



THE
ABERDEEN-ANGUS
CATTLE SOCIETY



REVIEW

ISSUE NO. 103 | JANUARY 2021

Official Journal of the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society



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SENIOR STOCK BULL

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SIRE: WEDDERLIE KENYON N863

DAM: WEDDERLIE BLACKBIRD N868

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GREAT POTENTIAL.**

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E: info@oakmoorangus.co.uk | **W:** www.oakmoorangus.co.uk



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The Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society
Pedigree House
6 King's Place
Perth, Perthshire
Scotland PH2 8AD

Tel: +44 (0) 1738 622 477
Fax: +44 (0) 1738 636 436
Email: info@aberdeen-angus.co.uk
www.aberdeen-angus.co.uk

Edited, designed and artworked
by Pinstone Communications
Email: info@pinstone.co.uk

Natalie Cormack
Email: natalie.cormack@btconnect.com

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Words of Welcome from the CEO

Having had two years experience of producing the Review, overseeing the content and the format that it is finally published for you, I have had the rug pulled out from under my feet this year! COVID-19 has decimated the show and sale calendar throughout 2020, and therefore the content for the Review!

The usual 40 pages of show and sale results that fill the programme with the major shows that are covered by the Society, and also the shows that the regional clubs cover in their reports have not taken place and therefore show prize winners and top priced bulls, usually included in the Review makes this year's a very different one.

It's different in many ways to the norm, which we hope is a one-off but you will find interesting, and the show and sale season returns in 2021, enabling us to return to the usual format and content.

We have packed this year's issue with case studies from each of the geographical areas that we cover as

a Society, with breeders sharing their practices, breeding decisions and husbandry, and the reasons they keep breeding Aberdeen-Angus. We have looked at commercial farms as case studies this year too, so we can see what happens beyond the pedigree world and why commercial producers and finishers use Aberdeen-Angus genetics as opposed to other options.

We have increased the technical content which has been popular over the last two years of my editorial ship, as it were, and we hope that we are covering some of the technical fields that you find informative. We are also covering in quite some detail, our DNA programme and the what's, whys, and wherefores of the Society's chosen path.

I hope that you find this year's Review interesting, informative and educational all at the same time and above all enjoy the read.

Barrie L Turner
Chief Executive Officer

Contents

Welcome to the Review	1	AB Europe	76	Pengelli Farm Aberdeen-Angus	151
Contents	2	Genomics	78	Mogeely Aberdeen-Angus	152
Advertiser Index	4	Female Focus	80	Crann Mor Farm Aberdeen-Angus	154
A Review of 2020	5	Boosting Profits in a Suckler Herd	84	Tamneymullan Aberdeen-Angus	159
President's Focus	7	BCMS Update	87	Carrow Herd	160
News	8	Aberdeen-Angus Genetics		Ballykelly Aberdeen-Angus	161
Regional Clubs Map	11	Meet End Market Demand	90	
Highland Aberdeen-Angus	16	21st Century Carcase Weight Demands	92	SALES:	
North East Scotland Aberdeen-Angus	17	Why Have We Changed the		2020 Sales - A Year of Change	163
Aberdeen-Angus South West		DNA Testing Procedure	97	Stirling February Stirling Sale	169
Scotland Club	20	Realities of Working from Home	99	Dungannon December Sale	175
Aberdeen-Angus Border Club	21	The Unresearched Marketplace	100	Skipton Female Sale	176
PENWAC & North West		Pedigree House	102	Carlisle Online Timed Sale	178
Aberdeen-Angus Club	24		Carlisle October Sale	181
Solway Aberdeen-Angus Club	25	INTERNATIONAL UPDATE:		Stirling October Sale	182
East Anglia Club	27	Argentina	106	Thainstone Spring Show & Sale	186
South West Aberdeen-Angus Club	27	New Zealand	112	Royal Ulster Premier Championship	187
North East Club	30	Hungary	114	September Female Sale	190
Northern Ireland Aberdeen-Angus Club	32	Czech Republic	115	Champion of the Decade	192
Munster Aberdeen-Angus Club	36	Bulgaria	118	Borderway Agri-Expo 2021	197
Connaught Leinster		Portugal	120	Ireland Sales Reports	199
Aberdeen-Angus Club	37	Canada	122	Dungannon February Show & Sale	204
Central Aberdeen-Angus Club	38	Switzerland	123	Dungannon October Sale	206
South East Club	39	USA	124	Stirling May Sale	208
Fees and Charges	40	Brazil	126	
Technical Committee Report	46	France	127	Youth Development Programme	210
GoodBeef Index	48		2020 Photo Gallery	226
A Guide to Social Media	49	MEMBER FOCUS:		Recipes from Ballindalloch	230
Beef - The End Game!	55	South West Scotland	129	Nostalgia	232
200 Years of Aberdeen-Angus		Scotland: Swordale	135	Moving in a New Direction	236
at Ballindalloch	58	Tynet Aberdeen-Angus	137	Partnering with Pinstone	237
Changes to Tagging Legislation		Preston Farm Aberdeen-Angus	139	Obituaries	238
Post-BREXIT	62	Oakchurch Aberdeen-Angus	142	Contact the Office	244
BREEDPLAN Calving Ease	66	Thrunton Aberdeen-Angus	144	Willie McLaren-Netherton	245
Tesco & Foyle	68	Wick Farm Aberdeen-Angus	146	Bye-Laws	247
New Standard for British Beef	70	Glasnant Aberdeen-Angus	150	Sales Entry Criteria	252
Sire Verified Update	72				

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Advertiser index

Oakmoor	IFC	IdentiGEN	71	Rodmead	157
Neogen	3	SRUC/PCHS	73	Duncanziemere	158
Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association	4	AB Europe	74	Melview Angus	168
NFU	6	Genus	75	Hawkley Red Angus	172
West Mercia & Wales		Rawburn	82	McCornick Aberdeen-Angus	173
Aberdeen-Angus Club	10	Balaldie	88	Mosshall	174
North East Scotland		Windy Gowl	89	Glenade	179
Aberdeen-Angus Club	12	United Auctions	94	Lindertis	180
South East of England		Biobest	94	Old Glenort Angus	184
Aberdeen-Angus Club	14	Rodmead Scotland	95	Norbreck	188
South West of England		Dowbiggin Marketing	96	Wildfell	189
Aberdeen-Angus Club	18	Kilmaluag Herd	104	South West Scotland Aberdeen-Angus	
Highland Area Aberdeen-Angus Club	22	Watton Herd	105	Club	191
Border Aberdeen-Angus Club	26	UK Sire Services	105	Strathglass Aberdeen-Angus	193
Solway and Tyne Aberdeen-Angus Club	28	Harrison and Hetherington	108	Easton Grey Angus	194
Millstones	30	Tynet Aberdeen-Angus	108	Warrenho	195
East Anglia Club	31	Tonley Aberdeen-Angus	110	Penguin Aberdeen-Angus	196
Gannon Herd Red Angus	33	Standlynch Aberdeen-Angus	116	Bosulloch Herd	196
Central Scotland Aberdeen-Angus Club	34	Barnsview Aberdeen-Angus	117	St Fort Farm	198
Northern Ireland Aberdeen-Angus Club	41	Ballinwing Aberdeen-Angus	117	Rantirov	198
PENWAC Club	42	Wedderlie	121	Morrison Aberdeen-Angus	202
North East of England		Cardona Aberdeen-Angus	128	Morpheus Angus	202
Aberdeen-Angus Club	44	Yearsley Aberdeen-Angus	133	Curzon Aberdeen-Angus	224
Shadwell Aberdeen-Angus	52	Drumhill	134	Aynho Aberdeen-Angus	228
MacGregor Photography	54	Rulesmains	141	Tofts Aberdeen-Angus	229
Eggs-port	57	Nightingale	147	Tyndale Veterinary	246
Deveron Aberdeen-Angus	60	Stouphill	147	Oakchurch & Owen	255
Shearwell Data	63	Rosemead & McClemens	148	Oakchurch	256
Blelack Herd	64	Ballindalloch	156	Idvies	IBC
Foyle	69				



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For more information contact Association Secretary Kathryn Bradshaw:

Main Street, Mohill, Co Leitrim, Ireland

e: irishaberdeenangus@eircom.net t: 071 9632099  [@IrishAberdeenAngus](https://www.facebook.com/IrishAberdeenAngus)

A Review of 2020 from the CEO



2020 will go down in the record books for so many reasons and little did we know when we held our Annual General Meeting at the Bull sales in February just how different a year we were going to have. Council met in March, as we always do, and that has been the last part of 2020 that has been normal!

The 23rd March 2020 will be a day that I will never forget, when the Prime Minister announced a national lockdown, closing businesses for an unknown length of time, leading to a huge impact on every sector of business. Pedigree House was no exception and with the guidelines on non-essential offices to close we took the decision to ask the staff to work from home so that we could continue our activities and keep our member services going. We did not envisage at that point that we would still be doing this eight months later and at the time of writing, it is not the end of this yet.

I owe a great debt of gratitude to all the staff in Pedigree House for keeping things going, accepting the challenges that we faced and the constraints that not working together as a team has presented. It's been a difficult year to keep up with the administration and a demonstration of how much we are on a shoestring with regards to the tasks that we have to deliver to you as members, and the resources that we have to achieve that. We have spent a lot of time, energy and effort in keeping services as near to normal as we possibly can.

Everyday lives have changed for consumers and the inability to 'eat out' led to increases of home consumption of red meat and a demand that supply chain could not cater for, for several reasons. Abattoir capacities in boning halls were reduced because of social distancing requirements, therefore reducing throughput and the shelves were stripped bare of meat

in the retailers. There was huge support from consumers at that time and reported uplifts from members who have farm shops and family butchers with people buying local, appreciating the quality, personal service and advice that local shops can offer. This is a trend that has continued and long may it continue. It seems that people traded-up a bit too, spending a copper or two more on meat and buying our brand of beef when they bought it, to help guarantee a good quality eating experience.

The lockdown had little effect on the farming community as it happened, at a time of year when most farming families are self-isolating anyway, calving, lambing and land work at that time of year takes precedence.

Our Committees and Council Meetings have all been on Zoom since the March Council Meeting, Zoom is the new normal where virtual meetings have taken place outside our normal get-togethers and progress has been made on a number of projects. If someone had told me last year that I would be spending 15 to 20 hours a week talking to my laptop, I would have questioned their sanity!

Thanks, must go again to the Chairs of the Committees and Committee Members for adopting the new normal and making themselves available for more meetings than usual to keep things going.

We started the year with a plan to focus and deliver on several initiatives, with one of the major ones being a review of our DNA testing and handling of DNA. This has been a huge piece of work with the implementation of a new ABRI module that is a standard package which we have had to tweak in so many ways to help us manage our programme. This has been a great deal more onerous than anyone imagined and has led, on top of many other factors, to a hold-up in our registration process, but the

end is in sight and efficiencies will be delivered and the investment we are making now will pay dividends in the long-term.

Breed promotions this year have been hampered, with all but one or two of our shows and sales being cancelled this has meant that we have had to look at different ways to promote our breed. The adoption of the four key pillars of focus that we are developing alongside our new Marketing team are Farmer level, Processor level, Retailer level and Consumer level. This is with the aim to keep the demand for Aberdeen-Angus stock, and beef there, and to raise awareness all through the supply chain that Aberdeen-Angus cattle and beef have many advantages that can offer a fantastic business model for the commercial producer to be profitable.

Focus on marketing females is our initiative and will be as we go into the next year or two, and make sure that our industry is in no doubt that the pure female Aberdeen-Angus has a lot to offer the farmers even as a commercial entity.

Financially we will also be having a very different year, some costs are down but on the other hand some are up, making the yearly benchmark comparisons difficult and overall we have come out on the right side of the line.

The YDP has had a difficult year with no workshops being able to take place at all, and none of the usual fixtures of conferences and finals. Really pleased though that all

breeders offering workshops this year have stood on and will hopefully get some young visitors throughout the summer of 2021 and the programme will return to normal working. Well done to Tina and the team for sticking to the task and coming up with alternative initiatives to keep the interest in the YDP going.

There were two big highlights that would have been part of my year. One is the visit to the Castle of Mey to meet our Patron and the other was the European Secretariat which this year would have been hosted by German Angus, providing the opportunity to integrate with all of our fellow breed organisations in Europe, neither of which were able to take place.

I would like to thank President Alan Cheney and the Council for his and their constant support for me and the staff at Pedigree House throughout the year, having someone just to call on with the experience that Alan has had over the years being in the Society and his business in Ireland, has been very welcome.

I would also like to thank you, the membership for your support in working our way through what has been and will continue to be for some time very challenging conditions.

Barrie L. Turner - CEO

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- A pain or lump in your stomach

If you have concerns or things just don't feel right, go to your doctor www.bowelcanceruk.org.uk



President's Focus

Alan and his wife Lana own and run the Lana Herd of Aberdeen-Angus cattle in Trillick, Co. Tyrone, Northern Ireland. He runs 50 pedigree Aberdeen-Angus cows on poor quality land, in wet conditions. Alan has been involved with Council for over 10 years, initially through the Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association.

It was a privilege and very unexpected three-years-ago to be asked to become President. I knew there would be lots of challenges, but certainly not the ones we have faced in 2020 with COVID-19.

I would like to thank all the Council members for their support and hard work during the course of the year. I think that members sometimes forget Council are all volunteers who give their time freely, alongside running their own businesses to make decisions for the good of this great breed and its membership.

I would also like to thank Paul Jeenes, past President, David Ismail, Senior Vice President and Angus Stovold, Junior Vice President, for their support and help throughout the year. Thanks also to Barrie Turner and all the staff in Pedigree House for their hard work and efforts to implement the decisions made at Council.

As President, I very much wanted Council meetings to be as productive as possible, so the brief for each Committee Chairperson was to focus on the important issues and bring just their conclusions to the final Council meeting.

We all gathered for the March meetings, not realising it would be the last in the normal format. COVID-19 has changed life for everyone, but it is important to remember it has not had the same effect on the day-to-day life of farmers, as it has in almost every other industry. Thankfully, life on the farm has continued almost as normal. In contrast, Pedigree House staff are now having to deal with the isolation of working from home and the challenges of sorting out problems when not all together in one office, so I would ask for patience from members when solutions don't come as quickly as they otherwise would have. I believe that at the time of writing this, we have some further months of restrictions to go.

The Articles of Association of the Society require Council members to maintain unimpaired and verify the purity of the breed. Therefore, Council felt it was important to use every technology available to protect the Aberdeen-Angus breed, brand and membership. This was the driver behind moving to 50k SNP DNA testing. Not only are all bull calves DNA profiled at registration, in a further move, all females at registration of their first calf will be sire verified. As with all new systems, the staff and Barrie have had to resolve all the problems arising from a system change. I also felt my role as President was to support the CEO where possible trying to reduce his workload. I hope I have done this.

Council and Committee meetings have changed completely - they are now held on Zoom. Although we have lost the face-to-face contact, it's easier to have a meeting at short notice or have several instead of one. I think Council meetings will have changed forever and in more normal times, the number of trips to Pedigree House will be reduced.

Unfortunately, there has been no show season, no trips anywhere and it has been a long summer from a social point of view, with no opportunity to meet friends throughout the country. COVID-19 has also meant all YDP activities have been stopped or put on hold. Let's hope for some normality next year.

On the plus side, demand for Aberdeen-Angus beef is still strong with the retailers, a relationship Barrie and Council are continually improving. With the continued demand for Aberdeen-Angus beef comes the continued demand for bulls and trade has been good throughout 2020. The need for Angus bulls in the dairy sector is continually rising and persuading the dairy farmer to buy the best quality bull available is something we have promoted through 2020. Export market uncertainty has led breed promotion to focus on activities promoting the benefits and savings to be made by using on Angus females over continental to the suckler farmer.

With Brexit approaching, Barrie and Society have been working hard to make sure we have no problems with registration of Irish and European cattle after 31st December, but this is still work in progress.

I will end by saying it has been a privilege to be President, although sometimes trying! I would wish David Ismail and the new Council every success in 2021 and as past President, will offer my support with all the challenges the council will face in the year ahead.

Alan Cheney

President 2020 - 2021



Queen's New Year's Honours List – Geordie Soutar MBE

2019 ended in smashing style for Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society member, Geordie Soutar. He's been recognised for his and the family's effort's in keeping and maintaining a global genetic pool of Native Aberdeen-Angus cattle, for which he has been awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours List

The Forfar farmer Geordie is well known throughout the Aberdeen-Angus breeders, has been awarded this honour for his role in ensuring that the Native Angus cattle were never lost to the world.

The Dunlouis Herd based at Kingston, near Forfar in the county of Angus has demand from all over the globe for its cattle, and Geordie has built a network of breeders in many different parts of the world to spread the risk of any disastrous happenings that could wipe out the Native Angus gene pool. A conscious decision to preserve and ensure that the breed will always be there.

The breed's history draws international visitors to the county of Angus and many, many visitors are entertained by the Soutar Family.

Geordie Soutar MBE can take pride in the fact that through his devotion to Native Angus cattle he has justly and deservedly received recognition for his cause.





New Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association President Takes Office for 2020

John McEnroe of the Liss Aberdeen-Angus herd in Oldcastle, Co Meath, officially took up the position of President of the Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association at the Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association's annual AGM at the Mullingar Park Hotel, Mullingar in mid-February 2020.

Speaking after his appointment to the role of President, John had the following to say:

"I would like to thank the Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association for entrusting me with the honour and privilege of serving as your President. It is my second time to take on the position of President and I'm sure I'll be able to utilise my previous experiences in the role to my fullest advantage over the coming term. I hope to see the Aberdeen-Angus breed continue to cement its place

as the breed of choice amongst factories, supermarkets and consumers, and I look forward to introducing new marketing materials over the next few weeks which will help to encourage farmers to source better quality Aberdeen-Angus bulls during the breeding season, which will ensure that the quality of the Aberdeen-Angus cattle on the ground continues to go from strength to strength".

Eustace Burke of the Clontead Aberdeen-Angus herd was elevated to the position of Senior Vice-President of the Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association whilst John Blackburn of the Killaney Aberdeen-Angus herd joined the presidential table, taking on the role of Junior Vice-President of the Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association.



West Mercia & Wales Aberdeen–Angus Club

In the heart of England and Wales

Chairman Jeremy Price T:01981 500038 E:jeremy@oakchurchfarm.co.uk

Secretary Kathryn Hart T: 07887 654 898 E: kathart.ball@gmail.com Treasurer Angela Robertson T: 01386 462 384

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A & C Sutherland,
Manor Farm, Abberton,
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Llandovery,
Carmarthenshire.
SA20 OHA
01550 720579
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glasnant@hotmail.com



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Brackley, Northants, NN13 5LW
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Strops, TF9 2LY
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Astwoodbank, Redditch,
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Paul & Kirsty Westaway
Gamage Hall Farm,
Dymock, Gloucester,
GL18 2AE
01531 890411
07814 537462
paul@melviewangus.co.uk



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Woodston Manor Partnership,
Woodston Manor,
Tenbury Wells,
Worcester, WR15 8JG
Tel: 01584 881657
Email: emma@woodstonmanor.co.uk



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NP25 4HY
Tel: 01600 713102
Simon: 07828301302
Email: elmviewherd@googlemail.com



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Messrs WA Robertson
Nightingale Farm, Bishampton,
Pershore, Worcester, WR10 2NH
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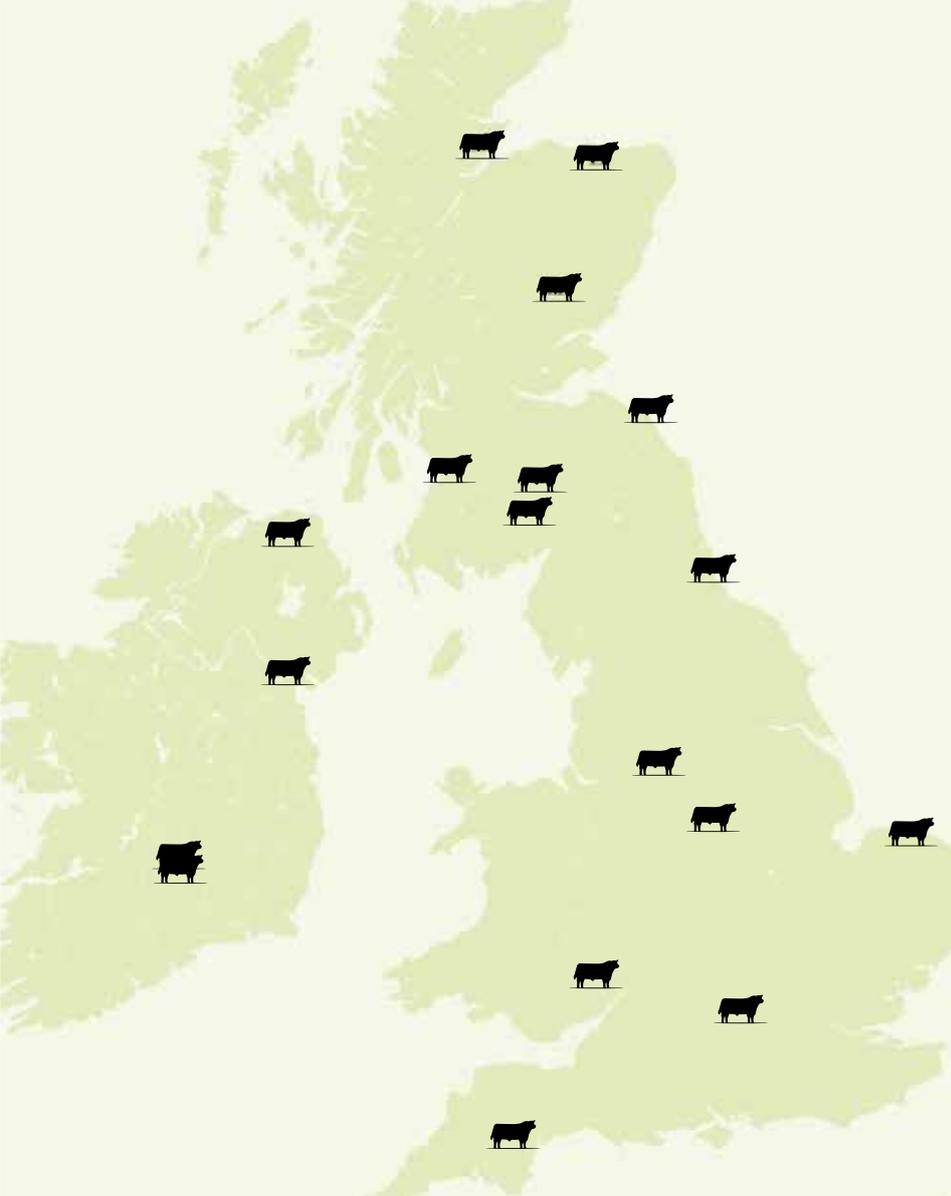
FLEWITT

S J Thomas & family
Clawdd Y Mynach
Monknash,
Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan,
CF71 7QP
Tel: 01656 890015
Email: anya-thomas@hotmail.co.uk



New members always welcome

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The Aberdeen-Angus Clubs

The Clubs play an essential part in what we do representing the Breed and the Society around the shows in their regions, as well as organising meetings, herd walks and competitions throughout the year.

