449
603 525 9479

Patsy Demler

Riverview, FL 33578
813 671 5304
dosmm7@aol.com

**Steve & Lori DeMoor
River Ranch**

Sanford, FL 32771
407 509 9069
steve@drcritter.com
www.zebuforsale.com

Kyle & Danette DeVane

Frostproof, FL 33843
863 635 2634

Michael DeVane

Frostproof, FL 33843
863 635 2634

Misty DeVane

Frostproof, FL 33843
863 635 2634

Kasi Dick

Pawhuska, OK 74056
918 694 6180

Scott Diel

Bastrop, LA 71220
318 372 2802
s.diel@live.com

**Jennifer & Ronald Dillon
Dillon Farm**

Iverness, FL 34450
info@dillonsfarmflorida.com

Megan Dorroh

Pelion, SC 29123
803 553 9252
jmfarms14@yahoo.com

Todd Driggers

Gilbert, AZ 85234
480 868 0577
chailedriggers@gmail.com

James Easter Jr

Donnellson, IA 52625

Roy & Nikki Faktor

Century, FL 32535
850 327 4752
nrfaktor@frontiernet.net

Tony Fallin

Cleveland, AL 35049
205 681 5299
tnacres@yahoo.com
www.t&nacres.com

**W. R. & Joyce Fewox
FX Bar Ranch**

Frostproof, FL 33843
863 635 4033

LaNita S Flanary DVM
Paducah, KY 42003

Jimmy & Freda Forsythe
Beech Bluff, TN 38313
731 608 3333
Forsythefarm@yahoo.com

Tina Foshee
Saint Cloud, FL 34771
409 957 4947
soggyacresranch@earthlink.net

Kim Fox
A Breuvoir Farm
Cypress, TX 77429
281 304 9093
foxkim@sbcglobal.net

Dennis & Brandy Futch
Deleon Springs, FL 32130
386 624 7639

Julie Ann Gage
North Port, FL 34286
941 468 2476
julieanngage@gmail.com
www.cjewelsfarmmini.webs.com

Norma Gardner
Springtown, TX 76082
817 677 5852

Allen & Terry Gilliam
Indiantown, FL 34956
772 597 2815
Arguwi@yahoo.com

John Godbout
Rock Hill, SC 29730
ledjone@comporium.net

Miguel or Rita Gomez
Dunnellon, FL 34432
352 465 1555

Nicolette Grill
Hinkley, CA 92347

Brent Gubbles
Weatherford, TX 76087
817 304 8336
brentgubbles@yahoo.com

Kevin Hall
West Blocton, AL 35184
205 475 5649
kevinhhall1967@gmail.com

Megan Handley
Mulberry, FL 33860
863 648 0856

Janice Hanson
Waynesboro, GA 30830
706 558 1015

Paul & Valerie Hanson
Hermosa, SD 57744
605 255 5677

Connor Hardesty
Tulsa, OK 74114

Jeanette Hayward
Burning Daylight Ranch
Leslie, MI 49251
517 589 6958
jdjackpot@aol.com
burningdaylightranch.com

Debra Heaton
Tomball, TX 77377
281 788 5556
iamdebheaton@gmail.com

Dick & Kathy Heiken
Heikens Ark
Des Moines, IA 50315
515 962 0667
heikensark@aol.com

Truman & Gina Henson
Summerfield, FL 34491
352 347 8043
hensonfamilyfarm@gmail.com

Jay & Iris Heselschwerdt
Tazwell, TN 37879

Jamie Hester
Romance, AR 72136
501 556 2481
jmoncrief355@gmail.com

Tee Heyd
Eagle Lake, TX 77434
337 249 3037
heydawayexotics@gmail.com

David Hoelscher
Kiliran Guanacaste, Costa Rica

John Hogan
Waco, TX 76705
254 379 2384
rw42er59@yahoo.com

Adam House
Below 40 Farm
Kennedy, AL 35574
205 375 8233

Herbert & Debbie House
Kennedy, AL 35574
205 375 8233
hdhouse11@gmail.com

Charle F Huntington
Garden Prairie, IL 61038
815 321 9066
chuckfh@outlook.com

Lowell & Roxann Huovinen
Cleburne, TX 76031
817 473 3725

Victoria Huston
Lithia, FL 33547
mahlonhuston@verizon.net

Beverly / Bill Lanier & Jacobs
Goodyear, AZ 85338
602 803 4596
www.dragonflyefarms.com

