

THE IMZA CON*NECTION

February 2014

Official Publication of the International Miniature Zebu Association

IMZA - Home of the World's Smallest Cattle



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...and more!



Cover Picture:

"DAB CAPT WOODROW F CALL" #Z-4086
Bred by Dennis Beranek, Milan, IL and "BUF-
FALO HILL RUSTY LIDDY" #Z-3961 Bred by
Judy and Larry Rohner, Centralia, IL both
owned by Chris & Liz Burns, Mt Olive, IL
appear to be enjoying sunshine with snow!!

(Photo by Chris Burns)



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President's Message

Includes a notice of proposal to change the IMZA By-Laws

Hello everyone,

Winter has had us in its frigid grasp this year. I hope that all of you were prepared for the sub-zero temperatures and that your animals have come through this weather safely. It is difficult to believe that spring will arrive in just a very few months. With it comes our IMZA annual meeting in Macon, Missouri. This is an important occasion for IMZA members. We will be announcing the election of new Board of Director members. You will find bios of the BOD applicants enclosed in this issue of the newsletter along with an election ballot and a return envelope. IMZA has had a really poor member voting turnout in the past. Barely 20% of the membership take the time to vote. Let's all make an effort to change that this year. Please vote for your choice of directors and next year consider running for the board yourself.

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES

The current Board of Directors has unanimously voted to drop all late fees for IMZA registry services. In order to accomplish this, the wording in the By-Laws will need to be changed in two sections. The current wording under the TRANSFER APPLICATION heading is: "This form along with the \$10.00 transfer fee should be sent to the Association office within 60-days of sale. If it is sent after 60-days the fee is \$20.00." The Board of Director's proposal is that the sentence- "If it is sent after 60 days the fee is \$20."- be stricken from the By-Laws"

A change in wording is also proposed under the REPORT OF BIRTH heading. The current wording is: "If you fail to send a Report of Birth within six (6) months of the date of birth, it may result in the calf's being ineligible for registration and may cause a \$25.00 fine to be levied on the registration fee. If you fail to send a Report of Birth within one (1) year of the date of birth, the fine levied will be \$100.00" The Board of Directors proposal is that These 2 sentences -"If you fail to send a Report of Birth within six (6) months of the date of birth, it may result in the calf's being ineligible for registration and may cause a \$25.00 fine to be levied on the registration fee. If you fail to send a Report of Birth within one (1) year of the date of birth, the fine levied will be \$100.00"-be stricken from the By-Laws in their entirety.

Please accept this as a written notice of proposal to change the IMZA By-Laws subject to member vote at the 2014 IMZA Annual Meeting in Macon, Missouri. A two thirds majority vote of all attendee members is required to pass the proposed changes to the By-Laws.

President's Message...Continued

IMZA ANNUAL MEETING...APRIL 9, 2014

Please plan to attend this important meeting. It will be held at the Fly Wheel Club in Macon, Missouri on April 9th. IMZA will once again be offering a social hour with refreshments beginning at 5:30 followed by a free barbeque dinner prepared by Nolan's' catering of Macon. The annual meeting will begin immediately following the dinner. Come for the fun and food. Exercise your voting rights. Meet your fellow members. Offer your opinions and suggestions.

I am looking forward to meeting all of you there and to the arrival of spring!

Judy Rohner
President, IMZA

IN THE MAILBOX...

Dec 24, 2013 Re: Birth Report

Hi

Please...please fill in the sire of my calf. I only have one bull related to Lazarus and one old cow, Mandy that hasn't settled for a couple of years.

This is Mandys heifer that had this heifer calf. She was bred back to her own sire but it is a very nice calf. I dehorned it. My pictures are not developed yet but I will send as soon as I can. I'm 84 years old and love my four zebus! The heifer Babe is bred back for 2014.

Thank you so much, Janet Clark, Suamico, WI

We have cold -- cold and lots of snow here November & December.
Happy New Year

Oct 01, 2013

Maureen...

Such a nice write up you did on Judy our IMZA President. All of her interests in so many animals and exotics as well as the mini zebus makes me think back of all the wonderful years I have had with all my various animals and exotics that started back out in California in the early 1970's at Marine World -- Africa USA, and still these days with my various miniature cattle.

Enclosed is the mini zebu bull that will be a future herdsire.

