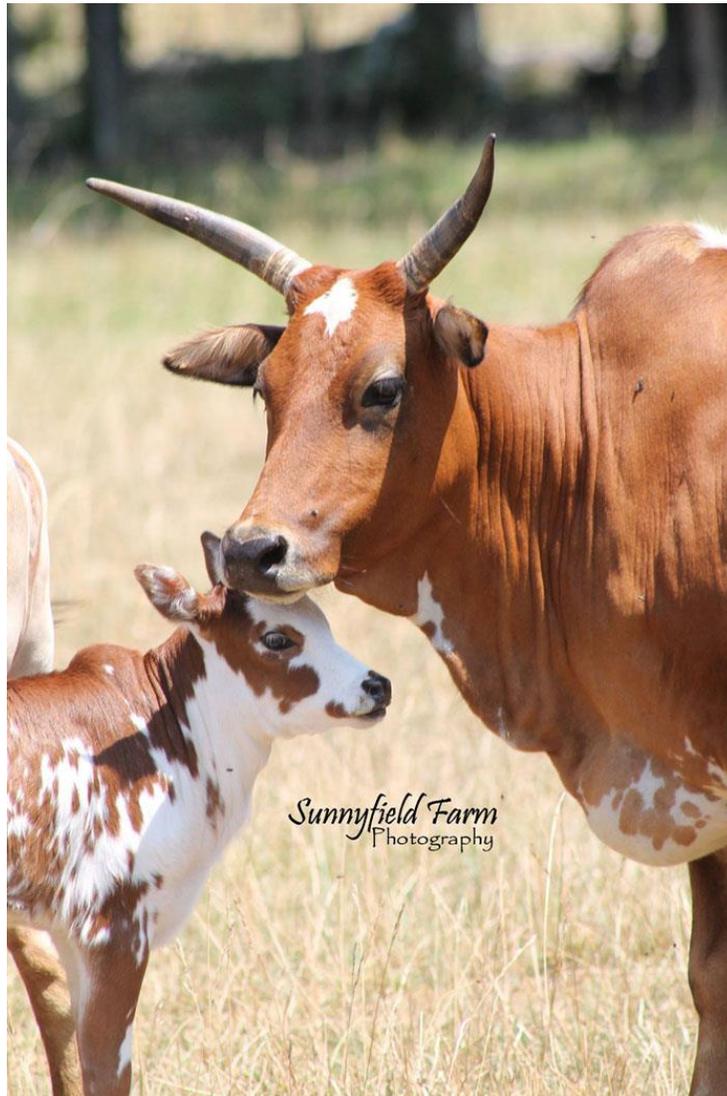


The Official Publication of the International Miniature Zebu Association



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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**

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**Cover Photo:** In 2010, Sunnyfield Farm had the opportunity to purchase a one-of-a-kind 2005 Foundation Pure Zebu cow. From the pictures her previous owner sent them, they had to have her. They spent a total of three days traveling to bring HCK Rubyana, a double-registered Miniature Zebu cow, back with them to Virginia. Rubyana is whom they consider the poster child on their farm. She has produced some exceptional progeny for them, and they retained her 2010 bull, “Sunnyfield’s Dynamite,” as one of their current herd sires. Also, Rubyana’s 2015 heifer is going to Costa Rica this fall along with a few of their other 2015 calves. In the picture she is shown with her 2014 bull calf, Sunnyfield’s Twist and Shout. “Twist” resides in Virginia with a fellow breeder. They are very excited to see how this bull matures and what he is going to produce in the near future.

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Shown below are more pictures from Sunnyfield Farm related to our cover shot of HCK Rubyana. The first photo is her 2010 bull, Sunnyfield’s Dynamite, followed by a single photo of Rubyana, and another picture of her 2014 bull calf, Twist and Shout.



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Please note that the IMZA CoN\*Nection is published on-line only in pdf format. You may see some of the same news and information on our website which may seem redundant; but websites are ever-changing. By having our newsletter in printed form, we will always have a record of what's been taking place in the history of the IMZA. Currently, we have a few back issues available for download or viewing on the IMZA website. If there are some IMZA members who do not get on the internet, please contact Barbara McDermott to make arrangements to receive a hard copy via U.S. Mail. You may contact Barbara via email at [webmaster@imza.name](mailto:webmaster@imza.name) or by telephone at 407-568-7337.