It is the intention of the Society to help the Clubs engage more with promoting in their area and start to play an essential role in the publicising of the breed and the brand going forward. If you are reading this and are not a member of your local Club and have an interest in learning more about membership benefits, contact the Secretary in your local area.

We will be making some investments this year to encourage the Clubs to be 'legs on the ground' in spotting opportunities to help us market the breed and the brand going forward.

The regional Clubs are not just for breeders, but for anyone with an interest in Aberdeen-Angus Cattle - be it breeding, beef or just would like to be a part of the story going forward.

www.aberdeen-angus.co.uk/
the-society/regional-clubs/

Gill MacGregor, Secretary

HIGHLAND AREA A-A CLUB

1 Raddery, Fortrose, Ross-Shire. IV10 8SN.
 Tel: 01381 620570
 Email: gillian.macgregor@btconnect.com

Claire Johnstone, Secretary

NORTH-EAST SCOTLAND A-A CLUB

Meikle Maldron, Torphins, By Banchory, Aberdeenshire. AB31 4NR. Mobile: 07766 409316
 Email: aa.in.nescotland@gmail.com

Elaine Smith, Secretary

CENTRAL SCOTLAND A-A CLUB

Incheoch Farm, Alyth, Blairgowrie, Perthshire. PH11 8HJ. Tel: 01828 633709 Mobile: 07719 440542
 Email: ecd_007@hotmail.com

Natalie Cormack, Secretary

BORDER A-A CLUB

Dairy Cottage, Tower Road, Ayton, Eyemouth, Berwickshire. TD14 5QX. Tel: 01890 781006
 Email: natalie.cormack@btconnect.com

Shona Andrew, Secretary

SOUTH-WEST SCOTLAND A-A CLUB

25 Burgoyne Drive, Coylton, Ayrshire. KA26 6PB.
 Tel: 07912 783719
 Email: swsaberdeenangus@hotmail.co.uk

Mrs M. Hamnett, Secretary

PENWAC,

Upper Waterside Farm, Disley, Nr Stockport, Cheshire. SK12 2HJ. Tel: 01663 767877
 Email: olivham@btinternet.com

Mrs Sophie Chrystal, Secretary

NORTH-EAST ENGLAND A-A CLUB

Wingate Grange Farm, Wingate, Co Durham. TS28 5LX. Tel: 07763 891772
 Email: sophiechrystal@outlook.com

Tom Peters, Esq., Chairman

SOLWAY A-A CLUB

Longbank, Kirkmahoe, Duncow, Dumfries. DG1 1TE.
 Tel: 07711 995420 Email: tomp1418@hotmail.com

Miss Katherine Hart, Secretary

WEST MERCIA A-A CLUB

St Dials Farm, Monmouth, Wales. NP25 4HY
 Tel: 01600 713102 Email: issyhart@hotmail.co.uk

Mrs Megan Atkins, Secretary

EAST ANGLIA A-A CLUB

Hawthorn Farm, High Road, Briston, Norfolk. NR24 2JQ Tel: 07979 108714
 Email: matkins8nr@gmail.com

M. Spooner, Esq., Secretary

SOUTH-EAST ENGLAND A-A CLUB

Honeysuckle Cottage, Kingwood, Henley, Oxon. RG9 5NT. Tel: 01491 628637
 Email: kingwoodangus@aol.com

Becca Thomas, Secretary

SOUTH-WEST ENGLAND A-A CLUB

May Cottage, 4 The Teeds, Woodbury, Exeter, Devon. EX5 1LQ. Mobile: 07929 982297
 Email: beccaswaac@hotmail.com

Miss Catherine O'Hara, Secretary

NORTHERN IRELAND A-A CLUB

Innisfayle, 130 Mullan Road, Granagh, Rasharkin, Ballymena, Co Antrim, N. Ireland. BT44 8SH.
 Tel 028 29571092 Mobile: 07968 868001
 Email: granagh@btinternet.com

Ciaran Gorman, Esq., Secretary

CONNAUGHT & LEINSTER A-A CLUB

Tankardsrock, Kilkierley, Dundalk, Co Louth, Rep of Ireland. Tel: 086 3918988
 Email: claaclub@hotmail.com & ciarangorman321@gmail.com

Edward Dudley, Esq., Secretary

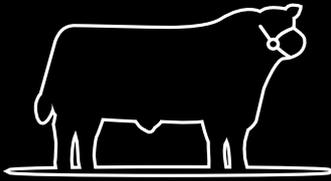
MUNSTER A-A CLUB

Kilsunny House, Dovea, Thurles, Co Tipperary, Rep of Ireland. Tel: 086 3559210
 Email: castleloughangus@hotmail.com

John Forrestal, Esq., Secretary

SOUTH-EAST IRELAND A-A CLUB

Curraheen, Shanbough, Via New Ross, Co Kilkenny, Rep of Ireland. Tel: 087 2632004
 Email: dextaman2004@yahoo.co.uk



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02

GLENBERVIE

Glenbervie Aberdeen-Angus Ltd,
Glenbervie Home Farm, Glenbervie,
Stonehaven, Kincardineshire. AB39 3YA
Tel: 01569 740280 Mob: 07802 327438

03

GLASSEL

Glassel Farms Ltd, Mains of Glassel,
Glassel, Banchory, Aberdeenshire AB31 4DH
Tel: 07785 301551

04

TYNET

Messrs H & C Thomson, The Cottage,
Burnside of Tynet Farm, Clochan,
By Buckie AB56 5HN Tel: 07764 860816

05

LOGIE

AJR Farms, Milton of Collieston,
Ellon, Aberdeenshire, AB41 8RG
Tel: 01358 751752 / 07771 348299 (Andrew Reid)

06

BURNSIDE

Ms P Hepburn, Burnside,
Tankerness, Orkney KW17 2QS
Tel: 01856 861382 Mob: 07771 675839

07

RETANACH

J and A Strathdee, North Retanach,
Rothiemay, Huntly, Aberdeenshire. AB54 7NU
Tel: 01466 711274

08

AUCHINCRIEVE

C and E McCombie, Auchincrieve,
Knock, Huntly, Aberdeenshire. AB54 7JR
Tel: 01466 711244

09

YONVERTON

L & M Henderson, Yonderton Farm,
Hatton, Peterhead AB42 0QS
Mob: 07796 120255
murray@yondertonfarm.co.uk

10

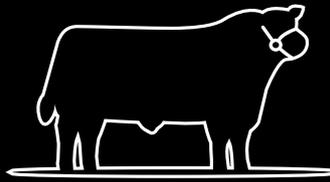
BALLINDALLOCH

Ballindalloch Home Farms Ltd,
Estate Office, Ballindalloch,
Banffshire. AB37 9AX
Tel: 01807 500205
Herd manager Tel: 01807 500329

11

DEVERON

Hamish W Sclater, Denhead Farms,
Dunlugas, Turriff,
Aberdeenshire. AB53 4NR
Tel: 01261 821236 Mob: 07779 337621



12

TONLEY

Neil A Wattie, Mains of Tonley, Alford,
Aberdeenshire. AB33 8EL
Tel: 019755 62533 Mob: 07803 186748

13

CAIRNTON

Ken and Margaret Howie, Cairnton,
Lumphanan, Banchory,
Kincardineshire. AB31 4QP.
Tel: 013398 83536

14

FOGGIE

Karl Scott, Foggie Farm,
South Brownhill, Turriff,
Aberdeenshire. AB53 4GZ
Tel: 07774 600254
email: karl@foggiefarm.com

15

SILVERMOSS

Rod and Mary Sloan,
Silvermoss, Barthol Chapel, Inverurie,
Aberdeenshire AB51 8TL
Tel: 01651 806850 Fax: 01467 624418

16

BRAEVIEW

George Corsar, Mains of Loanhead Bothy,
Old Rayne, Inch, Aberdeenshire AB52 6SX
Tel: 07967 683830

17

PERKHILL

Alex and Philippa Davie, Bankhead,
Perkhill, Lumphanan, Banchory,
Aberdeenshire, AB31 4RB
Tel: 01339 883636/07778 964438

18

WRAE

Alexander J Norrie, Wrae Farm,
Turriff, Aberdeenshire. AB53 4RB
Tel/Fax: 01888 563595
Mob: 07774 287332

19

STRATHINVER

Wendy Willox, Broadmyre,
Clatt, Huntly, Aberdeenshire AB54 4PQ
Tel: 07718 316470

20

BENACHIE

Sandy Stronach, North Skelmanae,
Strichen, Fraserburgh,
Aberdeenshire AB43 6SE
Tel: 07786 105586

21

NEWCAIRNIE

Angela McGregor, Auchenuive,
Whiterashes, Aberdeen, AB21 0QQ
Tel: 01651 882381 Mob: 07515 638592

22

SCOTSMILL

Messrs W A L Lawson, Scotsmill,
Tullynessle, Alford AB33 8QF
Tel: 019755 62014

23

CARDENWELL

Mr G Willox, Meikle Pitinnan
Oldmeldrum, Aberdeenshire, AB51 0EH
Mob: 07585 601984

24

BREGACH

A Locke, Glenrinnas Farms Ltd,
Glenrinnas Lodge, Dufftown, Keith,
Banffshire, AB55 4BS
Tel: 01340 820384 (Office)

25

ARDOYNE

H and H Rennie, Westfield of Ardoyne,
Insch, Aberdeenshire. AB52 6RN.
Tel: 01464 820325

26

BLELACK

N F Massie and Sons, Blelack, Dinnet,
Aboyne, Aberdeenshire, AB34 5NH
Tel: 01339 886013 (Neil)
or 07753 748023 (Graeme)
massieblelack@hotmail.co.uk

27

MORRISON

Duncan J Morrison, Meikle Maldron,
Torphins, Banchory, AB31 4NR
Tel: 07919 083798

28

NEWTON MUCHALS

Newton Smiddy
Lyne of Skene, Aberdeen, AB32 7DA
Tel: 07729 300062 (Ray Gardinder)

29

BIRKENBOWER

GCR Miller, Birkenbower, Lumsden,
Huntly, Aberdeenshire, AB54 4JW
Tel: 07792 190110

30

NEWTON-STRUTHERS

ACK Rhind & Son, Newton of Struthers
Kinloss, Moray IV36 2UD
Tel: 07721 386802

31

GLENLIVET

DGR Durno & Sons, Auchorachan,
Glenlivet, Ballindalloch, AB37 9DN
Tel: 07718 467868 (Michael Durno)

32

LITTLE GLENCOE

Bruce & Becky MacAngus, Little Glencoe,
Maud, Aberdeenshire, AB42 5PG
Tel: 07917 758668

**CLAIRE JOHNSTONE, SECRETARY, NORTH EAST ABERDEEN-ANGUS CLUB,
MEIKLE MALDRON, TORPHINS, ABERDEENSHIRE AB31 4NR**

TEL: 07766 409 316 E-MAIL: aa.in.nescotland@gmail.com

SOUTH EAST OF ENGLAND ABERDEEN-ANGUS CLUB

ADAMS

Mr & Mrs AJ Adams
Vines Farm Estate Office
Cane End, Reading
Berks, RG4 9HG
01189 723 259

ADSTOCK

Miss A Randall
Pear Tree Farm, Adstock
Buckingham, MK18 2JL
01296 714 377

BRAMSHAW HILL

Mr & Mrs H Smith
South Bank, High Street, Fovant
Salisbury, Wilts, SP35 5JL
01722 714 641

CALBOURNE

Mrs VM Jackson
Russett Mead, School Lane
Calbourne, Isle of Wight
PO30 4JD
01983 531 347

CROSSFIELDS

The Bissett Trust
Court Farm, Rag Hill
Aldermaston, RG7 4NT
01189 712 574

DITSWORTHY

Dan Bradbury,
4 Hunter Road,
Southgate, Crawley,
W. Sussex, RH10 6DD
07758 819761

EASTON GREYS

Easton Grey House
Easton Grey
Malmesbury,
Wilts, SN16 0PH
07932 914 302 - Matt Stoker

ELLSMEAD

Messrs L Reeves & L Wills
Ells Farm, Brookwood
Ockley, Surrey, RH5 5NH
01306 627 222

FRICKLEY

Mr & Mrs DJ Isaac
Burnt Barns Farm, Frickley Lane
Battle, East Sussex, TN33 9LZ
01424 892 358

FURZELEASE

John Edgley & Sue Poulton
Furzelease Farm, Tisbury Row
Salisbury, Wilts, SP3 6RZ
01747 870 509

GLENADE

Michael & John O'Hara Pinner
Park Farm, George V Av.
Pinner, Middlesex, HA5 4SU
07831 326 453

HARTLEY

Ruth Perry
33 Hartley Court Gardens
Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3QY
07814 160 526

HATCHPEN

James Boulton
Hatchpen, Reed
Royston, SG8 8AZ
07969 020 219
james.boulton@randbrothers.
co.uk

HAWKLEY (RED ANGUS)

Mr R Whitcombe
Berry Grove Farm,
Hawkley Road, Liss,
Hants, GU33 6JP
07968 182 651
www.hawkleyherd.co.uk

INNES

Mr & Mrs J Hadfield
Mellow Farm, Dockenfield
Farnham, Surrey, GU10 4HH
01428 717 815
07501 721 724
james.hadfield@btconnect
.com

KINGWOOD

Mr & Mrs MC Spooner
Honeysuckle Cottage
Kingwood
Henley-on-Thames
Oxon, RG9 5NT
01491 628 637

MARCHANTS

Mr & Mrs J Heagerty
Marchants Farm, Street Lane
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01273 890 616

MCCLEMENS

c/o Angus Stovold
Field Place, Compton
Guildford, Surrey, GU3 1EQ
07768 721 204
info@aberdeenangus.co.uk

NOIR

Thomas Beadle
Lone Barn Farmhouse Hook
Lane, Puttenham Guildford,
Surrey GU3 1AN
noiraberdeenangus@
gmail.com

 **PERRYWOOD**

J & S Maiklem
Dean Farm, Honeycrook
Lane, Salfords, Redhill
RH1 5JN
01737 761 823

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Richard Mortimore
Home Farm, Tilgate Forest
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RH11 9AF
01444 400 391
07768 106 926
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Mr A Neish
Rodmead Farm
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www.aberdeenangus.co.uk

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Mr TA Foster
Bunkers Hill Farm, Reading
Road Rotherwick
Hook, Hants
RG27 9DA
01256 760 109

 **RYCOTE**

Messrs BJ Taylor
Rycote Park Farm
Nr Thame, OX9 2PE
07708 486 055 - Per Hugo
Comyn

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Paul Carter
Allendale Farm
Great Shefford
Berkshire RG17 7DG
01488 648 384

 **STANDLYNCH**

Mr & Mrs AG Carter
Standlynch Farm, Downton
Salisbury, Wilts, SP53 3QU
01722 710 382

 **STARROCK**

Mr & Mrs P Churchill
Starrock Farm, Chipstead
Coulsdon, Surrey, CR5 3QB
01737 556 613

 **STOWE**

R & J Tofield
Littleoaks Farm, Gawcott
Buckingham, MK18 4BU
01280 817 211

 **SUNOAK**

Mr K Booker
Sunoak Farm
Hammer Ponds Road
Horsham, West Sussex
RH13 6PJ
07887 632 456

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Jan Boomars
Heathdown, The Ridge
Woldingham, Surrey
01883 653 064
www.vexour.com

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Mr & Mrs Hale
Bardon Farm, Ware Park
Ware, Herts, SG12 0LB
01920 462 209

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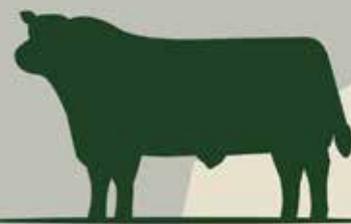
AE & CR Bishop
Church Farm
Finchampstead
Wokingham, Berks, RG40 4LS
01189 732 232

 **WINGFIELD**

Mr John Coultrip
Wingfield Farm, Eastling
Faversham, Kent, ME13 0BS
01795 890 278

 **WINSLOW**

Mr TW Ives & Sons
Berry Leys Farm
East Claydon Road
Winslow, Bucks, MK18 3ND
01296 712 633



Chairman: Robert Whitcombe - 07968 182 651

Vice Chairman: John O'Hara - 07831 326 453

Hon. Secretary: Mike Spooner - 01491 628 637 - kingwoodangus@aol.com

For information on club events and members' cattle for sale, visit the club's website...

www.seenglandaberdeenangus.com

Highland Area Aberdeen-Angus

AGM

We were lucky enough to manage to host our 43rd AGM before COVID-19 lockdown rules hit the country! We enjoyed a fabulous evening at the Carnegie Lodge Hotel, Tain and welcomed back our guest speaker for the evening, Eddie Gillanders, accompanied by his able assistant and wife, Marion. Eddie gave us an entertaining and informal chat about his recent study tour around the USA.

We were also joined for the evening by CEO Barrie Turner. He kindly gave our report from Council.

Our herd judges Nancy and Russell Taylor also made another trip north to join us and present their prize winners for our pedigree herd competition. Nancy and Russell very generously gifted the Club with a beautiful quaich that will now be presented to the Reserve Stock Bull winner. We will call it the Moncur Quaich in their honour.

CLUB TRIP

The Club were very much looking forward to their annual trip and this year we were going to visit the Rosemead herd by kind invitation of Angus Stovold. Other herds and details of the trip were being finalised when it became apparent that due to the pandemic, we were going to have to postpone this trip.

SHOW SEASON

As with everything else, all our local shows were cancelled, so the Club decided to hold their own virtual show using our Facebook page. We organised a team of five judges from local Young Farmers Clubs and gave them a point scoring system to reach their decisions. We were delighted that local branches of companies came on-board and we had fantastic prizes to be won. The



members responded to this fun event by submitting over 70 entries, spread over four male and four female classes. These entries have been put into albums on our page if anyone wants to view the amazing stock and scenery our Club has to offer.

Our overall champion was Sworddale with the bull Sworddale Elton U275. This bull also won at the virtual Royal Highland Show. Our reserve overall champion was Balaldie with the cow Balaldie Proud Petra M520. The Calf Champion was Ballindalloch, with Ballindalloch Euro W609.

MICRO TOUR

Following on from the success of last year's trips to members herds, the plan was to visit the Strathglass herd by kind permission of Sheena Thomson. Other herds had yet to be arranged, but the day was to be rounded off with a BBQ at the Raddery herd. Sadly, this was yet another casualty of COVID-19. So instead, for a bit of fun, we headed to our Facebook page and held a caption competition. A prize of a bottle of whisky was kindly donated by Helen Laing and Kim MacKenzie,

and the worthy winner was Cara Thomson from the Tynet herd.

As the country continues to navigate its way through this virus, we can only hope that 2021 will bring back some much-needed normality within our industry and our daily lives and normal Club activities can resume!

HAAAC Show Herd of The Year 2019

1st Newton-Struthers

2nd Ballindalloch

3rd Galcantray

HAAAC Pedigree Herd of The Year 2019

1st Quanterness

2nd Ballindalloch

3rd Isauld

HAAAC Stock Bull Of The Year 2019

Skitten with Skitten Evan P617

Reserve

Kilmaluag with Retties
Euromillions R307



COVID-19 has had a massive impact on our daily lives in the farming community. It has been important as a Club to consider the safety surrounding the virus during these uncertain times.

SHOW CIRCUIT

During the show season, we would have attended our usual agricultural shows with our Club caravan. Following on from the Royal Highland Show, we would have attended Echt, Banchory and Turriff. One of these shows would have been our compulsory show for our Summer Herd Competition. Many of our exhibitors would enter, putting forward some of their best livestock to compete against others. Points

from the compulsory show alongside another two shows of the exhibitor's choice in the local area are collated to determine the winner.

NEW HANDLERS DAY

As a Club, we like to support both young and new handlers to the show circuit. This is usually a great way for new Club members to get involved. New skills are gained from the guidance and assistance of our experienced stockmen and women. The workshops included are washing, dressing and clipping ready for the showing. We usually have a go at making a few halters too!

YDP WORKSHOP

Last year, our local workshop was to be held at Deveron Aberdeen-Angus, Turriff, by kind permission of Hamish & Margaret Sclater. This had to be cancelled, but we are looking forward to the postponed date for the future.