Mary Jane Ontiveros, Ennis, TX

Breeding Miniature Zebu, The Early Years



RV "Bob" Baker

**This article contains:
An Early Member
SPOTLIGHT,
IMZA HISTORY**

**AND DETAILS OF HOW IMZA
was formed and how a breeder
developed their own line of
Miniature Zebus**

**A First Person Interview with
RV "Bob" Baker
Spokane, WA**

By: Maureen Neidhardt, IMZA Registrar and Newsletter Editor

In gathering IMZA Newsletter information I have been reminiscing to be able to share some of the beginnings and formative happenings of IMZA. The founding members have made history. It is interesting for those who were there to think back on and it is helpful for newer members to understand how IMZA evolved and to know some of the people who played key parts in the building of the organization.

I have had involvement in witnessing the formation of IMZA and have had the privilege of knowing many of the fine people who added their work, knowhow, experience and expertise



RVB DAHLAS #Z-0065 Born May 14, 1984 36" Tall, was purchased from Dahlas Rhone of Cozad, NE a renowned gentleman in the Alternative Livestock business. This bull became a favorite to Bob Baker.

The Early Years....Continued from P. 5

to the association.

It is my honor to introduce RV "Bob" Baker of Spokane, Washington. In interviewing Bob I have come to believe that he is a man of "not too



many words". Bob is modest and humble but underneath this apparent shyness is a man who is very capable and gets the job done.

I don't have a good way to check IMZA Active Members age statistics but I am quite sure that at age 87 Bob is our oldest, active male Miniature Zebu breeder. He

Cape Girardeau, MO, 5-H Ranch Exotic Sale...About 1987, Bob Baker showing photos of his animals to Maureen Neidhardt, IMZA Registrar and Newsletter, Editor.

may also garner the honor of having bred Miniature Zebras for the most consecutive years, having started prior to IMZA in about 1979 and still reporting calves born in 2013 and on, 35+ years and running.

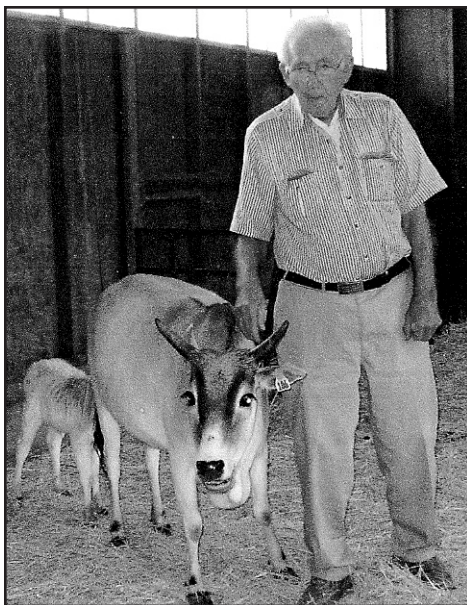
Bob Baker was born in 1926 at Ranchester, WY. In 1928 his parents sold everything to move to Pennsylvania, his mother's home state. His parents loaded 8 kids, mom and dad and the dog into a new 1928 Chevrolet and set off for a new life. 1929 brought the financial crash and the start of the great depression and forced the family to move again, this time to Washington state.

Bob was brought up on a farm and throughout his youth he raised rabbits, chickens and pigeons. You see, RV "Bob" Baker is the complete example of a self-made, all American man as he grew up an orphan, raised in the Hutton Settlement, a very fine 360 acre farm/orphanage on the outskirts of Spokane, WA. Bob's mother passed away when he was four years old and his dad when he was seven. Also, at the Settlement were two of his four sisters and one of his four brothers. His baby brother was adopted out. All of the Baker siblings remained close to one another and have gone through life as friends and family including the

adopted baby brother.

Bob started milking cows in the Settlement when he was eleven years old and thus developed the habit of getting up at 4:00 every morning which he still does to this day

At age 16 Bob Baker opted to leave the Settlement and go out on his own. He said this may have been one of the worst decisions of his life but this is what he wanted to do at the time. He went to work for a hog farm that also owned several restaurants in Spokane. His job was to drive a truck taking scraps from both restaurants to the hog farm to feed to the hogs each day. Living in a hotel by night as he put it, "I was homeless but I just didn't know it"! At age 18 he joined the Navy during World



RV "Bob" Baker with one of his Miniature Zebu cows and little calf.