## President's Message

Hello everyone,

I just returned home from the Mississippi Valley Fair in Davenport, Iowa, where our Vice-President, Dean Schocker, had made arrangements for the first ever miniature zebu display at the fair. Larry and I took two colorful, bottle-baby bull calves. Dean brought a small four-year-old bull, a tiny two-year-old heifer, a nice yearling bull, an extra-small, eight-year-old bred cow and a bottle-baby heifer. Our display, complete with IMZA banner, attracted lots of attention. Thousands of kids petted our animals. We spent four days handing out IMZA fliers and answering questions. The event was a huge success. Everyone loved meeting our little cattle and gathering information about the breed.

It would be wonderful for the breed if more events like this were held throughout the country. There are so many people who have no knowledge that a miniature breed of cattle even exists. I am urging you as breeders to expose your cattle to the public whenever possible. There are fliers available from the registry office that you can place in farm and feed stores or wherever you feel is appropriate. Educating the public about miniature zebras is critical to their success as a breed and to your sale of them to future breeders and exhibitors.

*Judy Rohner*, IMZA President

## Welcome to our New Members who joined IMZA from May-August 2015

- Edison Arias, Valrico, FL
- James Easter, Jr., Donnellson, IA
- LaNita S. Flanary, DVM, Paducah, KY
- Brent Gubbels, Weatherford, TX
- Jay and Iris Heselschwerdt, Tazwell, TN
- Allan Lamb, Sherman, IL
- Troi Lilly, Lakeland, FL
- Mary Lynn Martin, Westminster, SC
- Lela Siegel, Angleton, TX
- Shyla Spencer, Mancelona, MI
- Shirley Stancil, Granbury, TX

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](http://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](mailto:Beranek@derbyworks.net), or contact the IMZA at [imzainfo@gmail.com](mailto:imzainfo@gmail.com) or 407-717-0084.

This interesting article was taken from the November 2007 issue of the Rare Breeds Journal, and it also appears on the IMZA website:

## **Busted**

By Lonnie Hoover

During the 2004 State Fair of Texas, I took a picture of a Miniature Zebu Bull standing beside a full-size Brahman Bull (the Zebu was owned by Roger Maxwell of Jonesboro, LA). My wife carries a copy of the photo to show it to whomever she is talking to about our Zebu. The other day she came home telling of how upset a lady got and accused us of raising dwarf Brahman cattle.

So, I sent (pretend) the topic to the "MYTH BUSTERS" on the Discovery Channel, and here are the findings.



### **MINIATURE ZEBU CATTLE:**

In an article by Marleen Felijs of Rotterdam, the Netherlands, she wrote "Zebu cattle most likely originated from Asian Aurochs (*Bos Namadicus*), during the process of domestication, which took place as far back as 6500-6000 B.C." Miniature Zebu cattle are one of the oldest known cattle breeds. They are believed to have originated in Southern India or Sri Lanka, where they are referred to as Andean cattle, or "small cattle" in Hindu. Miniature Zebu is one of the "*Bosprimigenius indicus*" of the Bovine family.

Miniature Zebus differ from other small cattle in that they are a natural breed. They are not just bred to be tinier and tinier each generation and are not the results of a breeding-gone-bad.

### **BRAHMAN CATTLE:**

From "A Guide to Cows," written by John Pukite: Mr Pukite lists the origin of the Brahman as the "USA, developed from Indian breeds." He goes on to say "the American Brahman started from only four breeds; the Gir, the Krankrej, the Krishna Valley and the Ongole (all are regions of India). Normally the cows were sacred and could not be exported for consumption. The British government, ignoring the local customs, presented a few of these cattle as a gift to the United States government in 1854. During the next 50 years, the English allowed more cattle to be exported. The Brahman became the first developed American cattle breed and a Brahman Society was formed in 1924.

### **NOW, LET'S REVIEW THE FACTS:**

Miniature Zebu Cattle are known to exist as far back as 6500-6000 B.C.

Brahman cattle, an American Breed, developed around 1850-1900 from imported Zebu stock.

