

# Schwarzerde<sup>LLC</sup>

**BULL TEST**

We understand the challenges of operating the family farm. Our goal is to offer TRUE VALUE, as our sale is dependent upon the success of others.

The result... well over one half of our bulls offered the last 5 yrs. were sold to repeat buyers!



**2 YR Old Bulls  
Will Be Selling!**

# Schwarzerde<sup>LLC</sup>

VERNON HOCHSTETLER PRESIDENT  
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VISITORS WELCOME • NO SUNDAY BUSINESS PLEASE

**Call for A Sale  
Catalogue!**



*Murray Grey News*



**AMERICAN MURRAY GREY ASSOCIATION** EST 1971

American Murray Grey Association  
PO Box 537  
Carrollton, OH 44615



## 2024 Board of Directors

Currently being voted on and approved. Please join us July 5th for the reading of the ballots. There will be a Zoom link on the official Facebook page.

MURRAY GREY NEWS AD RATE CARD		
Ad Size	Per Insertion	4x Commitment
Business Card	\$30	\$100
¼ Page	\$50	\$160
½ Page	\$80	\$280
Full Page	\$100	

### Up Coming Events

#### 2024 National Murray Grey Show

##### Western Idaho Fair

August 15-19, 2024

Boise, ID

##### World Beef Expo

September 19-22, 2024

Milwaukee, WI

Let us list your fair, show or Murray Grey event!

## We Invite You to Attend the 50th Anniversary

### AMGA National Show

#### Western Idaho Fair – Boise, Idaho

August 17th, 2024

Junior Show 12:30 pm/Open Show 2:00 pm

**Junior Showmanship Classes:** Deadline for registration for showmanship classes is 9:00 a.m. the day of the Junior AMGA show. Any AMGA Junior member may compete in the showmanship class without having animals registered in the breeding classes. They may 'borrow', with permission of the breeder, any animal owned by any AMGA member already registered in the open classes to compete in their showmanship class. (Sponsored by the Northwest Murray Grey Association.)

**Breeding Classes:** Junior Breeding Classes will use class numbers from the Murray Grey Open Show. In addition to the standard age classes these classes will be included: Cow/Calf Class; Pair of Females; Pair of Bulls; Produce of Dam; Best Pair; Get of Sire; and Best Five Head.

**Other Awards Presented:** Supreme Champion Murray Grey, Premiere Breeder & Premiere Exhibitor.

**Please come and enjoy the fun!!**

#### AMGA National Show Headquarters Hotel

##### Residence Inn Boise West

7303 West Denton Street Boise, Idaho 83704  
(208) 385 - 9000 \$149 USD per night

Last Day to Book: Monday, July 15, 2024  
Ask for American Murray Grey Association

#### REMINDER: New Address

Please send all paperwork, forms or registrations to :

PO Box 537

Carrollton, Ohio 44615-0537

Any questions regarding paperwork should be directed to either:

Sherie Clark—330.323.5508

Tim Thomas—406.600.3378

Carrier animals will usually dress at a higher percentage and typically score highly in tenderness with no difference in flavor. Based on our observations, in an effort to improve consistency of our product, we choose to only retain non-carrier steers for our finish program. We have in turn reduced the number of carrier females and only run non-carrier bulls.

Producers need to decide what is sensible for their own unique program, extra pounds on the trailer can be beneficial to most. Myostatin is an industry wide conversation, with multiple strains appearing in most breeds. We recommend our customers run a non-carrier bull if they don't know the status of their cow herd to avoid affected cattle if they are concerned.

In summary, myostatin has been in the breed since its origin, largely undetected. The risks and benefits are becoming better understood with the advancement and accessibility of DNA testing. Producers are more capable now than ever to utilize the tools available to make sound decisions for their unique breeding program.

#### References:

2023 Murray Grey Beef Cattle Society Annual

UC Davis: <https://vgl.ucdavis.edu/breed/murray-grey>

ScienceDirect: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S037811192030069X>

Oxford Academic: <https://academic.oup.com/jas/article/doi/10.1093/jas/skad371/7342155>



Lane Cattle

12418 South 700 East  
Clarks Hill, IN 47930

lanecattlemg@gmail.com

Evan Lane  
765-543-9454

Dennis Lane  
765-523-2374

### Sunrise Hill Ranch



97814 Birdwell Ln  
Myrtle Point, OR 97458  
H (541) 572 -2558  
C (541) 290 -8890

[sunrisehillranch@aol.com](mailto:sunrisehillranch@aol.com)

Lil' Elk Run Murray Greys  
610 DeCoursey Lane  
Liberty, PA 16293

Got Grass?