War II, he was headed overseas when the Atomic bomb was dropped, and then spent time in the South Pacific, Japan and Florida. After the Navy he

attended college on the GI Bill. He studied to become an Industrial Arts teacher, however, never did get to fulfill that goal as he got into the auto upholstery business while going to school and that grew into a full time business which then led him into the glass business that grew and prospered to three stores and 35 employees which he ran for 35 years, selling the business in 1984 . He retained one of the buildings which he now uses as a rental property.

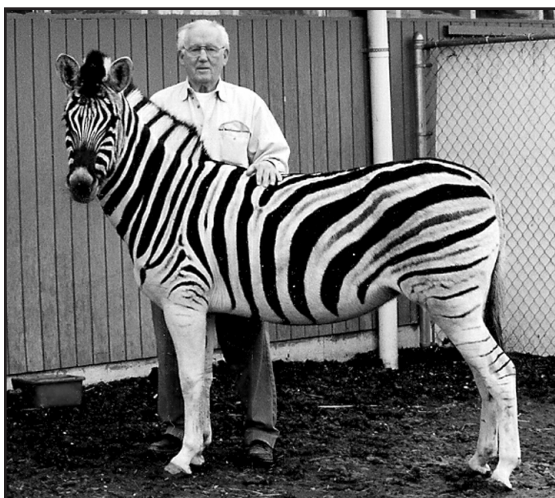
In 1969 he had purchased an 80 acre farm where he raised horses and cattle, namely miniature horses and Hackney ponies and he always had saddle horses and enjoyed riding them. He had bought his first horse at age 16 and had a liking for horses and had horse "know how" that probably came from his dad. Having the farm positioned him for the next adventure of his life.

In 1976 he had bought a pair of zebras and a pair of Llamas. He was already getting a gradual start into the realm of exotic animals and alternative livestock. He also bought Bactrian camels and became known as a breeder of fine "double humped" camels.

In about 1978, during a visit with John Cheeseman of St Regis, MT he saw his first miniature zebus and took a liking to them. By 1979 he was ready to become a Miniature Zebu owner. He was friends with Dean

The Early Years...Continued from P. 7

Lewis, an animal dealer from Washington, so when Dean was picking up some other animals from Dean Drake in Colorado he called Bob to say that there were two Miniature Zebu bulls available there. Bob told Lewis to, "bring along the smallest one". When those animals were delivered, Bob says he almost fainted when he saw that tiny 2 year old Miniature Zebu bull standing in the nose of the gooseneck trailer! This bull, Baker's first Miniature Zebu, became known as RVB El Toro Z-0064 in the registry. He then went on to purchase the cow that he named Tinkerbelle Z-0068 from the Salt Lake City, Utah Zoo. These two along with the bull RVB Dahlas Z-0065 purchased from Dahlas Rhone, Cozad, Nebraska in 1984 were his favorites of the miniature zebus that he has owned. In building his herd he also purchased four cows from North Carolina, two



cows from Blue Earth, Minnesota and a few from Michigan. From these beginnings and with the encouragement of friends such as John Cheeseman and Dean Lewis the RV "Bob" Baker miniature zebus became well known for their quality and availability in the northwestern part of the USA.

The Herd Summary for the Baker herd shows just under 200 miniature zebus registered through

Bob with one of his Damara Zebra trio.

IMZA. When asked how many states he sold miniature zebus into, Bob just answered..."LOTS"!

In the height of the exotic animal business Bob developed a very profitable business which included a herd of 130 llamas, 10 Bactrian camels, a trio of Damara Zebras, 60 miniature donkeys, 50 to 70 miniature zebu cows, 25 elk (until state regulations forced their sale), also emus and ostrich and more. At that time he had two hired helpers and one of them is still his farm helper 20 years later.

When a Miniature Cattle Breeds show was held at Enumclaw, WA several times in the 1990's, Baker miniature zebus were shown there.

Taking his turn at the helm of the IMZA, Bob served on the Board of Directors from 1991 to 2011 and he served as President from 1998 to 2000. In 2006 he was presented with a plaque of appreciation from IMZA for his years of dedicated service.

Family wise, Bob has one son, Terry Wayne Baker who lives in the

Spokane area and Bob also has several siblings that remain in the area. One of his nephew's wife does genealogy research and has done up a family book that reaches all the way back to 1604. Bob says, "I am proud of my family". In my estimation the RV "Bob" Baker story would make a book or a movie. Then it also seems that each of his siblings would surely have a story to tell. No wonder he can say he is proud of his family.