When you look at a Miniature Zebu, you are looking at a natural breed. When you look at a Brahman, you are looking at a giant Miniature Zebu, a breeding gone bad.

## **MYTH BUSTED**

## How to Measure Your Miniature Zebu

The correct way to measure your miniature zebu is at the base of the hump on the back of your animal. Miniature Zebus should not exceed a height of 42" at three years of age, at which time their birth certificates need to be updated to permanent registrations.



## IMZA on Facebook



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

- How to trim your miniature zebu's feet
- Do you teach your miniature zebus tricks?
- What do you do to improve the conception of cows and heifers?
- I read that Zebu produce A2 milk. Does anyone know where I can find more information?
- Tips for being safe around livestock
- How long do you [zebu owners] wait before attempting to bottle-feed a calf after it has been taken from the mother?
- How and what do you feed your miniature zebus?

Check out our Facebook page to see what our members and others have to say about these topics!

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**IMZA Members:** Send in your articles, photos, show reports or unique events with your miniature zebu for publication in the IMZA CoN\*Nection 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](mailto:webmaster@imza.name).

# Mini Zebus at the Mississippi Valley Fair

By Dean Schocker

Hoping to start a new trend, I took a few of my miniature zebu cattle to the Mississippi Valley Fair in Scott County, Iowa, during August 5-9<sup>th</sup>, 2015. A couple of years ago, fair-goers asked why some of the barns were empty. These are the barns that hold dairy cattle for showing. Dairy cattle are allowed to go home after they've been shown. Last year my sister-in-law, Julie Schocker, told me that the fair was looking for more animals to display called "Little Farm Hands" in the IOWA barn at this fair. The animals they were looking to display are animals that would typically be found on farms throughout the world. Shirley Newell is on the Fair Board, and she has been for 35 years. Gene (Shirley's husband) and Shirley Newell suggested getting such farm animals in the empty barn. Many thanks to Gene and Shirley and their daughter-in-law, Julie, for organizing this fantastic event. The fair supplied bedding (wood shavings and straw), alfalfa hay, grain (if we wanted any), milk replacer (if needed), and security. Gene and his grandson, Gus, and a couple of his grand cousins (they all called him Grandpa) slept in the barn to make sure no one messed with the animals.



In addition to miniature zebu, there were also miniature horses, a donkey, pygmy goats and a Flemish giant rabbit. There were Ayrshire calves there, as well—one that was just four days old and weighed 105 pounds. In comparison, my eight-year-old cow weighed 242 pounds. 4-H market beef cattle were also in attendance. At about 18 months, they were weighing up to 1700 pounds—quite a difference from the miniature zebus!



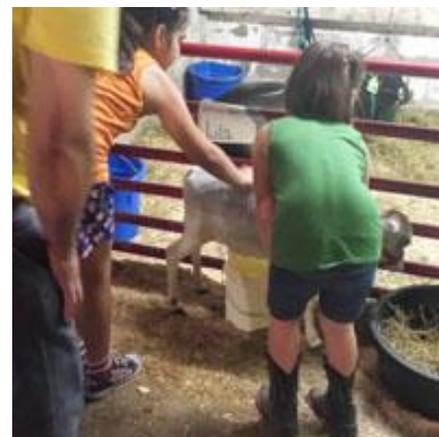
Our exhibit was very well received by the fair-goers and the fair board. They had a Fair Board meeting every morning, and there were many very good reviews/reports. I took five head of cattle: a four-year-old bull; a six-year-old cow; a one-year-old bull; a 20-inch, one-year-old heifer; and a two-month-old bottle calf. When I arrived at the barn, the

Newell girls asked the age, name, and a little information about the cattle and immediately started educating everyone who stopped to look even before we had them in the barn. When we would go to eat or just take a walk, the Newell family would take over explaining about Zebu cattle. When I got to the barn on the first day (Wednesday), Gene's granddaughters (cousins) helped give all my cattle a bath. In addition to everything else they did, they made big puzzles for children to put together. The FFA also helped with the displays. The North Scott FFA made the puzzles, and the Newell girls helped kids put them together.



