

John Cooper
Region 2 Director

Spring Trail Ranch began in June 2009 with an unusual event. As I was on top of the new barn's roof, for our four horses, finishing up installing the galvanized roof panels. My wife Yvonne shot down the hill screaming John, John, where are you ! Immediately I assumed something was wrong and shot up from a crawling position of installing screws into the roof panels and yelled what's wrong ! Oh nothing came from her voice. She then informed me she had just seen and copied this story on Fox TV about this man in California who had these adorable miniature cows called miniature herefords. We'll, right then and there, I knew I was in trouble ! After finishing up the roof panels, I drug my tired body into the house to see this copied video of this guy in California and these adorable mini cows. Well I have been to California over five times in a car, with and without air conditioning in the summer time. So I was not looking forward to explaining that to my wife who was all excited. Well I did enjoy the video and said surely somebody else in the country closer to us, being in North Carolina, would have some Miniature Herefords. After researching online and talking to several breeders for a month we ended up buying our initial stock of four heifers and a bull from Nebraska. Only 1250 miles from home ! Well the rest is history after numerous more purchases of mini's we have a herd of 75 ranging in age from two weeks to our old girl, 18 year old KAP Flora Rose out of the famous KAP King Henry. Flora just had a gorgeous heifer last October and has so every year since we purchased her. Our other animals include our Bouvier des Flanders dogs that we have bred since 1974. Thru the years in showing we had 29 Champions and several group winners. But the primary purpose of the Bouvier's is the protection of our property and people. Bouvier's are herding dogs with super temperament's and unwavering unending desire to defend their territory. They originated in Belgium and as a side note during WWII the Germans had a bounty on the Bouvier's as a feared adversary.

After retiring from the insurance industry several years ago, our mini's and Bouvier's are our full time passion. I love seeing each year what breeding combination produces and how to improve what I am doing with our mini's. To me it is very interesting to see each other breeders style of mini's through out the country. You can learn alot from each breeders efforts.

Interestingly thru the Covid 19 pandemic we have seen an tremendous upswing in the interest for mini's in the Southeast this past year. I believe since the average person is spending more time at home they have decided to put there land to work and / or they see the need to be self sufficient down the road.

It's a great time to be involved in the Miniature Herefords !

John Cooper