These days Bob busies himself with his hobbies....women, song, dance, the now, hobby farm and the "Old Chevy"! Actually women, song and dance all fit together in the form of his good, special friend of eight years, Donna McCoy who often goes dancing with him. The hobby farm, is, of course, his farm where he continues to raise a few miniature zebus and other animals. The "Old Chevy" is in reference to his 1954, Five Window, red Chevy pickup that he has kept in pretty much, mint condition'. Oh, on my last call to Bob he had just returned from delivering "Meals on Wheels" to the homes of elderly and those unable to get out of their homes. He said, "It's fun, I only do this one week of the month!"

"Buy good, prime stock to begin with", is Bob Baker's message to



RVB LAZARUS #Z-0056 Calved 4-16-1991, 33".

new miniature zebu breeders.

Thinking back on his life as we reviewed it, he commented, "Our country has come too far away from the rural lifestyle and has become too urbanized". We need to get back to the basics of life!

The last parting comment...words of wisdom from this shy but active gentleman, "Thank God, we're finished"!! My response, "Thank God I got to know Bob, he's a true American evolved from hard work and able to live the American dream.



RVB TITAN calved: July 9, 1988 Reg #Z-0066 35.5" A well known IMZA Sire of the Baker herd.

Other well known, early Baker sires include: RVB THEO calved June 6, 1992 33.5" and RVB DILLON calved March 2, 1995 35.5", and many more.

Miniature Zebu

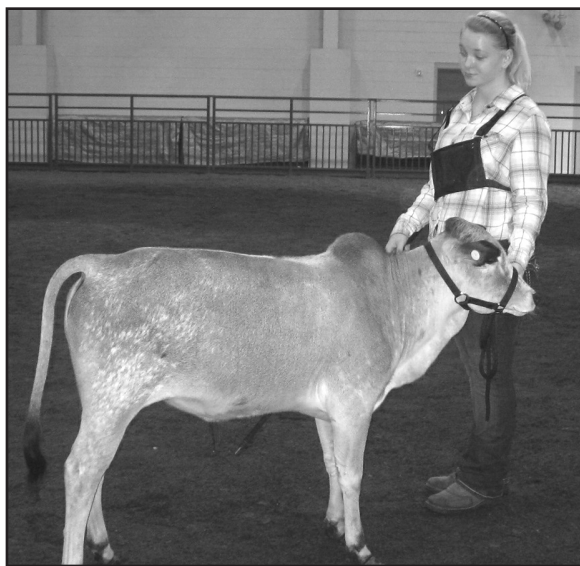
Youth Show, Kissimmee, FL

Photos and article by: Rick Bogle

The IMZA sponsored another successful Miniature Zebu Youth Show on January 4th and 5th, 2014 at the Florida Fat Steer Show in



The Grand Champion Bull was Cheg's Little Bond, shown by Zachary Bogle.



Annatate Green showing her Jr Bull, Zephyr.

the Grand Champion Female was Bogle Farms Cinnamon shown by Nicole

Kissimmee, Florida. About a dozen top quality zebus were exhibited by some very enthusiastic youths and as always, the zebus were the hit of the show. More than 100 beef animals were exhibited, but the zebus, by far, got the most attention. The Grand Champion Bull was Cheg's Little Bond shown by Zachary Bogle and the Grand Champion Female was Bogle Farms Cinnamon shown by Nicole

Continued from P. 10
Youth Show, Kissimmee, FL



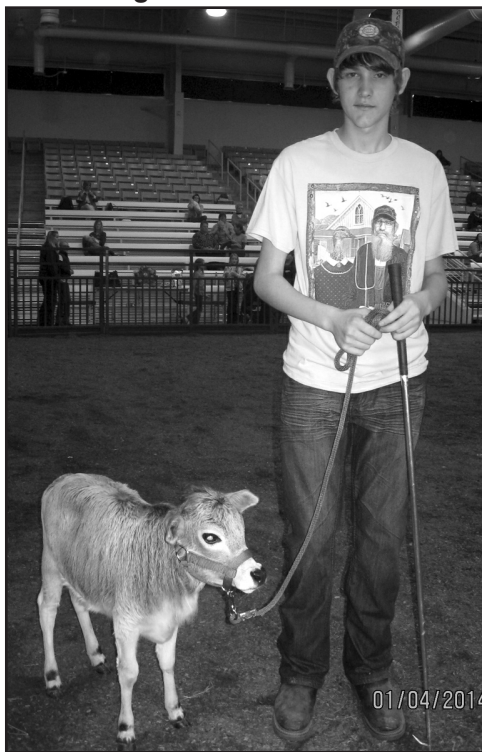
The Grand Champion Female was Bogle Farms Cinnamon, shown by Nicole Bogle.

