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## Broderick Family Reinvents Glynn Farm



Jordan and Charli Broderick tending the beautiful Scottish Highland cattle

### New family new ideas

Scottish Highland cattle are making their debut appearance along the banks of the Oconto River thanks to the imagination and foresight of the Broderick family. Chris and Tina Broderick, who both have professional jobs off the farm, decided to get into cattle raising five or six years ago on land they were renting near White Potato Lake. Then, in 2022, they purchased the former Glynn Farm, just up the road from Meadow Brook Farm and a property known years ago for its dairy operations.



Charli at the Midwest Highland Cattle Association Show

Though they may seem out of place to the casual passerby, the shaggy beasts grazing the lush, sun-drenched pastures of Meadow Brook Farm on County Road J, in Couillardville, are just as happy in Wisconsin as their near relatives are on the cool, misty hillsides of their native Scotland.

These remarkable creatures are Scottish Highland cattle, a rustic breed developed over the last couple of centuries to thrive in the demanding, intemperate climate and topography of the Scottish Highlands and the Western Islands. They are distinguished by an unusual double coat of long, shaggy red-

brown to dun-colored hair that insulates them against extremely low temperatures and abundant rainfall. Perfect for their region of origin and for their adopted homeland in the Upper Midwest.

While not as massive as many other beef breeds, mature Scottish Highland heifers can still reach an impressive 1100 pounds and over 3-1/2 feet in height; mature bulls up to 1800 pounds and some 4-1/2 feet.

Considering the impressively long and wide horns displayed by both sexes, it's good that they are also known for their calm, unaggressive demeanor!

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The Brodericks, along with their daughter Charli and son Jordan, moved to their new farm in 2023. (Their two older sons, who live out of state, stay in close touch with home to learn new things they can apply in their own operations.)

“Chris and I had always talked about eventually getting some cattle to raise our own beef,” Tina recalls. “I had come across the Scottish Highland breed and fell in love with their looks, their temperament, and everything.”

As it happened she had joined the American Highland Cattle Association (AHCA) and discovered they were having their annual meeting near Milwaukee. So, the Brodericks headed downstate to find out more about raising beef cattle, especially Scottish Highlands.

“At the meeting,” says Charli, “I was introduced to the junior committees of two of the Highland groups there. I heard about this Cow Camp in Lower Michigan and headed over to learn about working with cattle. It really all started from there!”

Thanks to reliable contacts they had established through the AHCA with experienced experts in the business, the



Love and Trust are evident with Charli and the cows

Brodericks soon obtained a few head of Scottish Highland cattle. In early 2019, Chris had made arrangements to rent some range land not far from their home in Pound. After clearing it of hazards, planting pastures, and installing solar fencing, the small herd was introduced to their new Wisconsin home that autumn. Tabletop Acres was in business!

“I had never built a high-tensile fence before, having grown up used to my grandparent’s three-strand barbed wire fencing,” Chris explains. “Though these cattle are very trainable, having a sturdy fence is still important. I’m a bit of a perfectionist and I would say the fence has never been an issue with our cattle, either in Pound or here in Couillardville!”

According to Tina, the family went the first year without breeding their initial cow,

learning all the things they needed to know about animal husbandry. “Then we researched the process and ended up buying some semen from the lady who sold us the cow and found a local guy to do the insemination,” she explains. “The past two years, we have rented a really good bull each year from a nearby source.”



Charli at Cow Camp learning to lead this cow through the distracting hazards

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## Welcome to Couillardville

As Tabletop Acres became well known in the area for the quality of the beef they were producing, both retail and wholesale demand grew, leading to the need to add more and more cattle. Ultimately, that led to the need for greater acreage and last year's move to the new farm on Glynn Road.

"I thought we were going to have an opportunity to buy land near our home in Pound," Chris says. "But whenever we put an offer in on a piece of land we weren't even in the same ballpark!"

By coincidence, Chris and Tina had taken a trip to the Oconto area one Saturday to look at a farm that was for sale. It wasn't what they wanted so they drove around the area to see what alternatives they might find. "We happened to see one parcel that wasn't really for us," he adds, "but there was an attractive farm next door. I said to Tina it was a shame that little farm wasn't for sale. But as we drove to the end of the road, saw the 'For Sale' sign out front, and were immediately on the phone with the realtor!"

They put in an offer and, four or five days later, learned it had been accepted. Then began a crash project to get it ready for

the move, especially the fencing – Chris's forte!

Currently, about two-thirds of the property is fenced off with another six or eight acres on the north side scheduled for fencing next year. "Then we can really just keep them moving through the land with minimal effort," he explains. "Constant rotation provides benefits to the soil health, the forage plants, and, of course, the animals."

In addition to the cattle, the Brodericks also plan to expand the gardening and produce side of their business, as well as developing their poultry offering.



Cattle care and showing is exhausting.... Charli is catching a little rest here with her cattle at the fair

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### Beef in bulk

Tabletop Acres primarily markets bulk beef – quarter, half, or whole, but also has a thriving retail offering of individual cuts, ranging from ground beef, suet, and liver, to steaks, chops, and roasts. See their website at [www.tabletopacres.com](http://www.tabletopacres.com) for complete information.

Outstanding customer service is a fundamental commitment at Tabletop Aces. For example, as Tina reports, “The FedEx lady stopped by yesterday and told me her son is a chef at a restaurant in Appleton. So, I

sent her home with a couple of sample burgers to share with her son. That’s another great way to market this business.”

To the keen-eyed reader, the question may have occurred as to why several of the Broderick’s Scottish Highlands cattle are grazing the pasture at Meadow Brook Farm. Leon Janssen, the proprietor of this historic property that dates back to his maternal great grandparents, has the answer: “Like most people with longtime ties to Couillardville, I welcome any opportunity to help promote local activities, especially new residents who

are bringing new life to our are bringing new life to our community. In this case, the Broderick farm is just off County Road J and not as easily visible to passing motorists. So, I invited Chris and Tina to place a couple head of their Scottish Highland cattle in the pasture on Meadow Brook Farm, which directly adjoins County Road J on two sides and is more highly trafficked. Cars have been stopping roadside to look at the cattle and the farm, helping both become a destination for a ‘country ride’ to see these special cattle!”

Photos - Tina Broderick \* Writer/Editor - Gene Medford  
Interview/Layout - Leon Janssen



Tina, Chris and Jordan joined the Families of Couillardville at last summer’s Couillardville Memorial Park dedication of the prayer bench remembering Don & Betty Glynn



The Brodericks placed one cow of each typical Scottish Highland Cattle color at Meadow Brook Farm early in the summer. The cattle will rotate back to the Broderick (Glynn) Farm during the summer as Charli chooses selected cows and heifers to show at the cattle shows.