BLACK BEAUTY BONANZA

This event is always the highlight of our year! It would normally be held at

ANM Group, Thainstone, Inverurie in November. We would normally have an entry of around 110 calves and yearlings from entries from around 30 different pedigree herds. Over the past few years, the quality of the cattle has been tremendous. There is normally a Junior Showmanship section which is always very well attended by youngsters and it's great to see so much excitement and enthusiasm.

CLUB DINNER

As mentioned above, we hold our annual dinner and prize-giving in February. The evening usually includes a presentation of trophies from the Black Beauty and the Summer Herd competition, alongside a presentation from our guest speaker.

If you would like to join the Club, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Stay safe everyone, hope to catch up with you all soon,

Claire Johnstone

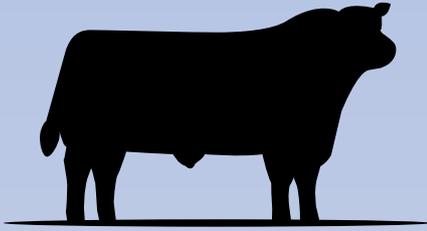
Club Secretary



Club Chairman David Johnstone presenting Junior Showmanship judge at the Black Beauty Bonanza 2019 with his token of appreciation



Club caravan set-up and ready at Echt Show 2019



South West of England Aberdeen Angus Club

www.aberdeenangus-swenglandclub.co.uk

Allabury

Paul & Lisa Frain
Tregadillet House
Tregadillet, Launceston,
Cornwall, PL15 7EX
01566 775521



Bosullow

I & D Rowe
Milvale Farm, Little Bosullow,
Newbridge, Penzance, Cornwall,
TR20 8NS
01736 364070



Buskin

A Eustace
Buskin Farm, Exbourne,
Okehampton, EX20 3RL
07950 036404

Cherrylane

Pascoe
15 Trebarvah Close, Constantine,
Cornwall, TR11 5AQ
01326 340030

Furzelease

J & S Farming
Furzelease Farm, Tisbury Row,
Sailsbury, Wiltshire, SP3 6RZ
01747 870509

Calstone

H Morley
Blackland Farm, Calne, Wilts,
SN11 8PS
01249 816131

Colhayne

Mr & Mrs B S & V J Fry
Colhayne Farm, Shute, Axminster,
Devon, EX13 7QQ
01404 831103

Gear

Mr Pilcher
Gear Farm, Zennor, St Ives,
Cornwall, TR26 3DD
01736 795471



Hele Barton

Messers Chapman
Hele Barton, Week St.Mary,
Holsworthy, Devon, EX22 6VR
07785 937675

Kingsbrompton

C J & J L M Hutchings & Sons
Kingsbrompton Farm,
Brompton Regis, Dulverton,
Somerset, TA22 9NT
01398 371100

Kingston

P & J House & sons
Tetton Farm, Kingston St.Mary,
Somerset, TA2 8HY
www.kingston-angus.co.uk
01823 451619/07877 243451

MABEC

GG & JM Jenkin & Son
Boderloggan Farm, Wendron,
Helston, Cornwall, TR13 OES
07802 173072

Maplejacks

G & K Quinn
Thong Farm, Wrantage, Taunton,
Somerset, TA3 6DT
01823490718

Rodmead

A W Neish ESQ
Rodmead Farm, Maiden Bradley,
Warminster, Wilts, BA12 7UP
01985 844689

Techra

A S Haste & Sons
Stoneleigh Farm, Shebear,
Beaworthy, Devon, EX21 5QT
01409281230

Watton

R & J Tully
Waddeton Barton, Brixham,
South Devon, TQ5 0EL
01803 842174

Yatesbury

GR Gantlett
Yatesbury House Farm, Yatesbury,
Calne, SN11 8YF
07774 244499



Chairperson: Richard Ashenden

T: 07740 870682

E: rashenden@outlook.com

Secretary: Becca Thomas

T: 07929 982297

E: beccaswaac@hotmail.com





Aberdeen-Angus South West Scotland Club

2020 will forever be remembered as the year of uncertainty, where our daily normalities were changed. With the cancellation of every summer show including the Royal Highland, which many of our members have enjoyed success in the show ring and quality social time, the year threatened to be bleak. However, off the back of Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic, the UK agriculture sector boomed. Lamb prices soared to levels that many had not seen in years and prime and store cattle prices continued to be consistent throughout the year, as the general public realised that although they could live without celebrities and social gatherings, three times a day they still required a farmer in order to eat.

Back in February at the Stirling bull sales, the Aberdeen-Angus breed saw a 60% clearance for 82 bulls sold to average £5,820 with a top price of 25,000gns

The McCornick Family secured the Intermediate and then the overall championship with McCornick Pathfinder U465 Who sold for 7,500gns while first prize stable mate

McCornick Florida U540 saw the hammer fall at 8,500gns. The teams trade continued with McCornick KitKat U562 and McCornick Evening Eclipse U468 both finding new postcodes when the gavel pounded at 4,000gns and finally McCornick Digby U449 sold at 3,200gns. The stable averaged 5,440gns for five bulls sold and the Club congratulates them on their championship win.

Moving up to the Clarke's entries from Duncanzimere saw the hammer fall at 6,500gns for Duncanzimere Edition U297 whilst Duncanzimere Evasion U301 and Duncanzimere Mascot U270 secures 4,000gns and 3,500gns respectively.

With still a massive amount of uncertainty hanging around, we thank our members for their patience and understanding through a difficult time. We hope that 2021 brings back the show season and we can once again meet and greet each other the old fashioned way of a handshake and a hug but until then we wish you all well and continue to keep safe.

Aberdeen-Angus Border Club



2020 BULL WALK

The Border Aberdeen-Angus Club year starts with the Bull Walk ahead of the February sales, which this year was held on Sunday 19th January. Members visited almost all the herds with bulls forward for the Stirling sale and covered a lot of ground over the day. Once again, the quality on display was excellent, which was confirmed at Stirling both in the show and sale rings. The Border bull walk continues to be well supported, especially the new Sunday format, not only giving potential buyers the chance to view the cattle on offer in their own surroundings, the dams and cow families, but also provides the bulls with the chance to view a gathering of people – part of the training process for the fortnight to come. Many thanks to The Elliot Family for providing a soup and sandwich lunch at Upper Huntlywood, while the big string of bulls was viewed.

AGM

The Club held its AGM in February, with a capacity crowd, and with business conducted quickly, members then enjoyed supper which was followed by the herd competition prize-giving. The meal was followed by an informative talk given by Barrie Turner, on the forthcoming marketing campaign for the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society. Barrie then took questions from the members, in a

good-hearted debate covering many topics. Dallas Allen continued into his second year of his term of office as Chairman of the Club.

BULL SALES

The only sale to go ahead in a normal format this year saw the Border herds lead the field once again, in February 2020. The top selling bull of the sale, at 25,000gns, was Gordon Barney U334 from the Trustees of the Gordon Brooke Estate. Gordon Barney U334 is by Rawburn Joe Eric S249 and out of Linton Gilbertines Brandy M607 (ET). Barney was first in class in the show, which was expertly judged by Jim Ford and was sold to Messrs Fraser of the Idvies Herd of Aberdeen-Angus in Forfar, Angus.

Next best was WD Allen's Stouphill Marcus Prince U251, a Duncanziemere Jigsaw son out of Stouphill Marsala Pearl. Marcus Prince was second in class to sale-topper Gordon Barney in what was a strong class on the day and sold for the second top price of the day, of 17,000gns. In addition to the second top price of the day, W.D. Allen sold Stouphill Maximus Pride, which was the overall reserve champion for 8,500gns. The remainder of a tremendous pen of five bulls from W.D. Allen at Stouphill were Stouphill Eligh U217 at 7,500gns, Stouphill Drego U233 realised 5,500gns and Stouphill Merry Prince got to 4,000gns. A fantastic average for the Stouphill herd.

One of the stars of the earlier bull walk, Eastfield Jingo Eric, sold for 7,200gns. Three Border

bulls reached the 7,000gns mark, Thrunton Regal, from JHC Campbell, Thrunton Farm, Northumberland, Ettrick Gladiator and Wedderlie Bonpoint. Wedderlie's second entry just about matched the first with a sale at 6500gns, while Gordon Provander cashed in at 6,200gns. Eastfield Piston realised 5,200gns and there were two Border bulls at 4,800gns, Rulesmain Rufus and Belhaven Drama King.

The online, timed-auction sale, held by H&H Carlisle in May, was a successful venture for two Borders herds. Roscoe Easy Rider, sired by Roscoe Mount Everest S818, sold at 5,400gns, while Haymount Empire reached 5,000gns.

We were able to get back to live auction sales for October, although without a show and a condensed programme. Ettrick Batman topped the sale at £10,000, while Roscoe Bigman levelled at £6,200. Both Stouphill Element and Gordon Euro sold to £5,000 and just below that, there were four bulls between £4,000 and £5,000; Stouphill Eventer, Gordon Prowler, Gordon Rambo and Eastfield Fudge. Females saw Gordon Duchess top the small selection of females forward at £4,000.

The Brewis family at Eastfield of Lempitlaw, held a major reduction of their breeding females on 17th October, which was well supported. Cows with calves at foot sold to an average of £3,878.44 and two in calf heifers averaged £4,095, while nine bulling heifers sold to an average of £2,788.33.



HIGHLAND AREA ABERDEEN ANGUS CLUB

1. LOCHDHU

Euan Forbes
Tomlunquhart, Nairn, IV12 5NY
01667 404231 / 07974 740371
forbesfarm@btinternet.com

2. CULFOICHMORE

J & M McConachie and Son
Culfoich House,
Grantown on Spey, Moray,
PH26 3PN
01807 510238 / 07590 258613
bruce@culfoichfarm.com

3. VARIS & LINGIESTON

The Grant Family
Middlefield, Forres, Moray,
IV36 3TN
01309 672862
info@varisaberdeenangus.com

4. CULRAIN

Messrs G & W Henderson
Culrain Mains, Ardgay,
Sutherland, IV24 3DW
01549 421204 / 07833 162167
culrainmains@gmail.com

5. ORRINSIDE

Michael Thomson
Idlewild, 2 Orrinside, Urray,
Muir of Ord, Ross-shire,
IV6 7XA
01997 433 432 / 07810 798 740
jurathomson@hotmail.com

6. THE ARR

Stuart & Muriel Ross
The Arr, Lethen, Nairn,
IV12 5QJ
01667 453380 / 07736 800773
thearrlethen@gmail.com

7. SKITTEN

Messrs B & J MacKay
Skitten Farm, Wick,
Caithness, KW1 4RX
01955 604004 / 07775 606674
benjie.mackay@hotmail.co.uk

8. KILMALLIE

Ewen Campbell
Steall Camaghael, Fort William
Highland, PH33 7NF
01397 698122 / 07908 853881
ewen.campbell72@hotmail.co.uk

9. BALALDIE

Finlay Munro
Balaldie Farm, Fearn
Ross-shire, IV20 1TN
01862 871379 / 07764 212777
mail@balaldie.com

10. SPITTAL SHORE

Alexander J (Hamish) Polson
Rowanfield, Golfcourse Road
Strathpeffer, Ross-shire,
IV14 9AS
01997 421421 / 07974 389635
hamish.polson@btinternet.com

11. WESTER FEARN

E L M Laing
Wester Fearn, Ardgay,
Ross-shire, IV24 3DL
01863 766223 / 07912 731353
gregorlaing22@gmail.com

12. ISAULD

Messrs Pottinger
Isauld House, Reay, Caithness,
KW14 7RW
01847 811335 / 07751 324107
ranaldpottinger@gmail.com

13. INKSTACK

Messrs D & M Taif
Inkstack Farm, Barrock
Thurso, Caithness, KW14 8SY
01847 851282 / 07737 278956
taif.inkstack@btinternet.com

14. STRATHGLASS

Strathglass Farms
(per Miss Sheena Thomson)
Mid Crochail, Strathglass
By Beauly, Inverness-shire,
IV4 7NE
01456 415342 / 07801 353819
sheenathomson96@yahoo.co.uk

15. GALCANTRAY

David Walker
Galcantray Farm, Cawdor,
Nairn, IV12 5XS
01667 493335 / 07774 444474
david.walker17@btconnect.com
Callum Innes
07532 133835
cjinnes111@gmail.com

16. SWORDALE

Messrs David & Alexander Watt
Swordale Farm, Bonar Bridge,
Sutherland, IV24 3AP
01863 766308 / 07967 997467
messrs.watt@hotmail.co.uk

17. RADDERY

Ewen & Gill MacGregor
[Firm of TJ & G MacLean]
1 Raddery, Fortrose IV10 8SN
01381 620570 / 07843 248084
gillian.macgregor@btconnect.com

18. STRYPES

Sandy & Meg Anderson
Strypes, Blackhills, Elgin
Moray, IV30 8QU
01343 842413 / 07967 547732
anderson.strypes@gmail.com

19. KILMALUAG

Donald Rankin
Kilmaluag House, Duntulm,
Isle of Skye, IV51 9UQ
01478 612942 / 07919 320810
donaldrankinkilmaluag@gmail.com

20. BALAVILHOUSE

Hannah Heerema
Balavil Estate Office, Kingussie,
Inverness-shire, PH21 1LU
01540 661268
homefarm@balavil.com
gillian.joyce@balavil.com

21. DUNN

Robert J Coghill
Meadowcroft, Dunn, Watten,
Wick, Caithness, KW1 5XN
07831 224525
robertcoghill1949@hotmail.com

22. QUANTERNESS

William Harcus
Quanterness Farm
St. Ola, Orkney, KW15 1TY
01856 879155/07803242899
william@quanterness.com

23. NEWTON-STRUTHERS

A&K Rhind & Son,
Newton of Struthers, Kinloss,
Moray IV36 2UD
07721 386802

24. BALLINDALLOCH

Ballindalloch Home Farms LTD,
Estate Office, Ballindalloch,
Banffshire, AB37 9AX,
01807 500205.
Herd manager: David Johnstone
07554669509

25. ORBLISTON

Firm of A. Shepherd,
Orbliston Farm, Fochabers,
Morayshire, IV32 7IN,
Herd manager: Sam Milne
07813325462
sam.milne@live.co.uk



CHAIRMAN: Sandy Watt T: 07967 997467
E: messrs.watt@hotmail.co.uk

SECRETARY: Gill MacGregor T: 07845 451168
E: gillian.macgregor@btconnect.com

PENWAC & North West Aberdeen-Angus Club



The Club managed to hold the AGM on the 1st March, which was well attended. Barrie Turner was the guest speaker and we all had an enjoyable time. We planned to have visits, herd competitions, shows booked and YDP planned, well who would have thought they would all have to be cancelled.

I am sad to report the passing of a member Andrew Shufflebotham. 'Shuff' was a very active member of the Club and liked by all. He had also been on Council and actively Chaired the YDP. I think a Cheshire Young farmer aptly said he was one of life's doers.

I look to the past and the future for this report. Here is some information that maybe of interest to you.

I have been looking back in the records. The Club's first recorded meeting of the Pennine & North-West Angus Club was held at Myercough Agricultural College on Thursday 6th May 1976. This was the idea of John

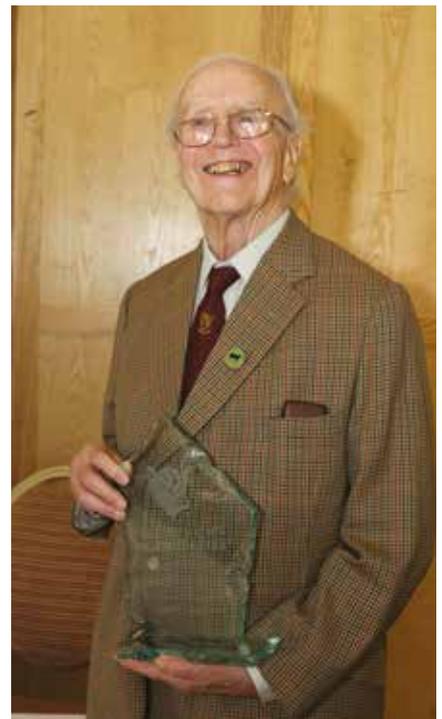
Moore, The Moss Herd, along with a steering committee of George Rigg and John Metcalf. It was agreed at the meeting that they would involve Rainy Brown, as he was the Secretary of the Border Club. The meeting in future would be held at The Preston Patrick Memorial Hall as the fee for the room hire was just £2.50. The Hall was next to The Crooklands Hotel, which is right next to the current Westmorland Show Ground. The subscriptions for the year was just £2. John Moore played a great part in the Club, throughout his lifetime and the Club was lucky to have both John and his son Kevin. They played host to the Bull Judging competitions for many years.

Looking at past records, I realise that I became Secretary on the 20th March 1990. Little did I know at the time that it would be an enjoyable life sentence. During this time, I have met plenty of fellow Angus breeders, many who have become good friends over the years. It is great to go to the sales and shows and meet

you all. The Club over the years, has travelled to many herds in the country visiting Orkney, Castle of Mey, Northern Ireland, Scotland, the Borders, Ayrshire, Worcestershire, to name a few. In 2005, the PENWAC and the North West of England Clubs hosted the Lakes and Dales Tour in late September/October 2005. The clubs hosted 150 delegates who over four days, viewed 10 herds.

Moving forward as soon as possible, the Club activities will resume. New breeders will be welcome to join, make new acquaintances and enjoy the comradery of the Club again. Herd visits, herd competitions, youth development programmes and get-togethers will all start again.

Lastly, missing the October Stirling Bull Sales and dispersals was eased with an excellent live video produced by United Auctions. I also enjoy the bi-weekly report on the Aberdeen-Angus website, which keeps me up to date, produced by Barrie and his team. Well done!





2020 has been a strange year for everyone and one that saw several shows and sales cancelled as well as our plans for the Solway Club. The year started in January with the usual AGM and prize-giving held at Carlisle with a good turn-out.

The prize winners were:

Windyhill perpetual trophy - Gretnahouse herd

Thornship Cup - Abbey herd

Barwise Salver - Carruthers & Longbank herd shared

There was also change at the top of the Club with Kit Acton stepping down as Chairman and Thomas Peters being voted in to replace him as Chairman. We had big plans for this year to push the Club forward and had organised a trip to Aberdeenshire to visit the Blelack, Tonley and Deveron herds in August, but the dreaded Coronavirus put a halt to the trip. The next event to be affected was a stockjudging/BBQ that was due to take place with thanks to Mathew Currie of the Kingholm herd. As everyone is aware, all shows were cancelled in 2020, but the Solway Club were represented at the February Stirling bull sales by three herds: Gretnahouse, Housesteads and Kingholm with prices of 7500gns, 3000gns and 4500gns respectively. October bull sales saw the Club represented again by the Kingholm herd, with two bulls forward one made 4000gns and the other did not sell.

Herd Competition

One event we were able to carry out in a socially distanced manner was the Solway Club herd competition. First of all, I would like to thank the judge, James Borland, for taking the time to judge the herds and also all the herds that participated.

** Best Stock Bull **

1st - Longbank
2nd - Lessonhall
3rd - Kingholm

** 2 Year Old Bull **

1st - Carruthers
2nd - Longbank
3rd - Housesteads

** Yearling Bull **

1st - Kingholm
2nd - Carruthers
3rd - Lessonhall

** Bull Calf **

1st - Housesteads
2nd - Longbank
3rd - Abbey

** Best Cow **

1st - Comlongon
2nd - Housesteads
3rd - Longbank

** 2 Year Old Calved Heifer **

1st - Rosslayne
2nd - Housesteads
3rd - Kingholm

** 2 Year Old Heifer **

1st - Kingholm
2nd - Comlongon
3rd - Carruthers

** Yearling Heifer **

1st - Comlongon
2nd - Housesteads
3rd - Longbank

** Heifer Calf **

1st - Housesteads
2nd - Comlongon
3rd - Rosslayne

***** Herd Results *****

SMALL

1st - Lessonhall
2nd - Abbey
3rd - Longpark

MEDIUM

1st - Rosslayne
2nd - Comlongon
3rd - Kingholm

LARGE

1st - Housesteads
2nd - Longbank
3rd - Carruthers

OVERALL BEST HERD

Housesteads

Congratulations to everyone who took part, there was some fantastic cattle on show. Finally, we are always on the lookout for new members for the Club, so please don't hesitate to get in touch. Hopefully 2021 will be a year that enables us to get back to some kind of normality and allow us to carry out the herd visits and stock judging events that have been postponed.