Our best ads are Born, not Written

- Family Cows
- Select Heifers
- 4-H Consignments
- Quality Breeding Bulls
- BEEF

Emmy: 570.439.8758  
Lee: 570.439.3832

[www.DeCoCattleCo.weebly.com](http://www.DeCoCattleCo.weebly.com)  
[silverskymurray@gmail.com](mailto:silverskymurray@gmail.com)

### Diamond G Farm George & Cheryl Germaine

P. O. Box 164 (360) 827 - 5328  
1470 State Hwy. 506  
Vader, WA 98593-0164

## Circle S Stock Farms



Purebred & Percentage Murray Grey Cattle  
Endeavor, WI  
(608) 697 - 5968 [dianaslepicka@outlook.com](mailto:dianaslepicka@outlook.com)





# 2024 Ohio Beef Expo

## Eastern Murray Grey Association Show

### Supreme Champion of Show/Grand Champion Bull

Circle S Rip

Shown and Bred By Diana and Kylee Beckius  
Circle S Stock Farms of Endeavor, WI

### Grand Champion Female

Snyder Kalico Dove

Shown and Bred by Natalie & Zach Snyder, Snyder Livestock of Burghill, OH



### Reserve Grand Champion Bull

Stony Creek Larceny

Shown and Bred by: Kristy Peters  
Stony Creek Ranch of Kewaskum, WI



### Reserve Grand Champion Female

Circle S Black Widow

Bred by Circle S Stock Farms

Owned/Shown By: Lauren Kirschbaum—Kirschbaum Family Farm of Kewaskum, WI



### Supreme Champion Percentage Murray Grey

Stony Creek Fake ID

Shown and Bred by: Kristy Peters  
Stony Creek Ranch of Kewaskum, WI

### Special Thanks!

Shoutout to Michael and Andy Edney (Split Rock Farm) for making custom planners and binders for everyone in attendance.

Trophies and awards sponsored by:

Ribbons—Victory Murray Grey

Awards—Limestone Ridge Farm

Awards for Percentage Classes— Circle S Stock Farm






**Victory Murray Greys**



**Semen for Sale**  
 Victory Power Play \$25  
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 Igenity Results Available on Request  
 Shipping Available

**3 Yearling Heifers Available!**  
**Victor & Sherie Clark**  
 3056 Arrow RD NW  
 Carrollton, OH 44615  
 330-323-5508 clark3056@earthlink.net



**Total Performance Reporting**  
 AMERICAN MURRAY GREY ASSOCIATION

Free with AMGA membership!  
 Free to report all calves - registration is not required!  
 Free to report commercial calves sired by your bulls!  
 Tattoos are required

**Tattoo Year Letters**

AMGA recommends the use of the year letter when tattooing Murray Grey cattle.

2022: K 2023: L 2024: M 2025: N

Tattoo format: Unique Tattoo/number/year letter  
 (Example: XX01M)

**Murray Grey News**

Your vehicle to promote your herd and your breed!  
 Deadlines for ads, articles, "Letters to the Editor", family news, and PICTURES: the last business days of February, May, August, and November

**Continued from Page 3: Don't Fear the Unknown, Test for It: Myostatin NT821**

**On the Farm by Tim Thomas, Stillwater Ranch**

We first heard of myostatin from an embryologist who had trained in Australia and was very knowledgeable in Murray Greys. He surprised us by asking how we were avoiding affected cattle, or double copies. Having never heard of the possibility, we made many inquiries and discovered it was not well known in the states.

Finally reaching out to Wallawong Murray Greys in Australia, they were forthcoming in the fact that they are utilizing the mutation to better their carcass yields. They felt that a single copy would create the perfect beef animal. With their advice we began testing our heifers to avoid a double copy when utilizing carrier bulls.

The first year we tested 10 replacement heifers and discovered 3 carriers within that group. It then became our understanding that NT821 was a breed characteristic and more common than we initially thought. We've found that single carrier animals are easy to keep and stay smooth skinned throughout the year. They are also easy to inadvertently select for. Calves with a single copy can wean 50-100 pounds heavier than non-carriers with the same birthweights.