Bogle.

It never fails, the more people who are exposed to our wonderful little animals, the more people fall in love with them. A great time was had by all.

The next IMZA sponsored Miniature Zebu youth show will be during the Polk County Youth Fair January 25-31, 2014 in Bartow, Florida. We are expecting another fine group of IMZA registered Miniature Zebus and quality young men and women.

Lanson Collins and his little heifer, Glory.





Rosemary Meding...A Tribute

By: Maureen Neidhardt

First written in 2005 for Rare Breeds Journal, now edited for The IMZA CON'NECTION. This article is a Tribute to Rosemary Meding and her training methods that detail how to have gentle, show ready Miniature Zebus. In other words, animals to have fun with and have a special bond with.

Rosemary Meding has been diagnosed with Hypoxic Amoxia, Black Mold illness that means 'without oxygen'. The past three years have been a very debilitating and terribly difficult time for Rosemary and Stephen her husband and care giver. Talking with her gives one an acute reminder of how fragile life is and how important it is to appreciate and enjoy our health and to count our blessings. As a fellow, Florida IMZA breeder, Rick Bogle, put it to Rose..."A breath is a present because every breath is taken in HIS presence".

Shell Creek Ranch Miniature Zebu 'Daycare'

Rosemary Meding's first words when asked about her Miniature Zebus are, "I love our zebus and try to get the word out to everyone who will listen." According to Meding these little cattle have become her life. She said that they never intended to get into them as much as they did. Then, one acquisition led to another and with calves that were born, Rosemary and Stephen found their herd had grown to a peak of 25 head. They went with totally Komoko Ranch bloodlines as Rose felt they could avoid the health issues that could come from introducing stock from other herds.

The Medings operate their Tangerine orchard as a specialty crop business. Their ranch is located along Shell Creek near Punta Gorda, Florida, a very lovely, desirable location. At one time 4000 citrus trees covered the fields and there was a great deal of daily work to cultivating the orchard into a productive business. Stephen takes care of the orchard and Rose was spending her days doing what she enjoyed most, working with the Miniature Zebus. Her project was called her Mini Zebu Daycare.

Daycare at Shell Creek Ranch consisted of hands on hand training. At two weeks of age Rose starts taking calves from their mothers for about 15 minutes a day. Naturally the calves are concerned and their mothers are very concerned but each day Rose persists and gradually extends the time that the calves spend away from their dams.

Gradually the cows worry less and the calves start to enjoy their treatment.

The calves in this category are considered to be in the 'baby group'.

By the time they are weaned they are ready to integrate into a herd with status. They have become independent little bovine souls.

One of the last cows that they acquired was a bit older and had not been previously gentled so she was not very proud of humans who wanted to borrow her baby. Rose kidnapped that one – the cow had a “Zebu fit” but after several days of persistence, guess who won?

As Rose describes her methods, “it’s kind of like putting your kid with a neighbor!!” Calves learn independence from mom and acceptance of their owner.



So how does this little, blonde woman, convince these cattle, to trust her, going against their natural instincts? Total persistence, no treats, but lots of massaging, petting, etc.

She sits on a stool, halter rope and calf in hand, and proceeds to scratch, love, massage, etc. and as she puts it, “as my husband says, once she can get her hands on them they are hers!!” They get a brisket massage, which is one spot they really love. They are also scratched behind the ears which releases endorphins that make them ‘feel good’.

Rose brushes and massages each one before leading them. They have relaxation in them and a positive attitude to go on with their lesson.

Of their 25 head, she was able to brush at least 15 every day. She called this their ‘personal body care’. She called them individually by name and they would come up for their attention. The rest of the herd awaited their turn and did not push into the way.

By creating a gentle and people friendly herd, Rosemary is maintaining the value of the animals as they are ready to go into the ‘show world’ or to be great pets for folks who want a special miniature bovine to enjoy.

The Medings also are able to graze these small cows in their orchard as they will not damage the trees like larger stock would. Being able to graze in the orchard makes a double value to the use of their property.