BORDER

ABERDEEN ANGUS CLUB



ALN

George & Toby Burrell
Broome Park Farms, Alnwick
Northumberland, NE66 2EQ
georgew.burrell@btinternet.com
T: 01665 574344 M: 07511726110

BELHAVEN

Messrs J Gilmour & Co. Ltd
The Industrial Building, Penston
Macmerry, East Lothian, EH33 2AJ
T: 01875 616111 M: 07775 537840
E: enquiries@gilmourbutchers.com

BLACKHAUGH

Andrew Elliot
Blackhaugh, Clovenfords, Galashiels,
Selkirkshire, TD1 1TW
T: 01896 850333 M: 07798 923663
E: elliotblackhaugh@btinternet.com

BOTHAL

Gemma Knox
Coneygarth Farm House,
Bothal, Morpeth,
Northumberland, NE61 6QN
M: 07540052608
E: coneygarth_farm@outlook.com

BOREWELL

John & Daniel Whiteford
Borewell Farm, Scremerston,
Berwick-upon-Tweed,
Northumberland, TD15 2RJ
T: 01289 307507 M: 07711 478885
E: info@borewellangus.co.uk

CHATHILL

Messers P.A. Robson
Chathill Farm, Chathill
Northumberland, NE67 5DE
T: 01665 589435 M: 07889 874454
E: pip@chathillfarm.co.uk

EASTFIELD

Ewan Brewis / Iain MacGillivray
Lempitlaw, Kelso, Roxburghshire,
TD5 8BN
M: Ewan 07836 349190
M: Iain 07768 022463
E: lempitlaw@btconnect.com

EILDON

Sion Williams
BQ Farming Partnership, Bowhill,
Selkirk, Selkirkshire, TD7 5ES
M: 07795 403291 / 07825 541859
E: swilliams@bucclleuch.com

ELLIOT

John R Elliot
Roxburgh Mains, Kelso
Roxburghshire, TD5 8NJ
T: 01573 450729 M: 07795 165140
E: johnrelliot@aol.com

ETTRICK

Gordon & David Gray
Sunnycroft, Lindean, Selkirk
Selkirkshire, TD7 4QW
M: 07751 066053 M: 07841 865769
E: ggraysunnycroft@mail.com

FEABUIE

Donald and Gill MacNeill
Old Orchard Cottage, Cavers
Hawick, TD9 9ST
T: 01450 376265 M: 07925 993070
E: Donald.macneill@btopenworld.com

GORDON

(formerly Linton Gilbertines)
Trustees of the Late Gordon R.
Brooke, Farm Office, Upper
Huntlywood, Earlston,
Berwickshire, TD9 6RB
T: 01573 410226 M: 07795 165140

HALLINGTON

Alan & Steven Lawson
South Farm, Hallington, Newcastle
Northumberland, NE19 2LW
T: 01434 672227 M: 07701 010294
E: lawsonpedigrees@aol.com

HARDIESMILL

Alison and Robin Tuke
Hardiesmill, Hardiesmill Place,
Gordon, Berwickshire, TD3 6LQ
T: 01573 410797 M: 07767 618123
E: info@hardiesmill.co.uk

HAYMOUNT

Messrs Arnott
Haymount, Kelso, Roxburghshire,
TD5 7RR
T: 01573 460227 M: 07787 385542
E: arnott@haymount.uk.com

KERSQUARTER

Ian Watson / Jim Ford
9 Abbey View, Kelso,
Roxburghshire, TD5 8HX
T: 07789 128756 M: 07774 283382
E: performancefeeds17@outlook.com

PRESTON

Robert Forrest Ltd
Preston, Duns, Berwickshire
TD11 3TQ
T: 01361 882826 M: 07767 321800
E: robforrest@farming.me.uk

RAETHORN

Gavin Tait
Raethorn, Thorneydykes,
Westruther, Gordon, Berwickshire
TD3 6NG
T: 01578 740634 M: 0777 3764794

RAWBURN

John Elliot
Roxburgh Mains, Kelso
Roxburghshire, TD5 8NJ
T: 01573 450223 M: 07795 165140
E: rawburn@aol.com

ROSCOE

Ross Farms Ltd, Wester Middleton
Farm, Gorebridge, Midlothian,
EH23 4RF T: 01875 820158
M: 07881 815037
E: markrosswestern@gmail.com

RULEMAINS

Andrew Hodge, Rulesmains, Duns,
Berwickshire, TD11 3SY
T: 01361 883774 M: 07889 316106
E: rulesmains@outlook.com

STOUPHILL

W. D Allen
Humbleheugh, Alnwick
Northumberland, NE66 2LF
T: 01665 579274 M: 07738 220558
E: dallasallen@hotmail.co.uk

THREEBURNFORD

Angus & Patricia Glennie,
Threeburnford, Oxton, Lauder,
Berwickshire, TD2 6PU
T: 01578 750615 M: 07702 063072
E: patriciaglennie@hotmail.com

THRUNTON

JHC Campbell & Sons
Thrunton Farmhouse, Whittingham
Alnwick, Northumberland, NE66 4RZ
T: 01665 574305 M: 07788 754717
E: thrunton.charolais@btinternet.com
Facebook: Thrunton Charolais &
Aberdeen Angus

TOFTS

James and Debbie Playfair-Hannay,
Morebattle Tofts, Kelso
Roxburghshire, TD5 8AD
T: 01573 440364 M: 07831 455994
E: james.playfair@btconnect.com

WEDDERLIE

John, Marion & Wanda Tilson
Wedderlie, Westruther, Gordon,
Berwickshire TD3 6NW
T: 01578 740246
M: 07795 493303 / 07792 189688
E: marion.tilson@btinternet.com
E: wedderlie@btinternet.com

WINDY GOWL RED ANGUS

Jill Noble, Windy Gowl Farm,
Carlops, Penicuik, Midlothian
EH26 9NL
T: 01968 661095 M: 07836 729988
E: jnoble@phicelandics.co.uk

THE GATEWAY TO HERDS IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS

CHAIRMAN: Dallas Allen **T:** 07738 220558 **E:** dallasallen@hotmail.co.uk

VICE CHAIRMAN: Daniel Whiteford **T:** 07711 248426 **E:** info@borewellangus.co.uk

SECRETARY: Natalie Cormack **T:** 01890 781006 **E:** natalie.cormack@btconnect.com



East Anglia Club

The year started with the Club's annual dinner and AGM in February, which was held at the White Lodge in Attleborough, at which Mr Duncan Jeary of the Briston herd was elected Chairperson with Mr Robert Clarke, representing the Shadwell herd elected as Vice Chairperson.

We were very kindly given a talk by one of our Club members, Mrs Jessica Musk, under her new role as our Regional YDP Co-Ordinator as to the new format of the YDP programme.

I declared that I would be resigning as Club Secretary at the end of 2020. Miss Megan Atkins will be my replacement and the new contact for our area. Good luck Megan!

Not much to report for the rest of 2020 with no YDP, shows, herd competition or farm trips due to COVID-19 - it's been a very strange year!

On a sad note in September, we lost one of our Club members, Mr Tony Hurn of the Wickmere herd at Calthorpe. In memory of Tony and by kind permission of his wife, Phillida, we have used a photo of their cattle on our Club advert page this year.

Hopefully 2021 will be a better year.

Tracey Jeary

South West England Club

Happy New Year! For many of us, the last year was not filled with the greatest of joys and we would like to start off saying that we hope everyone is well and managing to keep safe. We also need to send condolences to those who have lost family and friends due to COVID-19 and other health reasons.

We as a Club managed to have a few meetings via Zoom calls to keep things ticking along. We arranged a photo competition and displayed here are some of the entries.

As with other clubs, there is not much to report and not much to plan, but we are hopeful that 2021 can bring at least a few shows and maybe some socially distanced herd walks.

If anyone, with or without cattle, would like to join us for this year, it would be greatly received. Having

newsletters, competitions and herd walks, we welcome everyone. Please do not hesitate to get in contact with myself or go to our website www.swaac.co.uk

Keep well and keep safe!



SOLWAY- AND -TYNE

ABERDEEN ANGUS
CLUB

CHAIRMAN: Thomas Peters t: 077119 95420

VICE CHAIRMAN: Kit Acton t: 07792 21903

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.11

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.1

.4

.7

.5

.2

.10

.8



1- ABBEY
Maryfield Farm, New Abbey, Dumfries,
DG2 8HH
T: 078893 12531
E: angiescott_9@hotmail.com



2- BORDER LYNE
Hobbiesburn, Longtown, CA6 5AJ
T: 077111 25340



3- CARRUTHERS
Birsca Farm, Corrie, Lockerbie, Dumfries,
DG11 2QJ
T: 07834 766710
E: angushull6@gmail.com



4- COMLONGON
Comlongon Mains, Clarendfield, Dumfries,
DG1 4NA
T: 077869 26508
E: comlongon@hotmail.co.uk



5- GRETNAGREEN
Gretnagreen, Gretna Green, Dumfries,
DG16 5NF
T: 077968 9231
E: a.houston@gretnagreen.com



6- HOUSESTEADS
Bradley Farm, Bardoo Mill, Northumberland,
NE47 7AG
T: 07792 211903
E: j.acton2@btinternet.com



7- KINGHOLM
Stewbridge, Moorwald, Dumfries,
DG1 4LJ
T: 077700 20130
E: carvacian@btinternet.com



8- LESONHALL
Lesonhall, Wigton, Culterra,
CA7 8EA
T: 015200 68055
E: d.steel.84@hotmail.co.uk



9- LONGBANK
Wadehill Farms, Dumfries,
DG1 1TD
T: 077200 76591
E: kmelbencan@gmail.com



10- LONGPARK
Longpark, Houghton, Carlisle,
CA6 4JP
T: 078710 21717
E: longparkfarm@icloud.com



11- ROSSLAYNE
Raeburnhead, Kirkpatrick Fleming, Lockerbie,
Dumfries, DG11 3BA
T: 07977 228750
E: lanegiles@hotmail.com

North East England Club



Back in November 2019 at the North East of England club's AGM, so many great ideas were put in place by members for how our club planned to prosper in 2020. Committee members came together, and the wheels were set in motion to make this year fantastic for the club. Exciting herd visits were in the pipeline, a great judge lined up for the annual herd competition and ideas put forward of how the club planned to make the Great Yorkshire Show the best one yet!

Unfortunately, in March these plans ground to a halt due to Covid 19. Our farmers during these unprecedented times were also hit with the drop in beef prices at the start of the year and restrictions in marts made selling and buying cattle no easy feat. However as ever our club

members with farmers across the country soldiered on as they do best! pulled up their Key worker socks and faced these difficult times head on and continued to help feed the nation.

Shows, local and regional, have been a great miss this year for our club members. Not only have we not been able to showcase some of the fantastic cattle we have here in the North East of England, but the comradery and friendship at these shows has definitely been a massive loss. However, the plans that we did make and the great ideas that were put forward will not be a loss! They will most definitely be rolled over (hopefully on to next year) but definitely into the near future. We would like to take this opportunity to now thank all of our club members, and farmers throughout the country, for your hard work and the crucial part you have played in your KEY WORKER role throughout this trying year.

With beef prices on the up and all of the fantastic ideas in the pipeline for the club, we know that there are definitely great things to look forward to for our members, and that bar at the Great Yorkshire Show will be open again soon!

MILLSTONES

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 TEL 01538 304483 / 07966616902

East Anglia Club

1. BRISTON

Duncan K Jeary Esq,
Hawthorn Farm, High Road,
Briston, Norfolk. NR24 2JQ
T: 01263 862734 / 07880 508104

2. WRETTON

Mr & Mrs I Stephen
Home Farm, 76 Wretton Road,
Stoke Ferry, Norfolk. PE33 9QJ
T: 01366 500440 / 07899 906538

3. HAWSTEAD LODGE

Andrew J Brown Esq,
Hawstead Lodge Farm,
Pinford End, Bury St Edmunds,
Suffolk. IP29 5NU
T: 01284 755905 / 07850 230730

4. LILAC

Messers J Peacock & Sons Ltd,
Field Farm, Blackdyke Road,
Hockwold, Thetford, Norfolk.
IP26 4JW
T: 01842 827641

5. MEADOWBROOK FARM

Mark Haistead Esq,
Meadowbrook Farm,
Braymeadow Lane, Little Melton,
Norwich, Norfolk. NR9 3NQ

6. SHADWELL ESTATE

Nunnery Stud, Thetford, Suffolk,
IP24 2QE
T: 01842 755913 / 07801 571171

7. WILDFELL

Wildfell Farm, Chapel Road,
Ramsey Heights, Huntingdon,
Cambs. PE26 2RS
T: 07795 098797
E: chris@wildfellfarm.co.uk

8. GLADSTONE

Mrs J Graves, HV Graves,
Pineview, The Lane, Briston,
Norfolk. NR24 2AD
T: 01284 755905 / 07850 230730

9. FENLAND

Robbie Moore,
Oak Farm, Fen Lane, Grimston,
Kings Lynn, Norfolk. PE32 1DA
T: 07900 491679
E: oakfarm007@gmail.com

10. OVERBURY HALL

Mr & Mrs N Reid
Overbury Hall, Layham,
Hadleigh, Suffolk. IP7 5RP
T: 01473 824933 / 07770 944742

11. PARK WALL

B K and J C M Musk,
Netherglade Farm
35 High Street, Tuddenham St
Mary Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.
IP28 6SQ
T: 01638 724831 / 07748 850465
E: b.musk@talktalk.net

12. REV

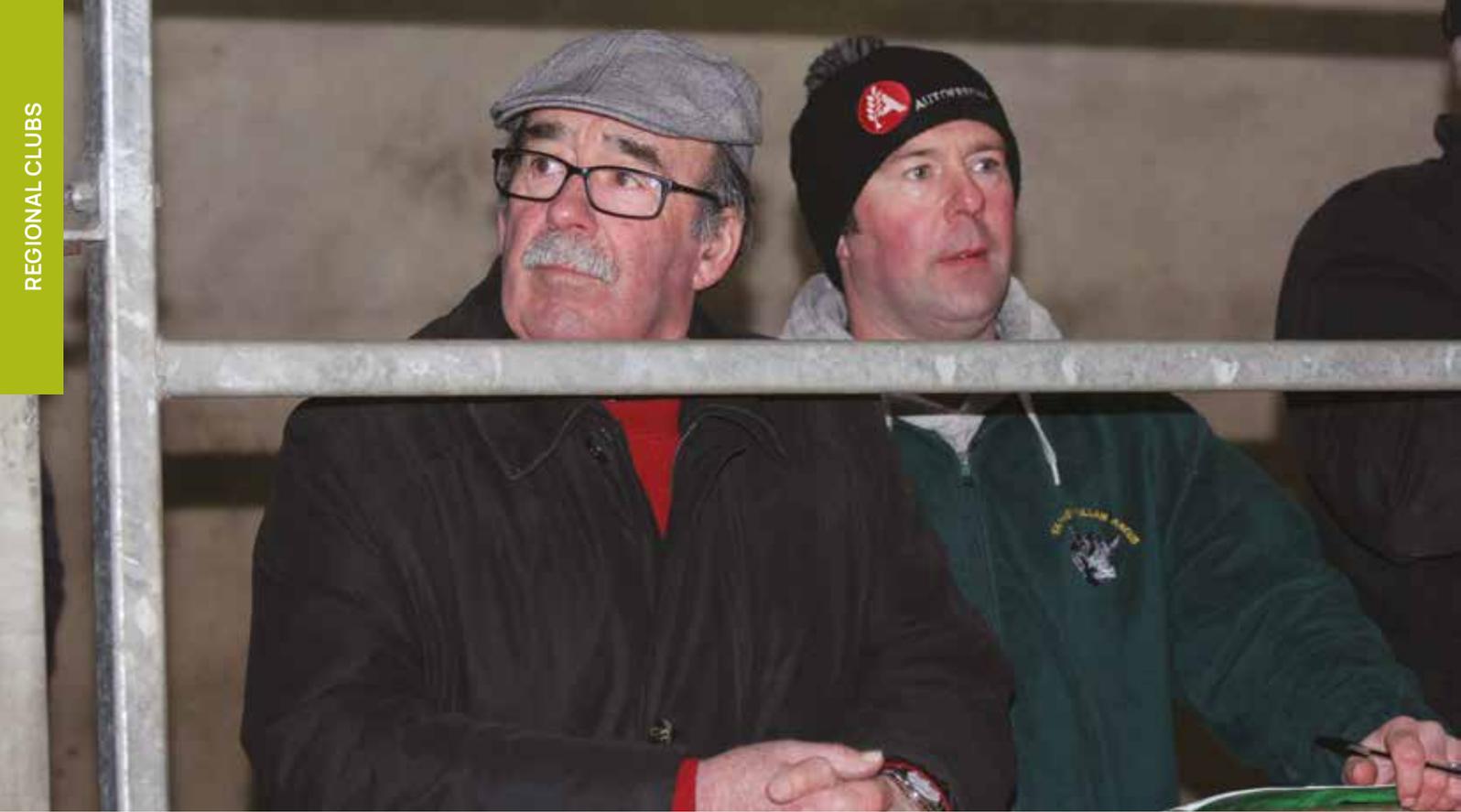
David and Rev Kinlock,
St Mary's Hall Farm,
St Mary's Road, Great Bentley,
Colchester. CO7 8QU
T: 07748 786073

Club secretary

Megan Atkins
Moor Farm, The Street, Foxley,
Dereham, Norfolk NR20 4QP

T: 07979 108714
Email: matkins8nr8@gmail.com





Northern Ireland Aberdeen-Angus Club

2020 got off to a flying start with a very successful Society sale taking place in Dungannon Farmers' Mart on 11th February, which followed an equally successful one in December 2019. February also saw the election of our amiable Club member and past Chairman to the position of President of the Society. Congratulations Alan.

However, before the date of our AGM in March, the guidelines hoping to prevent the spread of COVID-19 were in place followed by the countrywide lockdown which resulted in our AGM being cancelled. This was quickly followed by the cancellation of the April show and sale, and all agriculture shows since. Our much-loved trips to visit notable herds and the YDP programme were also casualties.

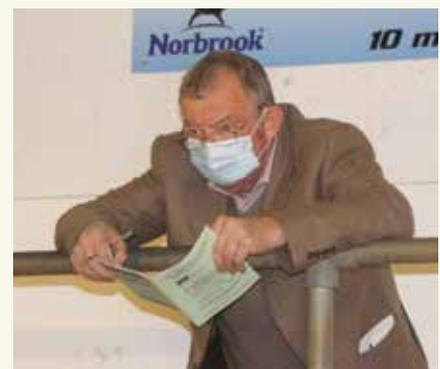
On a more positive note, we were able to hold a successful 'socially-distant' herds competition. This was

made possible through the good auspices of John Blackburn of the Killaney herd, who willingly gave his time to inspect the participating herds, thus avoiding the need to bring in anyone from outside the Province during a pandemic. The competition was well supported and generously sponsored by Energia Renewables. Of course, due to the restrictions in place, we had to forego the charity auction and BBQ as well as the prize-giving event.

The Birches herd of the Matchett family won the large herd section, the medium herd award went to Robert and Keith Sufferin's Tamneymullan herd and the small herd section was won by Rev Sean Moore's Milbrae herd. For the second year running, Hilda Mills and Brian Johnston's homebred Dartrey Elliott S467 won the Stock Bull award, while the Matchett family's Lady Jane family won the Cow Family section. The Champion Calf went to Robert and

Keith Sufferin's heifer Tamneymullan Minnie W111, and they also scooped the Futurity Heifer prize with Tamneymullan Jill U864. A special prize presented by the judge for a group of heifers went to Neville and Ivan Forsythe of the Coltrim herd.

We are at the mercy of unforeseen circumstances, but keep hopeful of a return to our usual activities and we would encourage AA breeders in Northern Ireland to join what is usually an active and energetic Club where they will receive a warm welcome.



Herd Competition Results

ABERDEEN-ANGUS HERD COMPETITION RESULTS

The Northern Ireland Aberdeen-Angus Club has announced the results of its annual Herd Competition.

Club secretary Cathy O'Hara said: "In line with restrictions imposed during the Covid-19 pandemic, the club was able to hold its annual Herd Competition by appointing a local judge. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to host our annual charity BBQ and presentation of awards, but it is hoped that the prizes will be presented at our AGM in March 2021."

Mr John Blackburn from the noted Killaney Herd based in Clogher, County Tyrone, travelled the length and breadth of the Province to inspect the participating herds.

John Blackburn said he was impressed with the quality of the cattle competing in the competition. 'I enjoyed my 'socially distanced' judging experience, and it was great to see so many excellent herds, prolific cow families and individual animals. Congratulations to everyone who took part.'

The NI Aberdeen Angus Club is indebted to the sponsors of the 2020 competition, Energia Renewables and Mr and Mrs John Blackburn.

Gannon Herd Red Angus

Established 2004

*Current sires include
Windy Gowl Red Jury,
Mosshall Red Lad,
Mosshall Red Dynamite*



Stock always for sale

Contact John on 07752 912649 or
email robertshawson@xln.co.uk

Results of the 2020 Herd Competition include:

Small Herd:

- 1: Rev Sean Moore, Milbrae Herd, Derrynoose
- 2: Samantha Allen and Allen Shortt, Crew Herd, Strabane
- 3: Kenneth Cartmill, Drumnahunshin Herd, Whitecross.

Medium Herd:

- 1: Robert and Keith Sufferin, Tamneymullan Herd, Maghera
- 2: Freddie Davidson, Ember Herd, Banbridge
- 3: Paul McKenna, Carrow Herd, Gulladuff.

Large Herd:

- 1: Matchett Family, Birches Herd, Portadown
- 2: Hylda Mills and Brian Johnston, Dartrey Herd, Scarva
- 3: Mark Clements, Clementhill Herd, Ballyronan.

Stock Bull:

- 1, Hylda Mills and Brian Johnston, Dartrey Herd, Dartrey Elliott S467
- 2, Mark Clements, Clementhill Herd, Old Glenort Kingsman S445
- 3, Ian Browne, Clogher Valley Herd, Fivemiletown, Drummeer Blackburn T457.

Cow Family

- 1: Matchett Family, Birches Herd, Lady Jane family
- 2: Mark Clements, Clementhill Herd, Joyce/Jill family
- 3: Rev Sean Moore, Milbrae Herd, Blackbird family.

Bull Calf

- 1: Neville and Ivan Forsythe, Coltrim Herd, Moneymore, Coltrim Ellipse W272
- 2: Hylda Mills and Brian Johnston, Dartrey Herd, Dartrey Dev W355
- 3: Matchett Family, Birches Herd, Birches Bellboy W222.

Heifer Calf

- 1: Robert and Keith Sufferin, Tamneymullan Herd, Tamneymullan Minnie W111
- 2: Rev Sean Moore, Milbrae Herd, Millbrae Blackbeau W865
- 3: Samantha Allen and Allen Shortt, Crew Herd, Crew Dior V877.