We figured we had roughly 1,000 people a day come through the barn. I would say about 99% of the people had never heard of zebus. Here are some of the many questions people had about them, such as:

- What are they (zebu) used for?
- Are they your pets?
- Can you milk them?
- Can you eat them?
- How big will they get?
- Are they all tame?
- How long do they live?
- What do you feed them?
- How long have you been raising them?
- Where do they come from?
- Are they miniature Brahmas?
- Are there other people nearby that raise them?
- What do they weigh? (I weighed the six-year--she weighs 242 lbs.)
- Do only the bulls have horns?
- What is that hump for--is that where they store water?
- Do you have to trim their feet? Who do you have to do it, and how often?
- Can I pet her?



Some of the other comments were, "there's a donkey," and "they are goats."



I think we had a fun and exhausting week but also feel that it was a big success. We were invited to come back next year! The IMZA would sincerely like to thank the following people for all their time and effort in making this such a wonderful success:

- Gene and Shirley Newell and their large extended family of helpers for going beyond the call of duty organizing and running this fantastic event
- Dean Schocker, Larry and Judy Rohner, Dennis Beranek, and Bob Balensiefen for their help in representing the zebu cattle
- John Deere for their considerable donations to support the Little Farm Hands



## \*\*\*MORE\*\*\* FREE Marketing for IMZA Members

Did you know that the IMZA's website has a "LINKS" page where your farm name, location and website link can be listed? It is FREE! Just email [webmaster@imza.name](mailto: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 BOARD** on the IMZA's website at [www.imza.name](http://www.imza.name). This is a very active part of the website—people report they are selling their miniature zebus through the Sale Barn. **It's FREE to IMZA members.**

**Find Zebus like these on the IMZA's FREE Sale Board on at [www.imza.name](http://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](mailto:webmaster@imza.name)
  - 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](http://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](mailto:webmaster@imza.name) know—and please let her know which page your animal is on, or give the date of birth and sex of the animal so it can be found easier on the website.
- 

### Registration News

- Registration tip on Report of Birth: When doing a report of birth, the registrar needs the completed form, the calf's picture (with the mother of the calf if possible) and \$25.00, if you are a member ( \$50.00 if not a member).
- Remember, **THERE ARE NO LATE FEES!!!** Send in your registrations today.
- Did you know there are more than **6,700** registered miniature zebus in the IMZA??? WOW!!!

### \*\*\*\*\*REGISTRATION SPECIAL FOR IMZA MEMBERS\*\*\*\*\*

IMZA will give a 20-percent discount to anyone who hardship-registers five animals at one time. Regular Hardship Fee of \$50 would become \$40 (for a total of \$200); and AMZA-registered animals can be registered for \$32 each, instead of \$40 each (for a total of \$160). Hurry while this offer lasts!

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## Here's a great registration question sent in by a member:

I have a few zebu cows, and they are all registered with IMZA. I was thinking about getting a new bull, but he is AMZA-registered. Does IMZA accept AMZA? Would I be able to register him with IMZA?

Kathy Petersen, IMZA Registrar, answers this question as follows:

Thank you for your email. It is possible to hardship-register your bull. He would be "Appearance Certified." He would have to be bred to a Foundation Pure cow, and the offspring will be registered as an H2. That animal would have to breed again to a Foundation Pure animal, and the resulting offspring would be an H3 animal (Appearance Certified); and once that animal is bred to a Foundation Pure, that offspring will become Foundation Pure.

You can fill out the Hardship Application and pay \$40 with a copy of the AMZA registration certificate and send in four pictures (front view, rear view, right side and left side of the animal). It will then be sent to the Board for review. The animal must also have a height noted and be 24 months or older.



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## How Do I know When My Cow is Ready to Give Birth?

By Barbara McDermott

When it comes time to prepare for a new calf, do you know the signs of impending birth? Being a fairly new owner of zebus, I relied on long-time breeders and friends to give me tips on what to look for when a cow is ready to give birth. If you don't know the cow's due date (I pasture-breed and never see my bull doing his job!), it can be a guessing game. Every cow shapes up differently, but some signs can give you an idea of when she is ready to calve.



Udder shown above on left two months prior to calving; on right, one month prior to calving.

Although it depends on the age of the cow and how many calves she has had, most cows will start to develop an udder about two months prior to calving. You will notice the udder slowly filling...and then it may stall and no progress seems to be made after a month or so.



Photo on left shows udder one month prior to calving; on right shows two weeks prior to calving.