Chuck Jefferson
Bixby, OK 74008
918 857 7012
tulsafeed4@gmail.com

Andrew Dean Jenkins
Tipton, IA 52722
563 889 2632

Clifton Jones
Springfield, TN 37172
cliffjones530@gmail.com

Harris Jones
Cairo, GA 39828
hcjones4@yahoo.com

Mark Keitel
Brandon, FL 33511
813 662 2770
mkeitel@tampabay.rr.com

Jackie Kellett
Greenville, SC 29607
864 350 5803
snipercreekfarm@bellsouth.net

Michael Kinsey
Ontario, Can N5H 2R5
519 878 1133
mike.k1264@gmail.com

James Kiser
Eustis, FL 32736
321 377 2663

Kenneth & Sherry Koenig
Rockdale, TX 76567
512 789 6826
klkoenig@yahoo.com

Mary Krueger
Sebring, FL 33875
570 977 6511
Krueger31@verizon.net

Leven LaCroix
Trout, LA 71371
318 992 6972
lacroixle@yahoo.com

Allan Lamb
Lamb's Farm
Sherman, IL 62675
630 745 7924
butchlamb97@gmail.com

Troi Lilly
Lakeland, FL 33801
863 937 3346
lillyslittlefarm@gmail.com

Matt & Amy Loudeneck
Clinton, WI 53525
262 206 4314
luckyzebu@aol.com
www.luckyfarmswi.com

Shelley Lowry
Belton, TX 76573
254 541 1997
shelleylowry@icloud.com

Thomas, Josephine Anthony
Garby Mariannino
Sunnyfield Farm
Chase City, VA 23924
434 372 4397
tmariannino@hotmail.com
www.sunnyfieldfarm.com

Cherri & Rickey Martin
Wynne, AR 72396
rcmartin93@ymail.com

Glenn P Martin
Westminster, SC 29693
marylynnmartin340@yahoo.com

Chase Mashburn
Roopville, GA 30170
770 862 9222
cmashbu2@student.
Westgatech.edu

Ashley McClure
McClure Mini Farm
Goodwater, AL 35072
jaydarayne013008@yahoo.com

Roger & Jackie McCormick
St Charles, KS 66535

Barbara McDermott
JBR Ranch
Christmas, FL 32709
407 568 7337
jbranch@gmail.com
www.jbranch.com

Tim & Janelle McMann
Table Rock, NE 68447

Rosemary & Stephen V Meding
Shell Creek Ranch
Punta Gorda, FL 33982
941 575 9952
rosemarymeding@yahoo.com
www.miniaturezebus.com

John & Bettye Mesh
Rebels Zebu Farm
Lexington, TN 38351
731 868 4130
johnbettye1968@att.net

Ann & David Moore
Calumet, OK 73014
405 833 5395

James A "Jim" Morgan
Kent City, MI 49330
616-678-5409

Brenda Munger
Conroe, TX 77302

Herbert 'Larry' & Cindy Murren
Newberry, FL 32669
352 472 7462
nagidnagid@yahoo.com

Colton Nichols
Land O Lakes, FL 34638

Danis Nickell
Marshfield, MO 65706
417 468 2409
agentdanis@aol.com
www.zebucattle.com

Glenn Olsen
Meritt Island, FL 32953
321 333 0730
olsenglenn@yahoo.com

Linda & Ritchie Parker
Orlando, FL 32828
407 273 6879

Stephen Parsons
Placerville, CA 95667

Dustin Pillard
Rockwell, IA 50469
641 822 3451
minioxen@yahoo.com
www.miniaturebull.com

Ronald Potts
Conway, AR 72034
501 472 4508

**Billy Redmon Jr.
Chadwick Farms**
Pineville, LA 71360
318 542 8500
mrbillrsd@yahoo.com

Kelly & Keith Reed
Tecumseh, OK 74873
570 512 7518
kellyreed123@gmail.com

Thomas L Reeves
Cottageville, SC 29435
843 909 1346
mulberryfarm@lowcountry.com

Cherokee Reinman
Hollywood, FL 33024
954 658 8476
cherokeefire1@live.com

Dianne & Larry Robbins
Campbell, MO 63933
573 246 3146
runninr@att.net

**Larry & Judy Rohner
Buffalo Hill Exotics**
Centralia, IL 62801
618 367 1312
buffalohillexotics@netwitz.net
www.buffalohillexotics.com

Rouse Ranch
Haines City, FL 33844
863 307 2605
carol@carolrouse.com

Chris Rowley
Sandy Hook, MS 39478
601 466 7521

**Laurie & Clyde Rowley
Little Bit Farm**
Bandera, TX 78003
830 460 7348
littlebitfarm@direcway.com

Janna Russell
Corbett, OR 97019
503 320 3537
jannarussell2@aol.com

**Rudy Scheile
Heart of Dixie Zebu**
Jasper, AL 35501
205 300 6502
dixieszibus@yahoo.com

**Rebecca Schiermeyer
Little Britches Farm**
Cabot, AR 72023
501 580 4305
littlebritchesfarm@gmail.com
www.littlebritchesfarm.com