Overall Champion Calf: Robert and Keith Sufferin, Tamneymullan Minnie W111.

Futurity Heifer

- 1: Robert and Keith Sufferin, Tamneymullan Jill U864
- 2: Hylda Mills and Brian Johnston, Dartrey Della U843
- 3: Frank Moore, Crieve Herd, Carnmoney, Crieve Bonny U674.

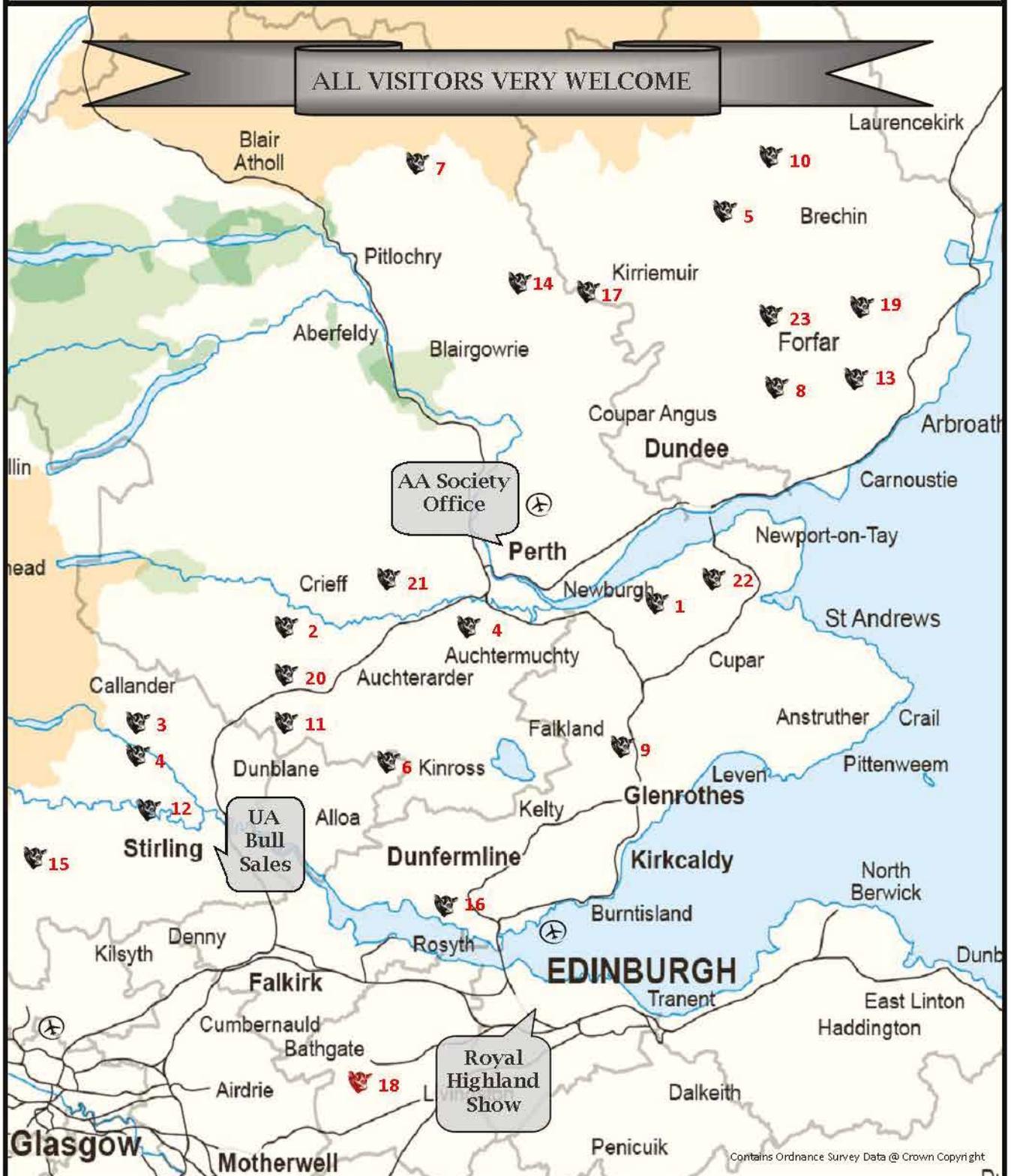
Judge's Prize, Group of Yearling Heifers (relevant to herd size):

- 1: Neville and Ivan Forsythe, Coltrim Herd, Moneymore
- 2: Kevin McOscar, Island Farm Herd, Cookstown
- 3: Gerard McPeake, Grove Grazer Herd, Garvagh
- 4: Kenneth Cartmill, Drumnahunshin Herd, Whitecross.

THE ANGUS HEARTLAND

CENTRAL SCOTLAND ABERDEEN-ANGUS CLUB

ALL VISITORS VERY WELCOME



CHAIRMAN: Dave Murray T: (01307) 860237 M: 07835 074917 E: pamelamurray1@btconnect.com

SECRETARY: Elaine Smith T: (01828) 633709 M: 07719 440542 E: csaclub@gmail.com

THE ANGUS HEARTLAND

CENTRAL SCOTLAND ABERDEEN-ANGUS CLUB

1. BALHELVIE

J S Wilson
Balhelvie Farm,
Newburgh
Fife KY14 6HN
T: 01337 870229
E: wilson@balhelvie.co.uk

2. BARNSVIEW

C Davidson & G Thomson
Fintalich Farm Cottage
Crieff PH5 2AZ
M: 07704 878339 Chrissie
E: chrissie_d@btinternet.com

3. CARDONA

J Robert Galloway
Cardona Farm, Doune
Perthshire FK16 6AX
R Galloway: 01786 832911
M: 07979 704330

4. COLDOCH

Stuart D Thomson
South Carse of Coldoch Farm
Kirk Lane, Blairdrummond
Stirlingshire FK8 3DF
T: 01786 860365
E: stftsc@hotmail.co.uk

5. COUL

James Arnott
Mains of Coull
Forfar, Angus DD8 3TX
T: 01307 860223

6. CRAIGOWMILL

Ken & Eva Brown
Ledlanet, Kinross KY13 0RR
M: 07899 877001
E: keva@highlandcattle.co.uk

7. DIRNANEAN

Will & Liz Manning
Dirnanean Farm, Enochdhu
Blairgowrie, Perthshire PH1 7PD
T: 01250 881305

8. DUNLOUISE

G & J Soutar
Kingston, Forfar
Angus DD8 2RU
T: 01307 462784
M: 07860 825324
www.dunlouiseargus.com

9. FIDDLEHALL

Fiddlehall Farm, Falkland
Cupar, Fife KY15 7DD
T: 01337 857308
M: 07828 432054
E: keith.rennie811@btinternet.com

10. GANNON & LISBANE

Robert Shaw & Son
Dunlappie Farm, Edzell DD9 7UD
T: 01356 648827
E: robertshawson@xln.co.uk

11. HW ANGUS

Highland Wagyu
Burnside of Balhaldie
Dunblane, Stirlingshire FK15 0NB
T: 01786 823767
E: martine@wagyu.co.uk

12. HILLFOOTS

Jamie Rettie
64E Upper Craigs, Stirling FK8 2DS
M: 07725 401662
E: Jamie@jmrplumbing.co.uk

13. IDVIES

F J Fraser & Sons
Newton of Idvies, Forfar
Angus DD8 2QP
T: 01307 818313
M: 07764 532193 Alastair
E: enquiries
@idviesaberdeenangus.co.uk

14. INCHISLA

Clare McGowan
Faulds of Derry, Kilry
Blairgowrie, Perthshire PH11 8HS
T: 01575 560236
E: inchislaangus@gmail.com
W: incheochfarm.co.uk

15. JAC

Wester Balgair Farm
Balfron, Stirling G63 0QF
T: 01360 860456
M: 07889 649405
E: balgairangus@gmail.com

16. KEIRSBEATH

Caroline Orr
Halbeath Farm
Dunfermline, Fife KY12 0TY
T: 01383 729329
M: 07966 590251
E: belhavenscot@icloud.com

17. LINDERTIS

Lindertis Farms
By Kirriemuir, Angus
DD8 5NT
M: 07793 011448 Tom Hopkinson
E: tom@anguslimestores.co.uk

18. MOSSHALL

Parkview, Mosshall Farm
Blackburn, W Lothian EH47 7DB
T: 01501 760186
M: 07903 248040
E: mosshallredangus
@yahoo.co.uk
W: mosshallredangus.co.uk

19. MOSSTON MUIR

Allan S Rennie
New House, Mosston Muir Farm
Guthrie, By Forfar, Angus
DD8 2TX
T: 01307 466614
M: 07740 947785

20. NETHERTON

W & D McLaren
Netherton, Blackford
Auchterarder
Perthshire PH4 1QU
T: 07740 786112
E: mclaren672@aol.com
W: nethertonangus.co.uk

21. RETTIES

R & C Rettie
Craigend Farmhouse
Methven, Perth PH1 3QY
M: 07714 759643
E: carolrettie@gmail.com

22. ST FORT

A Mylius & Partners of St Fort
St Fort Estate, Newport-On-Tay
Fife DD6 8RE
T: 01382 541587
E: stfort@btconnect.com
W: stfort.co.uk

23. WOLFLAW

D & P Murray
Wolflaw, Forfar, Angus
DD8 3TQ
T: 01307 860237
M: 07835 074917
E: pamelamurray1@btconnect.com

CHAIRMAN: Dave Murray T: (01307) 860237 M: 07835 074917 E: pamelamurray1@btconnect.com

SECRETARY: Elaine Smith T: (01828) 633709 M: 07719 440542 E: csaclub@gmail.com



Munster Aberdeen-Angus Club

This yearly report is noticeably shorter than usual as 2020 saw the derailment of almost all of the Club's usual activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There is no doubt that 2020 was a year that will be remembered primarily for all the wrong reasons, but we sincerely hope that all of our Club members were fortunate enough to enjoy good health and we look forward to the day that the Club is properly active and functional once again.

The Club AGM did manage to take place before COVID-19 fully took hold of the country, with that meeting taking place as normal in January. Three changes were ratified at the annual AGM, with Shane Healy of the Branner Aberdeen-Angus herd taking on the top job of Chairperson of the Club for the following two years. Billy Fitzgerald (the outgoing Chairperson) was elected to the position of treasurer (taking over from Albert DeCogan who had given the Club years of dedicated service), whilst Bryan O'Halloran (last year's overall Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society YDP Senior Winner) was elected as Vice-Chairperson of the Club. Edward Dudley continues on in his position as Club Secretary for a fourth consecutive term. The resulting four man top table team is undoubtedly one of the youngest collective group of Club officers ever appointed in Munster, and this should play a vital role in the ability of the Club to adapt to the challenging times that it finds itself in going forward.

Whilst almost all of the Club activities were unavoidably cancelled for 2020, it is worth noting that several Club members (from the Club officers and far beyond) had already put in tremendous amounts of their own time and efforts into laying plans for the year ahead. It is the hard work of these loyal and steadfast members that ensure the survival and growth of the Club from one year to the next and their contributions to the Club for 2020 should not go unmentioned, despite no physical events or activities actually taking place. Special thanks also to Donogh McCarthy of the Lemonfield Aberdeen-Angus herd who had so kindly agreed to host the Club's Open Day for 2020 and we look forward to visiting this exceptional herd of Aberdeen-Angus cattle when it is safe to do so.

It is hoped that a significant schedule of activities will be able to take place in 2021 (Government health advice permitting) and all Munster breeders are encouraged to attend our meetings when they are back up and running again, with new members particularly welcome. For more details, please contact Club Secretary, Edward Dudley on 0863559210 and keep an eye on the Munster Aberdeen-Angus Club Facebook page and the Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association website for regular updates from the Club.



Connaught Leinster Aberdeen-Angus Club

Connaught/Leinster Club Herd Competition 2019 entrants and prize winners with Gerry Smyth (Angus Beef Ireland), Jim Borland (Judge), Gerard Lynch (Club Chairperson) and Barry Smith (Vice Chairperson).

2020 got off to a good start for the Club, with the second annual Club Dinnerdance which was held in January and was well attended by both CLAA Club members and members of the other Irish AA clubs. There was also a prize ceremony held on the night for the winners of the Club's Summer Calf Competition and the Society's National Calf Show.

In February we held our AGM, with Barry Smith of Lawsonsford becoming Club Chairman and Shea Feeney returning as Secretary.

We are a Club that caters for members in the Connaught and Leinster provinces of Ireland, with members

spanning both provinces and have members with herds of 4 to 5 cattle to those with 100 plus cows. We aim to hold member farm visits once or twice a year and we also organise a Club tour where we visit a region either within Ireland or the UK and a selection of farms. We also hold a Club Herds competition, sponsored by Angus Beef Ireland, which is held over a long weekend in September and a Club Calf competition, sponsored by Country Crest, which spans the summer shows.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please get in touch with us either through the Society or via our club Facebook page 'Connaught Leinster Aberdeen-Angus'.




*The Connaught Leinster
Aberdeen Angus Club*

Central Aberdeen-Angus Club

CHAIRMAN: DAVE MURRAY, WOLFLAW

This has certainly been a very different year for the whole nation. It has been a time when we are so lucky to stay in the country and look after our cattle. Obviously, it has been disappointing to not have any shows. Let's hope next year all exhibitors will be refreshed and ready to go! I have really missed not seeing members and friends during the summer and at the bull sales. The October sale is the first one I have missed for 50 years. I would like to thank United Auctions and Harrison & Hetherington for working so hard to sell bulls in the spring and summer under very difficult circumstances. I would like to ask club members to encourage any young people with an interest in beef cattle, especially Aberdeen-Angus to join our Central Club. We hope to have activities up and running in 2021. I also would like to thank Elaine for all her hard work and dedication. Stay safe and healthy and we will hopefully see you all again soon.



VICE CHAIRMAN: CSAAC WILLIAM MCLAREN, NETHERTON

Aberdeen Angus is a world-wide breed and in turn is a global family. Over the years we have been fortunate to travel the world, whether that is invitations to judge shows, attend shows as International buyers/sellers or attend World Forums and Secretariats. We have made long lasting business and personal friendships with people from every continent and look forward to visiting and catching up with them each year on our trips. We had many trips planned for 2020, including Germany, Canada and Argentina but obviously due to Covid-19 these along with most other agriculture events across the world have had to be cancelled. We hope all our friends around the world are safe and well and look forward to being together again soon.

RETTIES PEDIGREE SERVICES 2020

After returning from a successful February bull sales we were looking forward to the forthcoming shows and spring sales. By March we realised that the best laid plans weren't going to happen! Plus we got the terrible sad news about John Gilmour's passing. John had been a client and friend for a long time, he was a great character with a real passion for his AA herd. We had to take the decision in April to stop feeding cattle for the shows. We carried on feeding and preparing the livery bulls and our own sale bulls for the May sales, but without a crystal ball, we didn't really know if it would be possible to have a sale. It was a very worrying time as selling bulls on behalf of our clients and ourselves, is a major part of the annual income. We took the decision to get professional photos taken of all the sale animals, and with a bit of help from UA, we managed to sell all the bulls as far afield as Norfolk, Mid Wales, Lancashire, Angus, Aberdeenshire, Ayrshire and Skye. So that was a major relief under the circumstances!

It was a very different summer with no shows, no socialising, no kist parties, no nothing! But in the grand scheme of things, the fact so many people were losing their lives with Covid-19 put things into perspective. Normally we would be running around like headless chickens preparing animals, kit, washing endless white halters and coats, organising haulage, staff, food ... but it wasn't to be. With the loss of the shows it was a worrying time, but our saving grace was that the Weeton cattle all came up in different stages to calve and be prepared for their dispersal sale in October, which kept us busy and helped keep the wolf from the door!

As we came out of lockdown there was always the hope that the October bull sales would go ahead in one form or another. Before that UA managed to have the September female sale, although small in AA numbers, they sold as well as could be expected on the day, which paved the way for plans to go ahead with the October sale. A new format for the October bull sales allowed the sale to go ahead, the cattle were only in the market for a short time but it allowed people to sell bulls successfully with an increased average. The female sales went well too.

As we go into tier 3 of lockdown, we can only hope that 2021 will go back to being a 'normal' year. Stay safe everyone.

SOUTH EAST ENGLAND CLUB LOCKDOWN DIARIES

Hawkey Driest summer in Hampshire I can remember; however lockdown meant lots of extra family labour! Missed having no farm visits, so glad to get to a few farms delivering private bull sales. These sales off the farm thankfully unaffected, thanks to the Internet. And we managed to get two bulls sold to the Cogent stud - Hawkey Red Paxton 954 and Hawkey Red Ferdinand 994.



Rosemead Angus spent most of lockdown fencing in our entire extensive footpaths network, due to the huge increase in use by the local population. We continue to have strong bull sales throughout the year. We managed to sell heifers to Austria, the Czech Republic and France as well as starting up a new herd for Neil Cowap. We have used 6 stock bulls this year running alongside Raddery Endeavour, Easton Greys Jack and Emerald Mine are Busulow Porthtowan, Cardona Edwin U061, Aynho Eldorado U092 and Rosemead Jack Eric V093 a cracking son of Gear Netlad. We have some very promising 2020 calves.

McClemens Herd had several bull sales and selling all 2019 female crop to a breeding company. We managed to get through the long dry summer without feeding and we hope to get through most of the winter on grass grazing. We have a very good crop of 2020 calves by Lockerley Black Boromir and we look forward to our 2021 crop from Easton Greys Jack, a beautiful, fleshy bull full of breed character

Ditsworthy Angus- Its not been an easy year trying to run a full time business away from the farm during lockdown whilst struggling to find grass during a very dry summer in Sussex.

However the demand for Angus remains strong, we sold our three young bulls to three separate commercial buyers in the spring on the same day and then whilst looking to reduce numbers due to lack of forage ended up selling our entire herd taking the opportunity to replace them with younger cows of superior breeding including our first red. Cautiously looking forward to 2021!

Winslow Herd In 2020 has been most definitely like no other, losing land to East West Rail, and nearby HS2 causing bedlam and chaos to other farmers nearby, but nevertheless Bull sales have surpassed predictions, with our Bull exchange working well for several suckler farmers in Bucks, Oxfordshire and Berkshire, a great partnership with our Haulage and Deadweight sister company.

Lets hope for a continued success in bull sales and a return to normality for 2021.



Kingwood. Following the wettest winter we can remember, lockdown gave us the opportunity to get round to doing those jobs that often get missed in normal times. The cattle did well through the dry summer and we have had good calves by Weeton Panther and Rawburn Jumbo Eric. The grass lasted well into the autumn. We were pleased to visit some farms when delivering cattle sold privately. We have started halter training in the hope there will be some shows later in 2021.

Pottage -A year to remember, at the western edge of the Sussex High Weald in Pease Pottage, with poorer sandy and acid soils, and with virtually no rain for many weeks we needed our reserve forage.

We sold more heifers and a few cows to reduce numbers, a few older or barrens were sold at good prices.

It's these hard years where our breed really shines and comes into its own. The cows had less milk, the calves weaned a few kilos lighter but they were strong and healthy and after some creep feeding, are now are growing well on bought in silage and hay.

Warrenho. A very different year, back in early March we prepared a team of four bulls and six heifers for Worcester only for the sale to be cancelled with the onset of Covid-19. Fortunately through the powers of digital marketing the heifers sold as a group to the Mereside Herd, the trip to Liverpool was certainly a lot quicker with the empty roads. Warrenho Frank sold to the Hornacott herd in Cornwall another road trip and meeting without handshakes in this new world. After a very dry spring the cows where all being fed straw from June, by the time we eventually got enough rain to grow some grass it was Autumn and we are left wondering if we have enough food to get through winter. It was a long summer without the distraction of our usual summer shows although we were kept busy with the new age of photographing and videoing bulls for virtual customers.

Rotherwick Herd Calving started in March and we have some excellent calves by Rawburn Black Bush, Hallington Edition, Retties Lazy Rascal and Rotherwick Lord Ha Ha (a son of Weeton Lady Heather x Duncanziemere Edwin).

Our intention was to disperse the herd this year after 25 years, as a planning application has been submitted to install a 150-acre solar farm. Given the pandemic the sale was postponed until September 2021 - unless we have an offer for the breeding herd beforehand. We have some excellent Scottish and North American families/bloodlines, and it would be good to see someone develop the herd further.

Calbourne Herd (Isle of Wight) We were pleased to win Best Native Bred Beast at Gillen Market's Christmas Show with our 19 month old steer which weighed 680kg on the day (pictured). Second year running for this win, which is held at Salisbury Market.

Fees and Charges (UK) - From November 1st 2020

- Membership Subscription (Life): £750
- Membership Subscription (Annual): £30
- Junior Membership (Annual): £15
- Herd Name Copyright Fee: £10

Herd Book Registration – late entries (see Bye-Law 6 (b))

- Herd Book Registration (including EU) – Males: Up to 6 months of age and intimated within 27 days £25 if submitted on-line. £30 if submitted on a paper form.
- From 6 months to 12 months of age £50 fixed fee
- Any registrations of male calves being processed for animals over 12 months of age will be subject to the charges in the table below

Herd Book Registration (including EU) – Females: Up to 6 months of age and intimated within 27 days £25 if submitted on-line. £30 if submitted on a paper form.

- From 6 months to 12 months of age £50 fixed fee
- Any registrations of female calves being processed for animals over 12 months of age will be subject to the charges in the table below

Animals required to be registered if older than 12 months will be subject to the following late fee penalties.