About two weeks prior, the udder will really start to fill up and will progressively get larger as the due date nears.



Both photos above show cow shaping up one week prior to birth.

A few days prior, the teats will extend and appear to be pointing straight down. The udder will be swollen in front, as well as in back; but, it usually will not get that “poofy,” as I call it, until a day or two before calving. The vulva will also get very flabby and protrude, and you may see a discharge from your cow’s vulva. The tail will also get very loose, and the top of the rump will seem to fall away.



Photos above show udder, vulva and tail two days prior to calving.



Photos above show two hours prior to birth. Note how “poofy” the udder is out the back and how flabby the vulva is.

A very sure sign that your cow is ready to calf NOW is when the water breaks....get ready! Most cows deliver healthy calves on their own—in my case, I’ve only seen one born—most of my cows have their calves very early in the morning. FYI. This beautiful cow had a healthy little bull on July 3, 2015.



## Miniature Zebus Around the World

Below is an email I received from a miniature zebu breeder in Australia, along with some photos of their herd. It's wonderful to see these animals stealing the hearts of people around the globe. Thanks to James and Katherine Alcock-Hoddinott of "Epona Downs," Adelaide River, Northern Territory, Australia, for sharing with us.

"We are owners of 'Nadudana' (Zebu) cattle in Australia and can confirm they are amazing animals all with their very own personality and an absolute joy to be around; and after being around "full- sized" cattle before, I do not believe I would go back to that size. The Nadudana are much kinder on the land, their "footprint" is minimal, easy to maintain, not hard on any natural resources and just love human interaction.

We had never heard of them before so conducted more research into them and from that ended up purchasing an entire herd of 19 and are pleased to say we now have two more new additions born February this year and another is due very shortly--giving us 22 of these beautiful animals.

I have just been looking at your fantastic website and just have one question if I may in regards to them.

Why are they called 'miniature' which gives the impression they have been 'modified genetically' to obtain this height when in fact their height is their true height- are they not classified as 'a small breed'?

We are not members of the IMZA but are members of the 'Nadudana' Society of Queensland here in Australia. Which also raises another question which can be very confusing when promoting this breed. Why are they called both 'Nadudana' and 'Zebu'?

Many Thanks for your help in advance  
Kind Regards  
Kate"



More of James and Katherine's miniature zebu in Australia.



Update: After receiving Katherine's original email, she has sent an update, as follows:

"Since my initial email, we have had three new additions (five bull calves this season so far!) and two more babies due in the next couple months (hopefully they will be girls); so that will increase our herd to 26, and preg-testing for next year's season will be done in October."

---

## How Long Can a Miniature Zebu Cow Continue to Produce Calves?

We heard from one of our members, Tom Mariannino of Sunnyfield Farm, Chase City, VA, who sent us this picture of one of his cows, Lavendars Katie, who has consistently produced calves every year. She is almost 18 years old now and still going strong. Tom shared a bit more info and pictures when I asked, as follows:

Lavendars Katie was born in 1998. She is a direct granddaughter of the first red Zebu imported into the United States in 1990.





Katie's daughters shown above and below.



With her age, she has contributed to the Zebu world immensely and has produced some exceptional progeny throughout her years. We own several generations of Katie's progeny. In the years that we have owned Katie, she has produced an even percentage of bull to heifer ratio. This is only representative of the calves she's given us throughout the five or so years, but we do own two of her older daughters and many granddaughters. Katie has consistently produced a calf for us every year. She calves late March and re-breeds on the first cycle once she is exposed to her selected bull in the month of June. She is a calving-ease cow, and this trait has been passed on to her offspring. This is one of the desirable traits that we breed for. Besides being a successful cow on the reproductive perspective, Katie is also a cow who maintains perfect body conditioning. Our tough Virginia winters have shown no difficulty for her. She has never lost weight (with minimal grain offered) and is just a filled-out cow. We are very pleased with how Katie has contributed to our breeding program. We look forward to many more calves from her. Daughters, granddaughters, great, great granddaughters—the oldest daughter we have from her is a 2004 cow.



If any of our members have older cows that still produce calves, send your pictures and info to [webmaster@imza.name](mailto:webmaster@imza.name).



**IMZA Membership Application**

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