Rosemary just naturally is an animal lover. She gained 15 years of experience through her former business known as, The Critter Sitter. In past years she also had a dairy where they milked Holsteins and raised Great Danes, Dobermans and Pinto horses.

While living in New Hampshire, Rosemary acquired a pair of Zebu steers that were a bit too tall to register. They were broke to drive as a pulling team. They were gentle and while they knew the traditional verbal commands of 'Gee' and 'Haw', she also handled them more like horses, driving from the rear not from the side as oxen are driven. As she said, she wanted to ride, not drive!! According to Rosemary there are two stages in the training of oxen. Once they take the verbal commands they are known as 'handy'. When they are seasoned enough to sense what the master wants, without command, they are known as 'clever'!

During Hurricane Charlie a few years ago the very small bull calf known



Rosemary having fun with her friends!

as "Zorro Toro" spent the hurricane under the Medings dining room table!!! 'Any port in a storm', he fit there and the chairs were turned to fence him in!

Halters for Miniature Zebu...

Rose wants to share her tips on halters for Miniature Zebu. Their heads are small and their muzzles are smaller so she has found that llama halters fit them very well. A weanling size llama

halter fits a 2-3 month old zebu nicely. Also, miniature horse halters will work.

Meding's calves are haltered at one week of age. She used a well fitted halter on each of her Miniature Zebus and they wear them at all times. As she puts it, "the halter becomes an intrinsic part of their physiology. She can snap on a lead at any time.

By now you can tell that Rosemary Meding has been a strong advocate for the Miniature Zebu. She repeated how happy she and Stephen have been with them and states that they are the only miniature breed they want to have as they are a breed onto themselves and not a shrunk down breed!

She recommends miniature Zebus for people who want to have fun and relive their early memories of life with bovines. She also recommends getting with your Miniature Zebus, one on one, they are fantastic animals.

Worth a Sniff

The IMZA would like to welcome our new members that have joined from September 2013 through January 2014.

Todd & Carrie Lynch, McLean, IL

John Godbout, Rock Hill, SC

Danielle & Justin Shmalberg, Gainesville, FL

Leon & Shannan Brown, Claremore, OK

Gretchen Johnson, Maple Rose Farm, Forreston IL

Charles F Huntington, Garden Prairie, IL

Mike Zimmerman, Graham, NC

Gene & Shirley Baucom, Half Ass Farm, Monroe, NC

Avery & Carol Iles, Winnsboro, SC

Roy & Nikki Faktor, Century, FL

Adam House, Kennedy, AL

Victoria McKenzie, Royse City, TX

Huckleberry Cattle & Exotics, Winnsboro, TX

Ann Moore, Calumet, OK

Hearts & Hands Animal Rescue, Nancy Nunke, Ramona, CA

Back Cover Photo...

"THE OTHER SIDES RANGER" Born 12-17-13.

Sire: Maxwells Zack #Z-4937

Dam The Other Sides Dotty #Z-5313

Bred by John & Kathleen Schmidt, Dunnellon, Florida

Owner: Rafael Rivera, Ocala, FL

Dam, The Other Sides Dotty was the IMZA CON*NECTION

Cover girl June 2012! Ranger is getting dried off and ready to go!

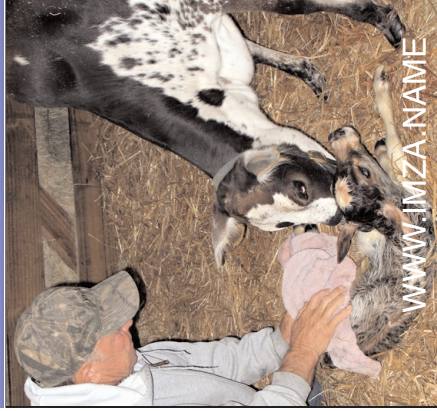
IMZA members, submit your articles, photos, digital pictures, show reports, Youth Show information, special or unique happenings with your miniature zebu, etc. for publication in the IMZA CoN*Nection. Sharing your experiences with your fellow members helps everyone to learn and become better Zebu husbandmen and women as we work toward the successes of the purpose of our Association.

Send to: IMZA, 3571 Hwy 20, Crawford, NE 69339

308-665-1431 rarebreed@bbc.net

THE IMZA

CON*NECTION



Keeping
the
IMZA
comm-
unity
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WWW.IMZA.NAME

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.