Age	Registration fee	Late fee	Total
1-2 years	£25	£150	£175
2-3 years	£25	£250	£275
3-4 years	£25	£350	£375
4-5 years	£25	£450	£475

No animal over 5 years of age will be registered or accepted into the herdbook

- Junior members, until the year in which they are 18 years of age, are entitled to one free registration each year.
- Any breeder with 20 or more registrations in a calendar year will be entitled to a £1.25 refund per animal registered.
- Any breeder with 50 or more registrations in a calendar year will be entitled to a £2.50 refund per animal registered.
- Such refunds to be credited the following year once the Herd Book is closed.
- For Both Males and Females intimated within 27 days of birth registered after 6 months of age but before 12 months of age a late fee of £50 will be charged.

- For Both Males and Females intimated within 27 days of birth registered after 12 months of age but before 12 months of age a late fee of £150 will be charged.

Change of Ownership Fee for Members: £25

- Change of Ownership Fee for non-Members: £35

Overseas Purchases – Registration

- Males: £50
- Females: £25

Notification of E. T. Flush – (Home): Nil

Notification of E. T. Flush – (Imports): Nil

Additional Fee for Calves got by A.I: Nil

Additional Fee for Calves got by E. T. – (Home): Nil

Additional Fee for Calves got by E. T. – (Imports): Nil

Overseas Sales – Export Certificate / Zootechnical Certificate

- Males: £25*
- Females: £25*
- Semen: £25*

Embryos: £25

Duplicate/Amended Certificate of Pedigree: £5*

Extended Pedigree Certificate: £30*

Copies of Herd Book: As advised at time of ordering

Semen Royalty Brokerage Scheme – Commission collected on royalties: 20%

- *Denotes Non-Members fees are doubled

All of the above fees and charges are subject to VAT which is not included in the figures quoted.

DNA CHARGES

CALF	SAMPLE TYPE	TEST	CHARGE
2019/2020 REGISTERED MALE CALF	TISSUE	50K SNPS + MYOSTATIN (NT821 F94L) SIRE VERIFIED ONLY IF SIRE HAS SNPS PROFILE	£20 PAID BY THE SOCIETY
OPTIONAL		MICROSATELLITE TEST FOR SIRE VERIFICATION (WHEN SIRE IS NOT PROFILED ON SNPS)	£25 CHARGED TO MEMBER
FEMALE CALF AT BIRTH (OPTIONAL)	TISSUE	50K SNPS + MYOSTATIN	£20 CHARGED TO MEMBER
INTIMATED CALF (OPTIONAL)	TISSUE	50K SNPS + MYOSTATIN	£20 CHARGED TO MEMBER
FIRST TIME CALVING FEMALE New testing from July 2020	TISSUE	50K SNPS + MYOSTATIN (NT821+F94L) SIRE VERIFICATION ON SNPS IF SIRE HAS PROFILE	£20 PAID BY THE SOCIETY
		SIRE VERIFICATION ON MICROSATELLITE IF SIRE IS NOT PROFILED ON SNPS	£25 PAID BY THE SOCIETY
STOCK BULL	TISSUE	50K SNPS + MYOSTATIN (NTL821+ F94L) + SIRE VERIFICATION (IF SIRE HAS SNPS)	£20 CHARGED TO MEMBER
(ALL STOCK BULLS MUST BE SIRE VERIFIED/SNPS TESTED/MYOSTATIN TESTED)		MICROSATELLITE FOR SIRE VERIFICATION	£25 CHARGED TO MEMBER
SIRE SEARCH SERVICE	50K SNP AVAILABLE	IN THE EVENT OF A NOMINATED SIRE NOT BEING FOUND A SEARCH OF THE DATABASE CAN BE UTILISED TO LOCATE A SIRE	£66 PER HOUR CHARGED TO MEMBER

NOTES

- Tissue Samples are preferred – any hair sample submitted cannot be stored and we will charge for testing.
- First calving females – we will test the tissue sample we already have on file.
- Stock Bulls – where the Sire has not been tested on SNPS we will have to test the calf again on Microsatellite for the Sire verification. This will be done at the Society's cost only for the FIRST CALVING FEMALES.
- 2019 -2020 male calves will be profile only if the Sire has not been tested on SNPS. Sire Verification on Microsatellite will be invoiced.
- Breeders should check that any stock bulls have been tested on SNPS – Calves can be sire verified then without extra testing.
- Lab requests will be sent automatically when the registration is processed. Tests for FIRST CALVING FEMALES will be requested when their first calf is registered.
- Members will get an email with a list of tests requested.
- Results take a minimum of 4 weeks to come back from the lab.
- Members will get another email when the results are uploaded to the database.
- All charges exclude VAT

Northern Ireland Aberdeen Angus Club

<p><u>Baronagh</u> V & S Wallace 98 Edenbane Rd Garvagh Co Londonderry T: 0282997096 E:baronaghangus@hotmail.co.uk</p>	<p><u>Birches</u> S & S Matchett 43 Cloncarrish Rd Birches Co Armagh M: 07720077493 E:gmatchett43@btinternet.com</p>	<p><u>Carmean</u> John Lawrence 22 Carmean Rd Magherafelt Co Londonderry M:07971193685 E:jameslawrence99@btinternet.com</p>
<p><u>Clogher Valley</u> Ian & Gillian Browne 47 Screeby Rd Fivemiletown Co Tyrone M: 07591361229 E:cloghervalleyangus@btinternet.com</p>	<p><u>Coolermoney</u> Adrian & Graeme Parke 23 Coolermoney Rd Strabane Co Tyrone M:07749166625 E: graemeparke@hotmail.com</p>	<p><u>Dartrey</u> Hylda Mills 15 Firtree Lane Scarva Co Down M:07958052121 Hylda M:07958052131 Brian E: hylda.scarva@yahoo.co.uk</p>
<p><u>Drumhill</u> Jonathan & Lisa Doyle 306 Drum Rd Cookstown Co Tyrone M: 07803719458 E: jonathan@jdexcavations.co.uk</p>	<p><u>Drummeer</u> Alan & Naomi Morrison 116 Drummeer Road Maguiresbridge Co Fermanagh M:07811447812 E: theacre@hotmail.com</p>	<p><u>Ember</u> Freddie Davidson 9 Barrack Hill Banbridge Co Down M:07517166178 E: freddied1@hotmail.co.uk</p>
<p><u>Innisfayle</u> Catherine O'Hara 130 Mullan Rd Rasharkin Co Antrim M:07968868001 E: granagh@btinternet.com</p>	<p><u>Killaney</u> John & Sandra Blackburn 205 Aghafad Rd Clogher Co Tyrone M: 07760264692 E: s_mb57@hotmail.com</p>	<p><u>Knockoneill</u> James Mallon 43 Drumblane Rd Swatragh BT46 5NR M: 07701054122 E: jamesmallon@aol.com</p>
<p><u>Lana</u> Alan Cheney 14 Stralongford Rd Trillick Co Tyrone M: 07979245994 E: alancheney71@icloud.com</p>	<p><u>Millbrae</u> Rev Sean Moore Cargalisgarron Derrynoose Co Armagh M: 07713633577</p>	<p><u>Moneybroom</u> DG & IL Mackey 26 Moneybroom Rd Lisburn Co Antrim M: 077032210545 E: moneybroom.farm@talktalk.net</p>
<p><u>Mossbank</u> G McAuley 6 Ardymagh Rd Ballyclare Co Antrim M:07928686954 E: gmcauley6@hotmail.co.uk</p>	<p><u>Sess</u> Margaret Buchanan 19 Sess Rd Augher Co Tyrone T: 02885568276</p>	<p><u>Woodvale</u> A & C Armour & Sons 75 Begny Hill Rd Dromara Co Down M: 07748796818 E: alwyn_armour@yahoo.co.uk</p>

Chairperson: - Alan Morrison Tel 07811447812

Secretary: - Cathy O'Hara Tel: 07968868001

Members often have stock for sale. Please contact the above herds directly.

PENWAC

ANEIBA

Mr & Mrs G Ball
Fairsnape, Garstand Road
Great Eccleston, Preston
Lancs PR2 0ZA
M: 07791 490704

EDDISBURY

RJ Weston
NP & KJ Waterworth,
Eddisbury Lodge Farm,
Delamere, Northwich,
Cheshire CW8 2JD
T: 01829 751525
M: 07810 837370
E: Katie.waterworth@btinternet.com

THE MOSS

Kevin Moores
North Moss Farm,
North Moss Lane, Formby,
Liverpool L37 0AQ
T: 01704 875489

LAMBRIGG

A K, P A & J A Threlfall,
Lambrigg, Hornby Lane,
Inksip, Nr Preston, Lancs PR4 0TU
T: 01995 670306

WOODMOSS

Mr GD & Mrs JE Webster
47 Wood Moss Lane, Scarisbrick,
Lancashire. L40 9RJ
M: 07775591629 M: 07787802090
E: joweb85@yahoo.co.uk

MILLSTONES

Stephan W Edwards Esq
Millstones, Bottomhouse,
Nr Leek, Staffordshire ST13 7NZ
T: 01538 304483
E: swepme@hotmail.co.uk

FORGELAND

Messrs CM & CA Jackson,
Forgelands Estates, Forgelands,
Caton, Lancaster, LA2 9NB
T: 01524 770694. M: 07748708106
E: chris.mjackson@hotmail.co.uk

BLACKWATCH € CHAMPAGNE

Mary Hamnett & Gordon Oliver
Upper Waterside Farm, Disley,
Nr Stockport, Cheshire SK12 2HJ
T: 01663 767877 M: 07817083995
E: olivham@btinternet.com

MOBBERLEY

Ian G Norbury, Dairy House Farm,
Mobberley, Cheshire, WA16 7RA
T: 01565872128 M: 07900922380
E: iannorbury34@outlook.com

AULTHURTSIDE

John & Gwen Hadwin
High Aulthurstside,
Broughton-in-Furness,
Cumbria LA20 6AE
T: 01229 716382

WESTDANE

Mr Philip J Arden
Raven's Clough Farm, Toft Green,
Congleton, Cheshire CW12 3QF
T: 01260 226484

HOLLYHOWE

J F Batty & sons
Bankground Farm, Coniston,
Cumbria, LA21 8AA
T: 01539441264
F: 01539441900
E: info@bankground.com

HEATHCOTE

MR N A & Mrs J Flower
Heathcote Grange
Heathcote, Nr Hartington,
Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 0AY
T: 01298 84918
M: 07977 278586

CONEYGARTH

P & M Stanley
Lower Coney Garth Farm,
Barkisland, Halifax HX4 0DU
T: 01422 822538

HURRIES

David B Wellock and
Wendy P Hoare
Hurries Farm, Otterburn,
Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 4DY
T: 01729 830291
E: david@hurries.plus.com

PEXHILL

G Biddulph
Dalehouse Farm, Gawsworth,
Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 9QT
T: 01625 424284

CUBBYHILL

John Byers
Cubbyhill, Longtown, Carlisle,
Cumbria CA6 5NN
T: 01228 791505
M: 07748935293
E: joycebyers11@hotmail.com

PILSBURY

Mr R Jackson
Endmoore Farm, Tagg Lane,
Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1JP
T: 01629 815683
M: 07966 360210
W: www.peakangus.co.uk
E: rf.re.jackson@btinternet.com

The Pennine and North West Angus Club

BUCKHURST

Mr J Walsh
Buckhurst Farm, Walmersley,
Bury, Lancs BL9 6SZ
T: John 07885 739120
E: richard.walsh@
buckhurstplanthire.co.uk

MORPHEUS

Owen Tunney
Manor Farm, Cuddington Lane,
Cuddington, Northwich, CW8 2TE
M: 07855 822095
E: owen.tunney@btinternet.com
W: www.morpheusangus.co.uk

ROYDMOOR

Gina Barraclough,
Westfield Farm,
Thurlstone, Nr Sheffield,
South Yorkshire, S36 7RD
M: 07521351657
E: gbarraclough1@yahoo.com

BLACKTHORN

Mr K Hancock
Whitebottom Farm
Compstall, Marple Bridge,
Stockport, Cheshire SK6 5JQ
T: 01614 278273
M: 07968 323069
E: karl@blackthornangus.com

WHITEHILLS

Will Hurley & Rachel Helm,
Whitehills Farm,
Macclesfield Forest,
Macclesfield,
Cheshire, SK11 0AR
M: 07974074063 / 07871244149
E: rachhelm12@gmail.com

CURZON

D.C. Moss & Son
Glebe Farm, Gotham,
Nottinghamshire,
NG11 0HF
T: 01159 830780
M: 07753 635844
E: pennie.moss@btinternet.com



The PENWAC Club situated predominantly in the North West of England. The members have a diverse range of herds from only a few cattle to over 500, comprising of show herds, commercial herds, organic and pure native cattle. Members have diverse locations from Cheshire plains to Hills and Dales with cattle to suit all locations. We welcome visitors from home and abroad and often have cattle for sale. Please contact the secretary or members direct for more information.

CHAIRMAN: Stephan Edwards

VICE CHAIR: Owen Tunney

SECRETARY: Mary Hamnett

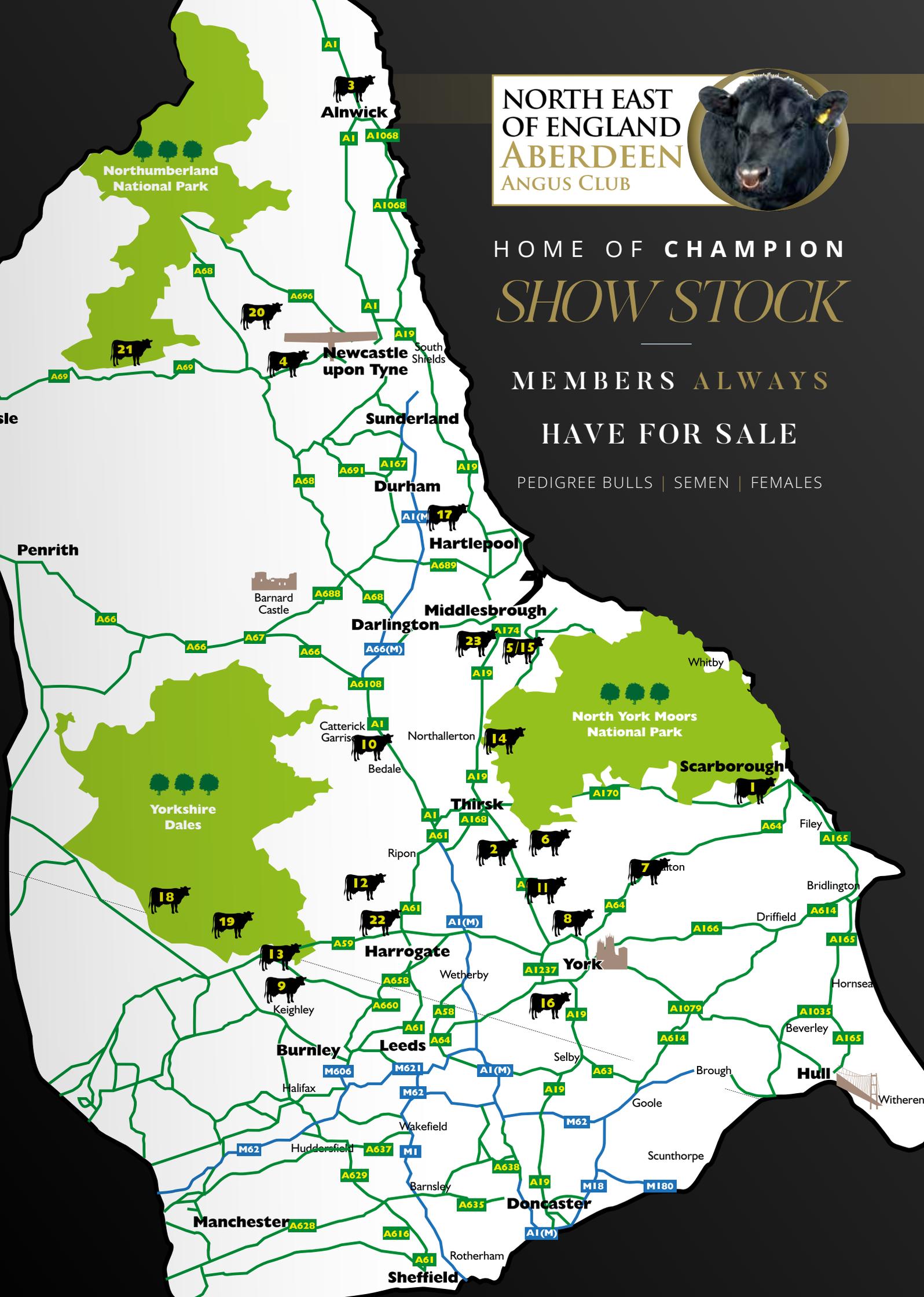
NORTH EAST
OF ENGLAND
ABERDEEN
ANGUS CLUB



HOME OF CHAMPION
SHOW STOCK

MEMBERS ALWAYS
HAVE FOR SALE

PEDIGREE BULLS | SEMEN | FEMALES



CLUB MEMBERS...

1. DERWENT

J P, J M & J M Hutchinson
Spikers Hill Farm, West Ayton,
Scarborough, North Yorkshire
YO13 9LB

Tel: 01723 862537
jphutch88.ph@gmail.com

2. FRANCISCAN

Messrs Spilman
Church Farm, Sessay,
Thirsk
YO7 3NB

Tel: 07813 051284
Markspilman7@hotmail.com

3. ALN

Messrs Burrell
Broome Park, Alnwick
Northumberland
NE66 2EQ

Tel: 01665 574344
georgew.burrell@btinternet.com

4. CROOK HILL

Mr W & Mrs M E Taylor
Crook Hill Farm, Stockfield,
Northumberland
NE43 7UX

Tel: 07903 218132

5. TREE BRIDGE

Mr & Mrs D Evans
Tree Bridge Farm, Nunthorpe,
Middlesbrough, Cleveland
TS7 0NS

Tel: 07860 641841
or 01642 723696
david@treebridgefarm.co.uk

6. FOX FOOT

Mr & Mrs P J & A Turnbull
Fox Foot Farm, Coxwold,
York, North Yorkshire
YO61 4AT

Tel: 01347 868236

7. HARTON

Michael J Todd
5 Harton, York
YO60 7NP

Tel: 01904 468712
Mob: 07779 324188
speak2todd@outlook.com
www.hartonangus.com



8. OAK MOOR

Tom Slater
Oak Moor Farm, The Moor
Haxby, York
YO32 2JY

Tel: 01904 764457
Mob: 07563 339979
info@oakmoorangus.co.uk

9. AIREDALE ANGUS

David Isherwood
Airedale Angus, Skipton
BD20 9AB

Tel: 07891 781542
airedaleangus@outlook.com

10. MILLCLOSE

Mr T S & Mrs P A Knox
Mill Close Farm, Patrick Brompton,
Bedale, North Yorkshire
DL8 1JY

Tel: 01677 450257
Mob: 07710 957466
Work Tel: 01748810042
info@yorkshiredalesmeat.com

11. YEARSLEY

Mr & Mrs TA & P Johnson
Clarence House Farm,
Yearley, Brandsby, York,
North Yorkshire
YO61 4SL

Tel: 01347 888665
adrian.90johnson@btinternet.com

12. CRAGG

Miss Juliet Swires
Cragg House Farm, Wilsill,
Harrogate, North Yorkshire
HG3 5EE

Tel: 01423 711745

13. CROOK RISE

G & M A Lawn
None-Go-Bye Farm, Grassington
Road, Skipton, North Yorkshire
BD23 3LB

Tel: 01756 793165

14. SAVILLE

Mr & Mrs S Medley
Hunters Hill Farm,
Nether Silton,
Thirsk, North Yorkshire
YO7 2LL

Tel: 01609 883197
Mob: 07879 664686
savilleangus@btinternet.com

15. UPSALL

Mr & Mrs R E & P M Dickson
Upsall Grange Farm, Nunthorpe,
Middlesbrough
TS7 0PG

Tel: 01642 316423
Mob: 07810 890242
robinedickson@icloud.com

16. WENSLEYDALE

C D Timm
West End Farm,
Appleton Roebuck, York
YO23 7DD

Tel: 01904 744333
Mob: 07742553851
christimm1@hotmail.co.uk

17. WINGATE GRANGE

Mr & Mrs W Chrystal
Wingate Grange Farm, Wingate,
County Durham
TS28 5LX

Tel: 07503 982736
chrystalwill@hotmail.com

18. HURRIES

David B Wellock & Wendy P Hoare
Hurries Farm, Otterburn,
Skipton
BD23 4DY

Tel: 01729 830291
david@hurries.plus.com

19. CALTON

Simon & Jane Foster
Newfield Grange,
Calton, Skipton
BD23 4AB

Tel: 01729 830175
Mob: 07763 891772
newfieldgrange2@gmail.com

20. HALLINGTON

Messrs A & S Lawson
South Farm, Hallington
Newcastle, Northumberland
NE19 2LW

Tel: 01434 672227
Mob: 07701 010294
lawsonpedigrees@aol.com

21. HOUSESTEADS

Kit Acton
Bradley Farm, Bardon Mill,
Hexham, Northumberland
NE47 7AG

Tel: 01434 344261
Mob: 07792 211903
j.acton2@btinternet.com

22. SALTERGATE

B Hardcastle & Sons
Saltergate Hill Farm,
Skipton Road, Killinghall,
Harrogate

HG3 2BU
Richard: 07803 745962
Chris: 07817 097435
mgthardcastle@yahoo.co.uk
currierclose17@gmail.com

23. JACKROCK

Gary Rock & Jack Bircham
Stainton Vale Farm,
Stainton,
Middlesbrough
TS17 9LG

Tel Gary: 07730 562760
Tel Jack: 07545 805547
j_bircham@hotmail.co.uk



CHAIRMAN: WILL CHRYSTAL • **CLUB SECRETARY:** SOPHIE CHRYSTAL

Tel: 07876 307388 • Email: sophiechrystal@outlook.com



Technical Committee Report

The Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society's Technical Committee is chaired by Andrew Hodge of the Rulesmains Herd, based at Duns in Berwickshire. Andrew comes from a dairy background and has always believed in the importance of cow families. Andrew has transferred this strategy to his now Aberdeen-Angus herd, which replaced his Holstein and Ayrshire herds, following their dispersal in 2007. Rulesmains was purchased in 1968 and Andrew manages approx. 1,500 acres of combinable crops, and both rotational and permanent grassland. The unit supports 100 pedigree Aberdeen-Angus, 50 commercial cows and finishes 300 head per year, of which 150 are purchased dairy bred calves. The Rulesmains herd was founded around four females from Rawburn, Deveron and Blelack, and continues to focus on producing bulls for the commercial market, with emphasis on correctness, feet, legs, length, width and character. The herd produce and sell 25 pedigree bulls annually, most to commercial herds, but also a few for Stirling. Andrew is assisted by daughter Emma, and his wife Jill.

