

HIGHLANDS IN PUERTO PUYUMEN, CHILE

by Larry Zea

Pat and I visited the Highlands in Puerto Puyumen, Chile, on October 25th to November 1st, 2009. This was our first visit since the spring of 2003 when we accompanied the second shipment of Highlands that we exported to this beautiful area of Southern Chile on Lagos Panguipulli in the lake and volcano region. It was springtime in Chile, with lots of babies being born and flowers in bloom.

Mr. Nicolas Ibanez Scott now has 36 registered Highland cattle with AHCA and many changes have been made since our first visit. We were very impressed by the cattle handling facilities that have been built since our last visit and their record keeping practices.

The grooved concrete floor of the cattle handling facility eases drainage for the daily washing of this area. The chute, headgate and scale are all covered with a roof, making it much more comfortable working on the cattle during the rainy spring.

Every month, all the Highlands are run through the chute and headgate to check on their general health, are given any needed shots and then run into the scale box and weighed. Notes are kept on each individual animal and monthly weights are recorded. Calves are weighed the day after being born and the required government of Chile ear tag placed in the right ear of the calf. While there, I photographed and assisted a breach birth. The calf was born at 8:00 PM and the next morning he was up and bouncing around, weighing 39 kilos which is 86 lbs.

We were asked to stay an additional two weeks from our planned trip to be able to help and attend an agricultural exposition in Orsorno, about 150 miles south of Puyumen but due to prior commitments, we were unable to do so. How-



From left, Larry Zea, Nicolas Ibanez Scott and Pat Zea

ever, plans are being made to attend and help next year. Orsorno is a city of about 200,000 and 26,000 people attended this 3-day exposition November 6, 7 and 8. This was the first time Highlands had been displayed to the public in Chile and as I had predicted to the farm manager German Areneda, the Highlands were the hit of the show. Mr. Ibanez had hired a bagpiper and the reports I got a couple of days after the exposition, were that it was difficult to find a place close to observe the cattle. Shown were a four-year old bull, a three-year old cow, a two-year old heifer, and a yearling heifer, that is one of the nicest yearling Highland heifers that I have ever seen. It helps to have lush green grass all year round, with no hay having to be fed.

Congratulations to Mr. Ibanez for his foresight in bringing Highlands to Chile and importing semen from Black Watch Emmett, to Helmut Huber who is the overseer of all the operations in Southern Chile for Mr. Ibanez, which includes timber, flower exports, a large dairy operation and a Red and Black Angus operation, and German Areneda, who is the farm manager at the show farm in Puerto Puyumen, where in addition to the Highlands they have 70 plus Suffolk sheep, peacocks, turkeys, exotic chickens, horses, polomas (white doves), a labeled display of native flora and a large farm pond stocked with Koi.



Highlands on exhibit in Osomo Chile, far right is Helmut Huber.



The man in charge of the Highlands, Patricio, works with a heifer in the new corral and handling facility.



Highlands in Chile with Lake Panguipulli and foothills of the Andes behind the lake, shrouded in clouds.