

Dream This!

...a warm summer breeze envelopes you as you wonder at the view from your hotel balcony. You are only steps away from the shore of 'the lake they call Gitche Gumeé' Lake Superior. Vast, crystal clear, mysterious and compelling in its majesty. You gulp it all in. You have just spent the day in the company of other Highland enthusiasts and had tremendous fun doing it.

**Well, this dream could be real if you attend
the AHCA 2014 National Convention!**

June 12-14, 2014

Duluth, Minnesota

63RD ANNUAL American Highland Cattle Association CONVENTION

About a year ago the **North Central Highland Cattle Association (NCHCA)** voted to host the 63rd Convention – but with a caveat. We only wanted to do it if we could put on a **BLOCKBUSTER!** We wanted attendees to remember their visit for a very long time. Since that decision was made to host, a committee of about 15 NCHCA members have been conducting monthly teleconferences to make it happen.

***IF YOU COME TO DULUTH
YOU WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED!***

Our agenda is at the fine tuning stage and will soon be announced. For now let's preview some of what you can look forward to.

Firstly, we have reserved a wonderful hotel, The Inn on Lake Superior. It has the feel of a Great Lakes ship, with the bow being picture windows with magnificent lake views.

The back lawn leads you to the Boardwalk, the walking and biking path (bikes provided by the hotel), the Scenic Railway, and of course the rugged shoreline. Step out the front door and you are on Canal Street, the hub of the busy heart of Duluth. Walk (or take a horse and carriage ride) to several restaurants, or to the Aerial Lift Bridge as it raises and lowers for the harbor passage of the huge lake freighters. You may want to visit the Maritime Museum or climb aboard and explore a real Great Lakes retired ship. Maybe find your sea legs and take a Vista Fleet harbor tour or, if you are really adventurous, try sea kayaking (kayaks for hire right on the hotel lawn area).

Scenic Highway 61 winds along the shoreline cliffs and leads to such destinations as the awesome cascading Gooseberry Falls, or the imposing historic Split Rock Lighthouse, where you can climb to the top for the view.



DULUTH...
Minnesota's gem at
the head of the lake.

Some call it
San Francisco
of the North.



Watch for a finalized schedule and registration information coming spring 2014!

American Highland Cattle Association – www.highlandcattleusa.org

North Central Highland Cattle Association – www.nchca.org

Of course your visit is not all about the attractions of the area. You will also learn much about our chosen Highland breed. We are working on some great farm visits and educational sessions. Each has a story to tell and you are sure to take things home with you to apply on your own farm. Here is the proposed educational lineup that you won't want to miss!!!

➤ **Grass Fed Beef Operation.** Want to see how a cattleman with over 20 years' experience "discovered" Highlands and made a profitable switch? We will visit Grass Meadows North, one of two farms owned by Jake and Lindsay Grass. Here we will learn how 60+ Highland cows are bred to polled Angus bulls and the calves are fed to mature weight exclusively on summer grasses and winter forage. These finished cattle, raised following strict protocol, are sold to Thousand Hills Cattle Company, a supplier of 100% grass fed beef to major retailers such as Target stores. *"The Highland cow is efficient and affordable, making her an ideal mother. She is a much cheaper factory than a polled cow to raise a feeder calf".*
— Jake Grass

➤ **Spent Grain.** Did you ever think about combining beer and cattle? You will visit and learn about a brewery that not only thought about it, they built a Highland cattle finishing operation around the use of spent grain from the beer brewing process!

➤ **Cattle Handling.** Spend some time in the pasture and cattle handling facilities learning how to work **WITH** cattle. You'll go home with a better understanding of how cattle perceive their environment and how to make cattle handling a low stress event for them and you.

➤ **Rotational Grazing.** We all know that grass is an important part of the cow's diet, but do you know how to optimize your grass production? Learn how to get started with rotational grazing and what programs may be available to fund your endeavor.

➤ **Cattle Nutrition.** Meet a cow named Stinky and learn about nutrition. You may have had nutrition sessions before, but

never like this one! We will look into and explore the rumen of a fistulated cow. You feed cattle every day; having the opportunity to explore the rumen of a fistulated cow is often a once in a lifetime experience.

➤ **Animal Selection.** Develop a critical eye and find out what to look for when selecting your next breeding animal. Learn about what traits make a great bull or brood cow and what data to collect to help you make better breeding decisions.

All of this education deserves some play time too! **SO** in addition to the attractions previously mentioned add:

- **GREAT FOOD**
- **BAGPIPES**
- **SCOTTISH DANCING**
- **BEER AND BEEF TASTING** (with a special beer brewed and named just for the Convention and beef from the brewery grain fed steers)
- **PLUS MUCH MORE!**

This is of course a Family Event and our JUNIORS have an agenda designed just for them. They can look forward to:

- **A CITY TOUR**
- **GREAT LAKES AQUARIUM**
- **LAKE SUPERIOR MARITIME VISITOR CENTER**
- **GRANDMA'S CABOOSE**
- **TOUR OF U.S. STEEL FLEET VESSEL**
- **SPIRIT MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE PARK**
- **FARM VISITS**

THEY ARE SURE TO HAVE A BLAST!

Maybe, if you have never attended, you feel that Conventions are designed for those with larger farms or folds, or with years of experience, or with deep pockets. Not so. Our Convention is for every single member, young or old. So please mark your calendar **AND...**

...follow the dream to Duluth, Minnesota!



For more information please contact:

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