The Technical Committee has been working hard to manage the changeover from IdentiGEN to Weatherbys and the introduction of the 50K SNP DNA storage platform over the last year. There have been some teething problems as expected, but these are getting ironed out systematically and the processes are becoming more efficient over time. The move to the higher density chip means we can hold more information on each animal which increases the functionality in relation to how the information can be used. One of

these benefits is the ability to explore use of Genomics – an option that the Technical Committee will consider going forward. We expect the benefits to include an expansion in the traits of interest that can be analysed and reported within our current genetic index framework. However, at the moment, focus continues on getting the current population profiled so we can get ourselves into a position where a high proportion of the population can be parentage verified. This will have the significant additional benefit of enabling the verification of the origin of Aberdeen-Angus beef in the marketplace. With the transfer of the library of DNA profiles from IdentiGEN to Weatherby's, also comes an increase in the control of this data. The data is now held within our system at Pedigree House and has become much easier to trace and investigate any issues that arise.

From 2020, calved heifers need to have a DNA profile on record in order to register the calf. Thus, first calved females need to be DNA sampled at the point of calving, or ahead of this, so that the sample can be analysed ahead of the registration of the calf. There is an obvious increase in volume of samples to be handled, but the office is coping. This enhancement will contribute to a greater proportion of the herd book population with verifiable parentage.

There continues to be a small portion of the submitted samples that fail for reasons linked to sample quality. This is often due to samples having been left for too long in inappropriate conditions. Samples should be handled/stored out of a direct light source (out of sunlight and direct daylight) and away from direct heat sources. It is

also requested that samples be submitted as quickly after capture as possible to avoid deterioration due to length of time in the medium. There is guidance on handling and storage in the breeder resources section of the website, if you require further information.

The Technical Committee is currently working on the construction of the Maternal Index. This is the culmination of more than eight years of work and it is intended that this will make it easier for the commercial suckler producer to use the selection index. The individual maternal trait values will remain visible so that breeders can select on particular maternal traits if so desired. Thanks must go to Marion Tilson, Finlay Munro, Robert Whitcombe and Barbra Webster for their latest work with ABRI to progress this long standing project.

Work and discussion with BREEDPLAN continues, in order to ensure that it delivers what our breeders require of it. BREEDPLAN enables breeders to input verifiable measurements for weight, eye muscle, fat depth and scrotal size into the analysis which is updated regularly. Focus is ongoing on improving the accuracy of some of the non-verifiable traits, which include the maternal and fertility traits such as calving ease, birth weight and gestation length. This focus will inevitably mean that the intensity of inspections will increase.

Going forward, the Technical Committee plans to develop an Elite Cow Register, the criteria for which has already been agreed, and is as follows:

Performance recorded females will also:

- Have calves with a 200-day weight recorded
- Must have her first calf within 900 days of date of birth
- Must maintain a regular calving interval, with a maximum of 395 days between natural calves
- Must have four consecutive natural born calves that are registered/intimated and have a weaning weight EBV above breed average
- Must be above breed average for milk EBV
- Must be in the top 20% for Self-Replacing Index



If a female meets all these criteria, she will be flagged as such and will keep that flag for the duration of her life. It is intended to introduce a search function on BREEDPLAN database which will highlight these females.

Another focus that the Technical Committee are working on is highlighting the benefits of calving at two years of age. Recent work has provided excellent data that demonstrates the benefits of employing the practice of ensuring calving nearer two than three, and shows that the difference can be as much as 30 calves over a five year period within a herd. This is common practice in many herds but needs to be reinforced now that this practical dataset is available to us. Recent data has provided the following comparisons, which the Technical Committee consider to be worth promoting:

CALVING AT TWO YEARS OF AGE

For example, take two separate herds, each starting with eight heifers, the first calving at two years of age and the second calving at three years of age. Assume that all the heifer calves are retained for breeding and that the split between bull and heifer calves is 50:50.

Year	CALVING at 2 YEARS OLD	CALVING at 3 YEARS OLD
2015	8 calves born	0 calves born
2016	8 calves born	8 calves born
2017	12 calves born	8 calves born
2018	16 calves born	8 calves born
2019	22 calves born	12 calves born
Total calves born over 5 years	66	36

In addition to the above-mentioned topics, the Technical Committee is also discussing how to facilitate an increase in the uptake of, often better quality, British genetics by the commercial AI companies. British Aberdeen-Angus genetics are supported by robust and verifiable performance statistics in a format that our commercial producers can identify with. Exploratory dialogue with the major retailers to underpin our position on this will be a step towards promoting replacement of non-British genetics in their dairy supply chains.

Andrew Hodge - Chairman



GoodBeef Index

CONNECTING FARMERS WITH CONSUMERS

The GoodBeef Index is a new way of measuring and grading beef quality. It takes an holistic view of quality, scoring key production, eating quality and environmental quality factors. Why? Because consumers want the assurance that their beef has been sensitively produced along with a positive environmental impact, and superb eating quality.

As it stands today, the UK beef sector has no way of measuring and differentiating beef quality for the consumer. As a result, farmers are paid an average price for producing premium beef, and conversely, consumers may be paying a premium price for only average beef. What's more, good beef is being unfairly presented as a threat to human health and a major cause of carbon emissions.

Therefore, with our exit from the EU fast approaching (at the time of writing), British beef farmers urgently need a new and better way of measuring and grading beef quality that can be defined and communicated to the consumer. Furthermore, to grow our premium beef exports market, we need a consumer-friendly grading answer that can compete with those of the US, Australia and most recently announced, Ireland.

In response, a small group of West Country farmers, technologists and private investors have come together to develop the GoodBeef Index.

The GoodBeef Index aims to create a quality based 'win-win' for all participant customer types in the supply chain by offering an on-line solution via a web-app that:

- Provides British beef farmers with tools to differentiate, predict and communicate the quality of beef they produce with scoring, grading and publishing facilities
- Releases include tools for price setting, posting future availability of finished cattle and additional predictive quality measurement services such as Ultra-sound
- Reflects environmentally sensitive production, nutritional value and product provenance

- Draws on international best practice of grading beef, similar to that of Australia and Japan, with emphasis on eating quality
- Defines beef quality farm-gate price points for sharing the value
- Assures traceability and transparency through the generation of a QR code for each individual animal detailing specific animal characteristics, such as breed, family genetic history, diet, home farm and carbon sequestration
- Stores certificates, provenance and scientific facts for customer verification
- Explains to the consumer why good beef is good for you, including nutrition, environment, and ethical benefits communicated through the Learning Centre and more
- Empowers both buyers and consumers to authenticate the quality of what they are ordering, buying and eating
- 'Where to buy' functionality provides consumers with visibility as to where they can purchase GoodBeef Index authenticated beef

The GoodBeef Index is a movement; a quality-based solution that aims to ensure a fair price is received for all within the food chain and that the true cost of producing premium quality beef is accounted for.

Prototyping and market trials are successfully completed. Our aim is to scale up with additional beef farms and supply chain participants by the end of 2020, with a view to launch nationally early next year. We are now expanding the team, and are keen to work with systems providers, trade bodies and the scientific and consulting communities to automate data transfer and to highlight best practice for producing great beef. We want to enhance producer profitability, sustainability and global competitiveness. Because we believe that:

"Good Beef is Good for You"





A Guide to Social Media

Along with our PR and marketing, the Society has had a shake-up on our social media platforms in 2020.

Our PR company Pinstone, and Amy Johnstone from the Society, have worked together as a team to create fun, informative and interesting posts.

Every post we produce links back to our overarching PR vision and communications aim - to raise the profile of the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society and its goals.

Whether on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, the post will in some way, tick one of these boxes:

- Aberdeen-Angus is Britain's best high-quality beef that you can rely on for great eating quality, every time
- Belief in this native British breed with a growing market share to match
- Aberdeen-Angus is working to improve animal health and genetics sustainably
- Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society is the go-to specialists for all things cattle/beef related

To link with our marketing pillars, our social media platforms have different objectives for the content, depending on the audience.

FACEBOOK:

The main audiences on this platform are Aberdeen-Angus 'Society' members, breeders and farmers, other breed societies, event managers, stock enthusiasts and genetic companies. Therefore, the main purpose of these posts is to showcase Aberdeen-Angus the breed - through sale updates and highlighting the key characteristics which make it the best beast.

TWITTER:

The main audiences on this platform are the wider agricultural industry, food industry, retailers, stakeholders, Aberdeen-Angus breeders, genetic companies, stock enthusiasts, rival societies, key journalists and press, and cattle industry figureheads. As a platform, Twitter is used to be part of 'the conversation', so as well as sharing Society news and updates, we're getting involved in wider industry topics and discussions.

INSTAGRAM:

The main audiences on this platform are consumers, retailers, food industry, influencers such as chefs, food bloggers, country bloggers and the wider farmer and YFC network. This platform is all about the photo, so is a great way to present Aberdeen-Angus: The brand - sharing photos of our cattle, our members and the best British beef available.

We hope you have enjoyed viewing our posts as much as we have enjoyed creating them! Don't forget to get involved - like, comment and share our content, and tag us in your Aberdeen-Angus posts.



Facebook:

Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society
Irish Aberdeen Angus Association



Twitter:

@AberdeenAngusUK
@IEAberdeenAngus



Instagram:

@aberdeenanguscattlesociety
@aberdeenangusireland

Social Media Review 2020

Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society
 Posted by Hootsuite
 19 Sep · 🌐

Excuse me, but does my bum look big in this?

Have a good weekend from the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society!



👍 65

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society
 Posted by Hootsuite
 29 Aug · 🌐

Who doesn't enjoy farming weekends spent travelling about in a tractor & trailer having a nose at other people's herds 🐄? Here is to more upcoming events where we can all enjoy days out like this again!



👍 89 6 comments 4 shares

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society
 Posted by Hootsuite
 10 Oct · 🌐

#SteakNight 🍖

Is tonight your Saturday steak night? Then why not use Aberdeen-Angus steaks which are celebrated for being tender, succulent, luxurious and with elegant, subtle flavours. Aberdeen-Angus steaks comes from grass-fed cattle, whilst it is recognised throughout the world and instantly connected with exceptional eating quality!

Get down to your local butchers today to buy your Aberdeen-Angus steaks!



👍 28 3 comments 1 share

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society
 Posted by Midge Johnstone
 30 Oct · 🌐

Aberdeen-Angus Winter National Memories:

Today would have been our 2020 Winter National Show at Agri Expo, Carlisle. So here are some memories to look back on...



👍 107 10 shares

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share



Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society
 Posted by Midge Johnstone
 18 Oct · 🌐

A Top Price of 10,000gns at the October Stirling Aberdeen-Angus Sale:

... See more



ABERDEEN-ANGUS.CO.UK
 A Top Price of 10,000gns at the October Stirling Aberdeen-Angus Sale - Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society

👍 110 1 Comment 4 shares

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society
 Posted by Hootsuite
 11 Aug · 🌐

Did you know 🤔👉

HRH Prince Charles is patron of the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society - following in the footsteps of his grandmother HM Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother. The Prince of Wales has a successful Aberdeen-Angus herd at Highgrove and takes an active interest in the Castle of Mey herd in Caithness, which is now run by The Queen Elizabeth Castle of Mey Trust.



👍 98 5 comments 6 shares

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society
 Posted by Hootsuite
 6 Aug · 🌐

The Aberdeen-Angus breed is renowned for their breed character, especially when it comes to their heads.

Check these black beauties!

#Farm24 Farmers Guardian



👍 74 2 comments 1 share

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society
 Posted by Hootsuite
 4 Sep · 🌐

#CaptionFriday

Comment below with your best caption for this picture of our very own CEO, Barrie Turner!



👍 25 25 comments

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share

Social Media Review 2020

Aberdeen Angus UK @... · 09/07/2020 ...
 #ThrowbackThursday to @greatyorkshow 2019!

#GreatYorkshireShow
 #AberdeenAngus #GYS #Winners
 #Champions #Memories #ShowSeason
 #SummerTime



1 1 5 1 1

Aberdeen Angus UK @Aberdeen... · 4d ...
 #Throwback to the Aberdeen-Angus Black Beauty Bonanza 2019 show where four animals were crowned Champions 🏆!

Judge on the day was Dallas Allen, Stouphill Aberdeen-Angus.



1 6 1 1 1

Aberdeen Angus UK @... · 16/07/2020 ...
 Aberdeen-Angus cows and calves have been #Spotted enjoying the view in their native Aberdeenshire, Scotland. Remember to tweet us your #Spotted Aberdeen-Angus pics 📸

#NativeBreeds #Breed #BestBreed



1 1 9 1 1



Aberdeen Angus UK @... · 05/07/2020 ...
 Aberdeen-Angus is the world's leading beef cattle breed and it is something we are very proud of! 🙌

#AberdeenAngus #Breed #Brand #Cattle
 #NativeBreeds #TheBest #BritishFarming



2 5 1 1 1

Aberdeen Angus UK @... · 25/06/2020 ...
 #ThrowbackThursday
 Here's a #throwback to this cheeky chap from Stirling 2019 October Bull Sales 😄 @unitedauctions

#AberdeenAngus #Breeding #Beef
 #BritishFarming #Sales #Auction #Market
 #Bull #Sales #NativeBreeds #Farm365



1 3 1 1 1

Aberdeen Angus UK @... · 21/09/2020 ...
 Keep your eyes peeled for the 2020 digital edition of the Autumn Cud Newsletter. We'll be sharing the latest updates on the Society, our members and our breed 🌟

#AberdeenAngus #Breed #Brand
 #BritishFarming



3 1 1 1 1

Aberdeen Angus UK @... · 06/09/2020 ...
 #HereComeTheGirls

Let's not forget the working girls of our breed. Increase profit and reduce input with Aberdeen-Angus females!
 #NativeBreeds

#Farm365 #AberdeenAngus
 #BritishBreeds



1 2 1 1 1



Stock Sires



SHADWELL EVOLUTION T003

Easy fleshing ability and structural correctness

Summer National Breed Champion 2019

Dam SHADWELL EVORA M618

National Champion in 2014

Calves are exceptional

Semen available for UK use

CARRUTHERS GRENADE R797

Purchased in 2020 with thanks to A Clark and Sons

A welcome addition to our breeding programme

Male Champion & Overall Reserve 2019 Royal Highland Show

Sire of DUNCANZIEMERE SPORTSMAN V307

Winter National Champion 2019 and sold for £14,000

First Shadwell calves are eagerly awaited spring 2021



OAKCHURCH DESTROYER W362

Exciting addition as our Junior Herd Sire

Some great Aberdeen Angus sires in the pedigree

Full of breed character with a beautiful temperament

First Shadwell calves in autumn 2021

Semen available worldwide from our previous stock bulls

BLELACK LORD BLACKTHORN S825 calves are born easily and very correct
SHADWELL JEREMY ERIC W202



IDVIES ERIC S735 is leaving us bulls and heifers with plenty of power and fast growth rates

SHADWELL ROSA ERICA W187



SHADWELL JENSON ERIC W213



SHADWELL JAYNE ERICA W182



2020 saw SHADWELL BLACK RUSSIAN V117 and 20 heifers sold to customers in France with a further 22 bulls sold to new and returning customers in the UK



To all our customers - *thank you*
for selecting **Shadwell Aberdeen Angus** in your breeding programmes

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Beef – The End Game!

We all know what happens behind the farm gate and what we discuss about breeding, feeding and finishing our beef animals to the best effect and as efficiently as possible, to make sure we fit to abattoir specifications and maximise returns.

This is the practicality of our industry, but just stop and think for a moment – ask yourself why you do it? Why do you spend between 36 and 40 months breeding, rearing and finishing an animal, keeping it well-fed, watered and cared for? This is the longest part of the supply chain and after all that time, you load it onto a vehicle send it off to the abattoir and move onto the next batch, just waiting for the kill sheets for your prime Aberdeen-Angus cattle to drop through the letterbox.

We are all very passionate about what we do and also very proud of our Association with the world's number one beef brand, so why do we let our interest in what happens to our cattle stop when we close the gate behind the lorry as it takes our investment away?

Your prime Aberdeen-Angus cattle go through a complete metamorphosis when they hit the next stage of the supply chain. Once it's booked with the processor, it is

sire verified against our database from the passport that is supplied with every animal, just to ensure it is Aberdeen-Angus and does actually qualify for the premium. It's then processed and becomes a completely different article at that point. With its coat off, it loses all its identity.

It becomes beef, and all main breeds amalgamate depending on their Europe Grading result, getting merged into one. This is apart from some PGI variances like Scotch beef and certain specialities such as Wagyu, but by far the biggest premium value beef carcass is Aberdeen-Angus sired.

Abattoirs take great care over the segregation of their Aberdeen-Angus carcasses and some even have days set aside just for processing Angus cattle. The premium value of each carcass means that it pays to make sure nothing gets mixed-up. Trading standards and retailers are very careful with packaging and claims, as mistakes can be very damaging.

This is because it is a premium product commanding the premium prices on the retailers' shelves. Labels such as Extra special, Taste the Difference, Finest, Gold, Specially Selected, Signature and Luxury are all phrases that exude a

good eating experience. Aberdeen-Angus beef delivers time and again.

It's okay for us to express our own opinions as we are involved in breeding the best beef we possibly can. We meet up at shows or at the mart and we talk within our ranks, acknowledging that Angus are the best breed, but we are 'the converted'. It's the consumer who ultimately decides if we have got it right, and if they are prepared to pay that little bit extra for a pack that says Aberdeen-Angus on it.

This year we decided to put this to the test with the people in the supply chain who foot the bill for the whole beef blockchain from start to finish - the consumer. AACCS has commissioned an independent consumer survey which threw up some interesting results. The excellent findings will help guide us in our marketing, channelling what a broad spectrum of consumers see as their key points when purchasing red meat. No bias views, just a set of questions, which we have supported with the following press release on its findings as part of our four-pillar marketing plan. This will be the first of a series focusing on the results of that survey and disseminating answers to the questions that consumers have raised.

Aberdeen-Angus lead the herd, in the public's opinion

An independent consumer survey commissioned by The Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society, has found that out of 2,174 participants, 1,378 agreed that the origin of the meat they purchased was paramount to how they felt, with 40% stating buying British was the most important factor they considered when purchasing red meat.

The name Aberdeen-Angus has long been associated with a mark of premium quality produce, but until now, this fact hasn't been substantiated by the general public. The Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society asked consumers to 'chew the cud' over their best beef choices, with the world's most well-known breed coming in on top.

"We commissioned the independent national survey to understand consumer eating habits and the Aberdeen-Angus 'brand' position in the British customer mindset," says Barrie Turner, CEO of The Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society. "It comes at a time of global unease, with consumer habits more focused than ever before, especially when it comes to diet."

The results confirmed that those surveyed associated a mark of excellence to the native breed, with the word 'quality' featuring among the most commonly associated words. Furthermore, when looking for the perfect steak,

1,261 of those surveyed agreed that Aberdeen-Angus meat has a better flavour in comparison to other beef on the market.

The question of price was also raised, with over half of those surveyed agreeing it as an important factor when purchasing red meat. However, due to its quality appearance and mark of native excellence, alongside its already significant reputation, the Aberdeen-Angus breed continues to champion at the purchasing stage.

"In recent years, the majority of consumers have taken a keener interest in relation to what they are buying, where it is coming from, how far it has travelled and the welfare of the animal in question", Mr Turner continues.