After a few years of simply testing and documenting, with no concern towards carrier animals, we began observing subtle differences in the consistency of our beef product. As our grass finished beef program grew, butchering steers on a more frequent basis allowed us to compare carriers and non-carriers side by side. We try to finish our steers entirely on grass or hay in less-than-ideal conditions, being at high elevation with a long and harsh winter.

Under our management, we felt that carrier animals had consistently less marbling. Their predisposition to more muscle mass is not always well sustained in our environment. Expressive single carriers, without the proper nutrition to sustain their growth, can experience a disruption to their development.

**Igenity & Myostatin Lists**

As an information service to breeders, the American Murray Grey Association has a public list of Igenity genomic test results and myostatin test results. This service is free to members. Email copies of test results to have them listed.

<https://www.murraygreybeefcattle.com/myostatinlist.html>  
 &  
<https://www.murraygreybeefcattle.com/igenity%20Reports.html>

**Don't Fear the Unknown, Test for It: Myostatin NT821**

By Whitney Byrd and Tim Thomas

**What is myostatin in Murray Greys?**

Myostatin in Murray Greys refers to the recessive NT821 allele associated with "double muscling". This variant has been found to be naturally occurring in up to 15% of the population of Murray Greys. The effects of this variant start to occur pre-natal within the muscle fibers.

**What is a NT821 carrier animal (one copy of the NT821, heterozygous)?**

Carrier x Carrier = Carrier (50% probability) or Carrier x MYO-Free = Carrier (50% probability) Myostatin carrier animals can have increased live weight, increased hanging weight, comparable tenderness and slightly leaner beef product when compared to similarly grain finished non-carriers.

**What is a NT821 affected animal (two copies of the NT821, homozygous)?**

Carrier x Carrier = Affected (25% probability) or Carrier x Affected = Affected (50% probability)

An affected animal is not considered desirable within the Murray Grey world. Affected animals see an increased probability of dystocia (difficult birth) which typically has a negative effect on the calf and the dam. This can result in calf loss without early intervention since many affected calves can have increased birthweights, reduced calving ease and a frameshift in the hip and body structure.

"Out of all segregating myostatin variants, the nt821 deletion had the greatest observed association with calving difficulty when the homozygous deletion was carried by either the calf or the dam. However, the association between the calf's nt821 genotype and calving difficulty varied depending on the nt821 genotype of the dam. The F94L, Q204X, and nt821 mutations generally had the greatest association with all three carcass traits, resulting in heavier and more conformed carcasses." – Oxford Academic

In most instances, affected female progeny should be marketed as terminal. Affected females may see reduced fertility (ovulation rate), increased probability of dystocia, reduced milk yield, reduced milk composition (nutritional value of the milk) and reduced mobility due to rapid increase of muscle fiber expansion while approaching maturity. "Similarly, depending on the genotype of the dam, a bull carrying two copies of the nt821 deletion could give rise to progeny that have improved carcass merit while minimizing the associated risk of calving difficulty." – Oxford Academic

The most widely available studies have been with Belgian Blue cattle, who can carry the same variant as Murray Greys. "The Belgian Blue cattle MSTN had an 11-nucleotide deletion in the third exon that caused a frameshift mutation, and the Piedmontese cattle MSTN had a missense mutation in exon 3, which was also associated with increased muscle." – ScienceDirect

**Cadfor Murray Greys, Australia excerpt**

With permission, here is an excerpt written by Rod Hoare MVSc and Helena Warren Dip.Ag., "Cadfor", Binda, NSW for the 2023 Murray Grey Beef Cattle Society Annual:

**"You cannot manage what you do not measure"**

"The condition of double muscling (DM) in cattle is really misnamed because there are no more than the normal number of muscles, but they are enlarged or hypertrophied. (The more correct term is muscular hypertrophy.)

"DM is a genetic condition caused by a mutation of the myostatin gene. Myostatin in animals controls or limits the size of the muscles. A defect in the myostatin gene allows the muscle fibers to increase in size and number. Animals with a myostatin variant gene have decreased fat and bone content and therefore have an increased dressing percentage at slaughter."

Article continues on page 6