**John H & Kathleen A Schmidt
The Other Side Farm**
Dunnellon, FL 34431
352-465-0025
jkschmidt1024@gmail.com

**Dean Schocker
Minicornpatch**
New Liberty, IA 52765
563 370 3848
deanschocker@netins.net
www.minicornpatch.com

Wendy Sears
Williamsport, PA 17701
570 326 6846
searswend@gmail.com

Lela Seigel
Angleton, TX 77515
936 465 0426
lelasiegel@sbcglobal.net

Paul Sexton
Owingsville, KY 40360
606 674 6506
prsexton@windstream.net

Kreg & Deb Shane
Greenville, OH 45331
937 547 1317
kshane1212@centurylink.net

Renee Sherbert
Mauldin, SC 29662
864 483 5749
rfsherbert@gmail.com

Shane Sims
Dayton, TX 77535
936 402 3653
shanesims69@gmail.com

Paul & Lynda Slagle
Blue Grass, IA 52726
563 349 9877
flyingllama@msn.com

Clarence Smith
Stuart, FL 34997
772 485 3769
clarencehsmith@yahoo.com

John W & Betty J Smith
Chesapeake, VA 23322
757 373 8171
crazy4critters00@cox.net
www.jandbminifarm.com

Robin Hope Smith
Clanton, AL 35046
205 789 8199
Legacyfarmsjrs@yahoo.com

Chris Sones
Poplarville, MS 39470
601 347 2477
brangusb@yahoo.com

Shyla Spencer
Ayers Farm
Mancelona, MI 49659
231 388 4903
shylaspencer@gmail.com

Shirley Stancil
Granbury, TX 76049
817 313 7787
ssstancil@aol.com

Dorcus Stauffer
Shobonier, IL 62885

Eric & Janet Steffy
Rock Hill, SC 29730
803 327 5566
furbabulou@aol.com

Susan & Eddie Stephens
The Stephens Farm
Locust Fork, AL 35097
205 681 4584
Stephens6240@bellsouth.net
www.thestephensfarm.com

Anthony Stewart
Claremore, OK 74017
479 964 2626
astewart@bakertcof.com

Mindy Stewart
Delaware, OK 74027

Robert Subra
Austin, MN 55912
507 437 1323

Tammy Sudduth
Sherman, IL 62684
217 210 1645
sudduth.dillon@yahoo.com

Karen & Roger Theriot
Bell City, LA 70630

Benny Thomas
Winslow, IN 47598
812 789 6830

Roberta Ricky Ressler
Thompson
Stormy Hill Farms
Weirsdale, FL 32195
352 357 0457
rressler@embarqmail.com

Paul W Tice
Sneezy Hollow Acres
Groveland, FL 34736
407 408 5485
sneezyhollowacres@yahoo.com

Boby or Barbara Vice
Lawn, TX 79530
830 459 6054
mvice@att.net

Phillip Vollmer
Piedmont, SD 57769
605 787 6235
vollmerminicattle@hotmail.com
www.vollmerminicattle.com

Nick Wagner
Babson Park, FL 33827
863 223 8538
tkmntfla@aol.com

Amanda Walker
Turner, MI 48765
413 455 9354
awalker@kafunnyfarm.com

Susan & John Freeberg Walsh
Hickory Highlands
Fairfield, IA 52556

Geza Wass de Czege
Alva, FL 33920
239 694 2929
gezawdec@aol.com

Philip & Gail White
Sebring, FL 33875
863 655 9173
grwgailwhite@aol.com
www.oakhollowzebus.com

Gene & Nancy Williams
Crescent, OK 73028
405 969 2284
highhopes@highhopesacres.com
www.highhopesacres.com

Kenneth Willis
Avon Park, FL 33826
863 452 9096
buckeyeohio@centurylink.net

Ronald Wilson
Montreal, MO 65591
618 447 0726
ron@lazerforce.com

Melinda Wunder
Hendersonville, TN 37075
melindawunder73@gmail.com



IMZA Membership Application

International Miniature Zebu Association
17500 Hamilton Arms Court, Dewitt, VA 23840
PHONE: (407) 717-0084 – EMAIL: ImzaInfo@gmail.com

I hereby apply for membership in the **INTERNATIONAL MINIATURE ZEBU ASSOCIATION**. If accepted I agree to follow the rules, regulations and bylaws of the association.

A remittance of \$_____ is enclosed for Payment of membership fees payable in U.S. FUNDS).

- Active Membership (\$35 per year)
- Associate Membership (\$25 per year)
- Youth membership (\$15 per year)
- One-year sponsored membership gifted to non-member by active member (\$20 per year)

Date _____ Member No.: (If Renewing) _____

Name of Membership _____
(Individual, Firm, Corp., etc. Cattle are to be registered in this name)

Authorized Signature _____

Complete Address _____

Preferred Contact Phone: _____

Alternate Contact Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Website address: _____

Occupation _____

_____ Preferred Prefix to use when naming your Zebu (to avoid name duplication). (Can be abbreviated form of Ranch/Farm or Business name or can be initials.)

Number of Zebras Owned: _____ Females _____ Males

Please check the information you would like to appear on the IMZA's Website Member Lists:

____ Name ____ Address ____ Phone ____ Email ____ Website address

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: IMZA
17500 Hamilton Arms Court, Dewitt, VA 23840