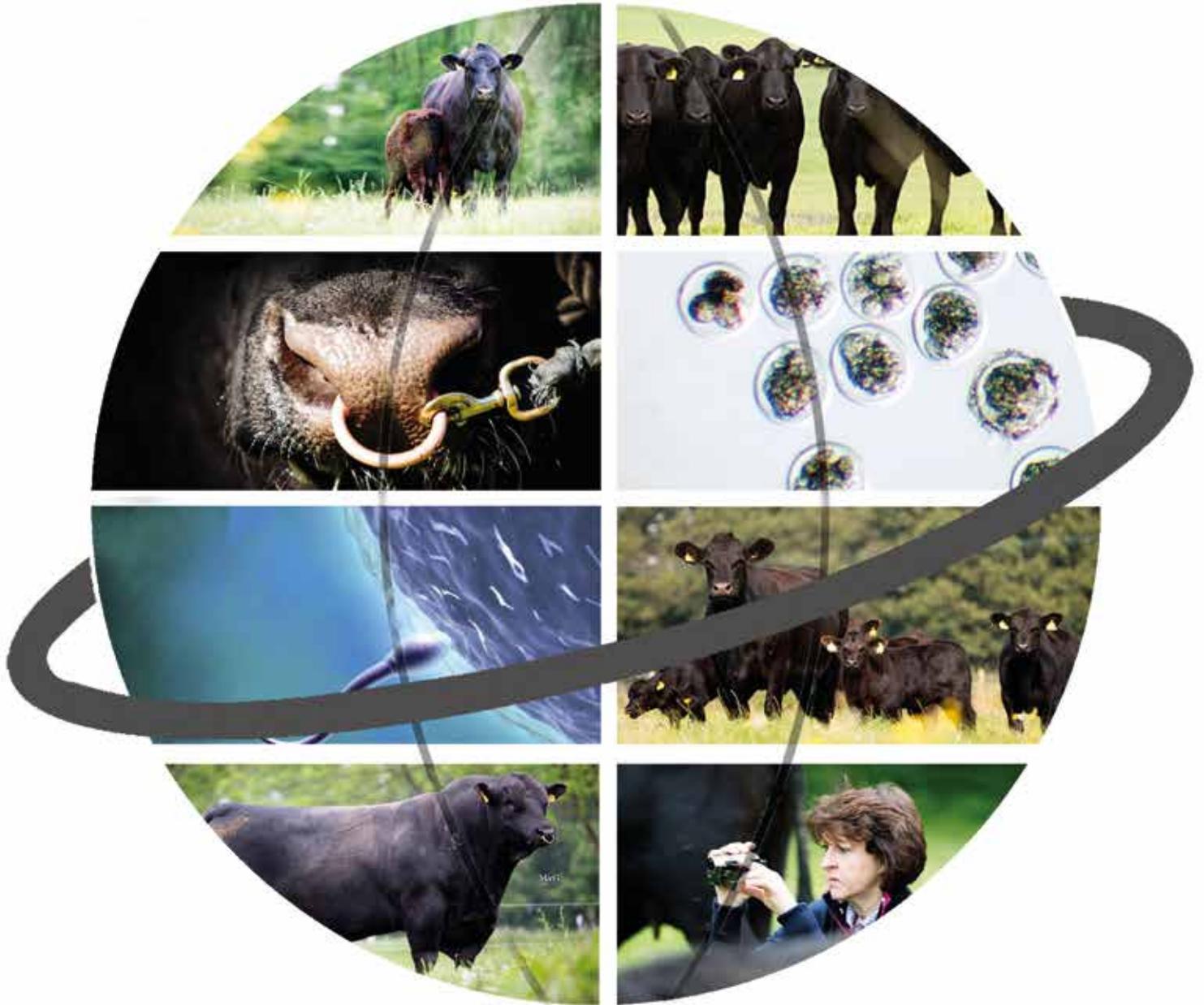
"With an increase in consumer awareness of provenance, the importance of native origin of what's on our plate and a food source's carbon footprint has also seen an increase, with consumers shopping smarter and more local."

It is evident, that during this period of global pandemic and lockdown, there has been a heightened thirst for knowledge about food, its carbon footprint and where it is coming from. "Consumers care about the environment and their impact", Barrie concludes, "Which only goes to support and strengthen the argument to support Britain's native breeds."

This is part of our drive to make sure that we engage as a breed and Society, representing our members and ensuring engagement across the whole supply chain, not just within our pedigree breed circles. Market promotion will ensure we do all we can to ensure the demand for Aberdeen-Angus beef remains in the spotlight across the industry. This will require a proactive approach and a good eating experience to keep consumers coming back for more. Let's not forget who ultimately pays the bill!



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200 Years of Aberdeen-Angus at Ballindalloch

In the past two centuries, there has been one constant at Ballindalloch Estate – the sight of Aberdeen-Angus cattle grazing the fields in the Castle grounds. First introduced in 1860 by one of the breed’s great pioneers, Sir George Macpherson-Grant, 3rd Baronet, the Ballindalloch herd is the oldest Aberdeen-Angus herd in continuous existence anywhere in the world.

But the origins of the herd go back much further than that. One of the other great pioneers of the breed, William McCombie of Tillyfour, acknowledged that Ballindalloch was probably the oldest herd of black polled cattle in the north of Scotland.

‘It has been the talk of the country since my earliest recollection and was then superior to all other stock’, wrote McCombie, who founded his own Tillyfour herd in 1830.

But we know that even before then Sir George Macpherson-Grant, 1st Bart., was endorsing the merits of what much later was to become the Aberdeen-Angus breed. In 1820, he offered premiums at the Peter Fair of Inveraven for ‘the improvement of the breed of black cattle’ and including a premium of five guineas – a substantial sum in those days – for the best black bull from the surrounding parishes.

The heritage of Ballindalloch in the Aberdeen-Angus breed is rich beyond reckoning and is writ large in the archives of the breed. Sir George, 3rd Bart., had inherited the Ballindalloch Estate in 1850 at the age of 11. A decade later and with the assistance of his brother, Campbell Macpherson-Grant, he founded the Ballindalloch herd that became recognised throughout the cattle breeding world.

As Barclay and Keith’s ‘Aberdeen-Angus Breed: A History’, published in 1958, records: ‘Hugh Watson of Keillor in Angus (1780-1865) brought the strains together and initiated the policy or propaganda by showing, William McCombie of Tillyfour in Aberdeenshire (1805-1880) strengthened these strains by the most masterly breeding policy ever attempted with cattle and vastly improved on Watson’s showyard record. Sir George Macpherson-Grant, Bart., of Ballindalloch in Banffshire, while retaining strength and power in the cattle, then added elegance and refinement and gave definition to the great families (Erica, Pride, Miss Burgess and Jilt) through which the breed has been maintained from generation to generation.’

The careers of these three master breeders effectively spanned a century. Watson became the tenant of Keillor in 1808, and Sir George died in December 1907. McCombie bought from Watson, Sir George from

McCombie; all three inextricably bound up in their work on the breed. But they never forgot that while they were concentrating on pedigree, the ultimate objective was beef, and they went out into the world to show that they were producing a premium product.

Never was this more convincingly demonstrated than at the Paris Universal Exhibition in 1878 that was described by Barclay and Keith as an epoch-making event in the history of the breed. Aberdeen-Angus from Tillyfour and from Ballindalloch won what was effectively the world championship for beef cattle, in competition with 370 foreign cattle and 1,314 French cattle, representing a total of 65 breeds.

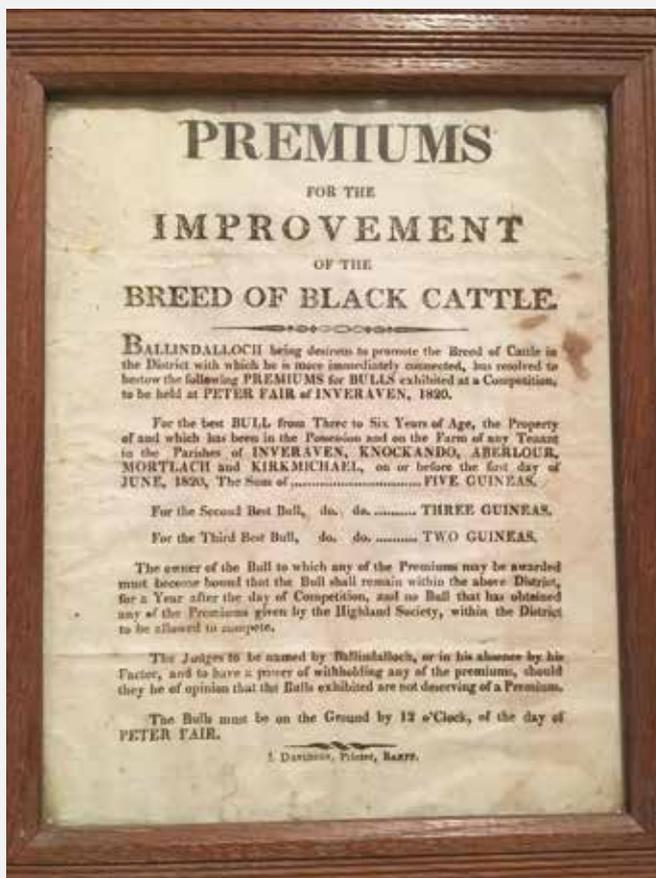
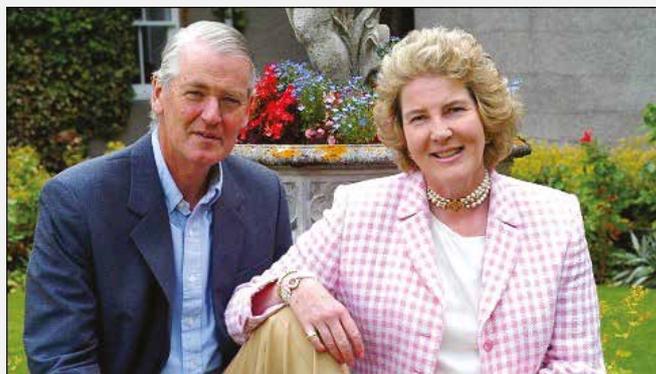
In 1904, when he was presented with an inscribed silver jardinière by his fellow-breeders, Sir George is reported to have said: "My work is about done, but if I can stick to it a bit yet, I want to nail the black flag somewhere about the Ballindalloch premises so firmly that no power will pull it down."

Following a difficult time in the 1950s, when crippling death duties threatened the future of the Estate, the herd was given a new lease of life from the 1960s onwards by Sir Ewan Macpherson-Grant, 6th Bart.. Sir Ewan was President of the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society 1966-67, and in 1977 he hosted the visit to Ballindalloch by delegates attending the World Angus Forum.

Today, Ballindalloch continues in the hands of the Macpherson-Grant family, and the Aberdeen-Angus herd grazing in the fields around Ballindalloch Castle are a major attraction for visitors to the magnificent castle.

Guy and Victoria Macpherson-Grant moved into the castle in 2014 following the retirement of Clare Russell, his mother and great granddaughter of Sir George, 3rd Bart., and her husband, Oliver. Guy had the privilege of following in his grandfather's footsteps by welcoming delegates from the 2017 World Angus Forum, the first to be held in the UK since 1977. The Russells did much to keep the Aberdeen-Angus legacy at Ballindalloch alive over the past 35 years, and this achievement continues to be maintained and refreshed under Guy's stewardship.

The black flag is still firmly nailed to the mast, as the present day Ballindalloch herd continues to go from strength to strength.



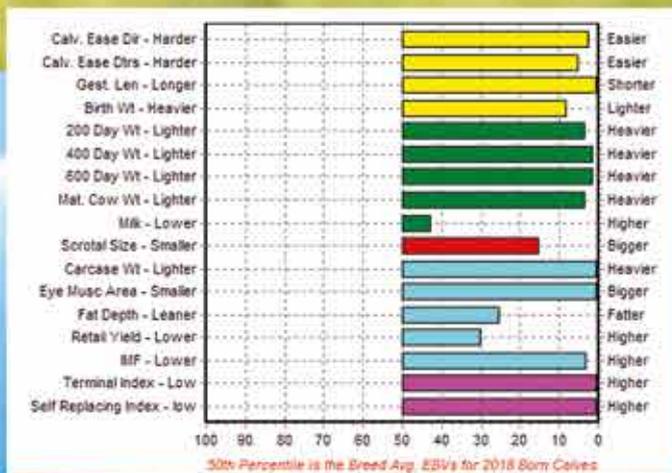
"BREEDING SHOW CATTLE

USED EXTENSIVELY IN 2020



Q&M
 BT WUL

RAWBURN BRAW LAD R041
 SIRE: CONNEALY DANNY BOY (SS) (IMP)
 DAM: HOFF BLACKBIRD 594 5218 (ET) (IMP)



DEVERON

Hamish & Margaret Sclater, Denhead Farms Dunlugas, Turriff, Aberdeenshire, AB53 4NR

WITH EXCELLENT EBV'S"



EXCITING NEW BULL FOR 2021

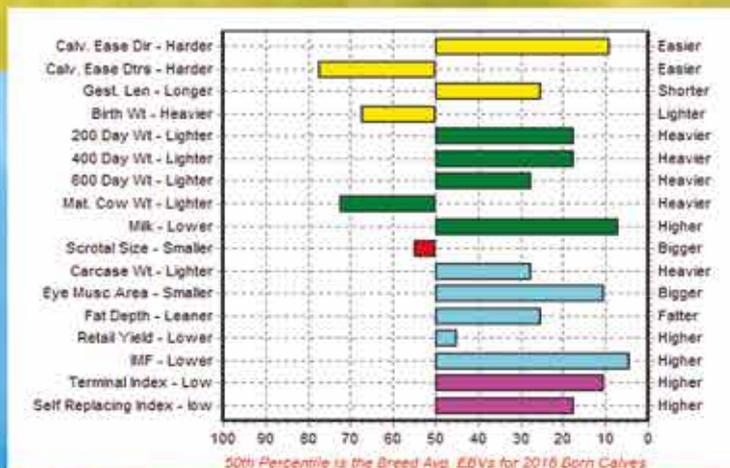


MacG
OCT '20

WEDDERLIE BEST LAD S369

SIRE: WEDDERLIE TARQUIN L383

DAM: WEDDERLIE BONNIE LASS M585



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Changes to Tagging Legislation Post-BREXIT

EXPORTING OR MOVING GB LIVESTOCK TO THE EU OR NORTHERN IRELAND FROM 1 JANUARY 2021

From 1 January 2021, the UK will trade with the EU as a third country and new livestock identification rules will apply for moving or exporting animals. Under the Northern Ireland Protocol of the EU Withdrawal Agreement, the same

requirements will apply for these live animal movements from Great Britain to Northern Ireland.

The UK currently uses the identifier 'UK' in accordance with EU rules for Member States. From 2021, we will need to include a visual identifier which displays GB for animals intended for exported or moved to the EU or moved to Northern Ireland.

The following paragraphs explain the export tagging options for cattle, which also apply when tagging animals for movement to Northern Ireland.

To export or move cattle to the EU or Northern Ireland from 2021 identification must now display the GB country code – the options are as follows:

WHERE CATTLE ARE ALREADY IDENTIFIED WITH A UK TAG PAIR

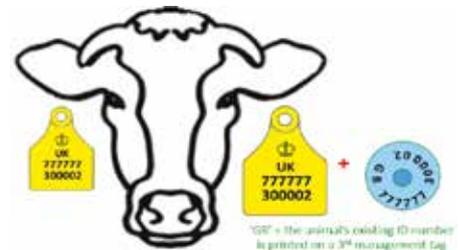
Cattle are currently double tagged with a pair of ear tags which bear the country code UK and the animal's individual ID number. One of these tags is a secondary tag where additional information can be added. You should apply an additional (management) tag which displays GB plus the animal's existing individual ID number.

Replacement tags with the GB suffix can also be applied where animals which have already been registered and not intended for export have lost a secondary tag. You can use any type of plastic tag (e.g. flag tag, button tag) for the additional management tag, but it should be easily read from a distance.



WHERE CALVES ARE TO BE IDENTIFIED FOR THE FIRST TIME

You can apply a pair of 'UK' tags which also display a GB suffix on the secondary tag. These animals will not need an additional management tag given these tags contain the visual GB code. Cattle will no longer need to be accompanied by their passport on export to the EU. You will need to return the passports to BCMS within seven days of export.



If you are exporting cattle for slaughter, they also need to be freeze-branded on the hind quarters with an L mark.

FURTHER GUIDANCE (TO INCLUDE SHEEP AND PIGS) CAN BE FOUND ON GOV.UK AT:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/exporting-animals-and-animal-products-to-the-eu-from-1-january-2021>

(Amended from DEFRA: International Organisation for Standardisation)

BOOK YOUR SPACE NOW!

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THE
ABERDEEN-ANGUS
CATTLE SOCIETY





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Use a QR code app to view our YouTube videos

Shearwell Data

Livestock Systems

FREE Replacements
Please call for details

Working to help the livestock farmer

Visual Cattle Tags

Combi® Large (primary & secondary),
Small & Button (secondary)

Ketchum Tamp2
Metal (secondary)

Colours available for SECONDARY tags



Quantity	Runs
10 to 24	£0.80
25 to 49	£0.55
50 to 100	£0.45
101 to 200	£0.35
201 to 500	£0.30



Tissue Sampling
Tag - single
BVD or DNA
tag without test
£1.95

TST Tags

TST/BVD Flag or Button
DNA tags also available

Please call to order or ask for tag samples

Electronic Tags

Combi E30® Flag or Button
(secondary only)

Pair with
Ketchum metal
available -
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From
£5.05
pair of tags
& test



Prices correct at December 2020 and exclude VAT and delivery.

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ANNOUNCING THE COMPLETE DISPERSAL SALE OF THE BLELACK HERD OCTOBER 2021 AT STIRLING

After experiencing a heart scare in 2019, I now realise that it is time to hang up my halter and consequently the complete Blelack herd will be dispersed in October 2021 and Blelack Farm will also be offered for sale.

My family and I have been blessed to live, and work, in a beautiful place like Blelack set in the stunning surrounds in the heart of Royal Deeside.

We have met so many good folk and forged friendships which will last forever.

My dad, Neil, has reached the very top of his chosen profession, winning the Sir William Young Award for outstanding service to the livestock industry; a two time president of the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society and a recipient of the Presidents Award. Dad has also judged around the world and has been honoured with an OBE - not too shabby - and a true inspiration to cattlemen.



Blelack Aberdeen-Angus are synonymous with the development of the breed over the last four decades. The Blelack Herd Dispersal is surely one of the most significant in the breeds history and is a rare opportunity of obtaining a class of cattle not usually offered for sale.

David Leggat,
United Auctions

Blelack Farm will be launched for sale in spring 2021. Located in the heart of Aberdeenshire the farm comprises approximately 660 acres of which half at present is in production for top grade malting barley. There is an excellent range of modern buildings along with well presented farm cottages which are currently being used as holiday accommodation. The farmhouse itself is a fully modernised family home with breathtaking views of Royal Deeside



For further information contact
Graeme Massie on massieblelack@hotmail.co.uk
Mobile 07753 748023 or Neil Massie on 01339 886012

BLELACK BRED TO BREED

THE BLELACK HERD ROLL OF HONOUR

Perth/Stirling Championships

- 1983 Supreme champion
Reserve supreme champion
- 1984 Supreme champion
- 1985 Reserve supreme champion
- 1986 Intermediate champion
- 1987 Reserve senior champion
- 1992 Reserve senior champion
- 1993 Supreme champion
- 1994 Supreme champion
Reserve supreme champion
- 1995 Reserve senior champion
- 1996 Senior champion
- 1998 Supreme champion
Reserve supreme champion
Res. intermediate champion
- 1999 Reserve supreme champion
- 2000 Reserve supreme champion
- 2001 Supreme champion
- 2002 Senior champion
Intermediate champion
Reserve junior champion
- 2003 Supreme champion
Reserve supreme champion
Reserve senior champion
- 2004 Supreme champion
Reserve senior champion
- 2006 Reserve senior champion
Res. intermediate champion
- 2007 Intermediate champion
- 2010 Supreme champion
Senior champion
- 2011 Reserve senior champion
- 2013 Reserve supreme champion
- 2015 Supreme champion
Reserve junior champion
- 2016 Junior champion
- 2019 Supreme champion
Res. intermediate champion



*Blelack Lady Eraline, sold with
her bull calf for 45,000gns at the
Blelack Matrons Sale in 2016*



*Blelack Eyrle, sold for
32,000gns at the
Blelack Matrons Sale in 2012*

In the 80's and 90's my father, Neil Massie, scoured North America looking for sires that would make Blelack the most successful herd in the breeds history at the UK's premier bull sales held annually at Perth and latterly at Stirling. The roll of honour adjacent would suggest he achieved his aims.

The Blelack prefix has been ingrained into every show and sale catalog for the past three decades producing champions - and more importantly, pounds - not only for ourselves but for breeders throughout the UK and Ireland.

We believe that not only do we have the best set of cows seen at Blelack but 2020 has brought, without doubt, the best crop of calves we have ever produced in our fifty years of breeding cattle.



*Blelack Lord Hidalgo,
supreme champion
at Stirling, sold for 25,000gns*



*Blelack Ellerman,
supreme champion
at Perth, sold for 28,000gns*



BREEDPLAN Calving Ease

Calving difficulties are affected by environmental, management and genetic factors. Calving ease Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) look at the genetic factors (e.g. gestation length, birth weight and sex of calf) together with pedigree correlations and field information.

Calving ease is affected by two additive genetic components:

- the calf's contribution i.e. the ability of the calf to be easily born (direct effect)
- the dam's contribution i.e. the ability of the dam to easily give birth (maternal effect)

A direct genetic component indicates the ability of a calf to be born easily, whereas a maternal genetic component explains the ability of the cow to give birth easily.

CALVING EASE EBVS

BREEDPLAN reports two Calving Ease EBVs – Calving Ease Direct (CE direct) and Calving Ease Daughters (CE dtrs).

One EBV is for the direct effect, the second one is for the maternal effect. The direct effect is important for a sire of calves, as it indicates how many more or less percentage calves from this bull are expected to require no

assistance at birth out of two-year-old cows.

The second EBV called Daughter's Calving Ease, is an indicator for the daughters of a sire to give birth without assistance as a two-year-old. That is, the overall effect on the calving of the daughters. It consists of the maternal component and half the direct component - CE dtrs is an index of (CE maternal + 1/2(CE direct)). The CE dtrs value is generally how commercial breeders look at Calving Ease in the daughters (without verbalising the concept) rather than separating maternal and direct.

THE ANALYSIS OF CALVING EASE

BREEDPLAN scientists at the Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit have developed analytical software which combines in one analysis the information collected on calving ease, birth weight and gestation length (from AI) to estimate breeding values for calving ease.

For the analysis of calving ease (CE) a threshold model with an underlying normal distribution is assumed. Threshold models are the most commonly used method for analysis of categorical (or non-continuous) data. A threshold represents the points on the underlying scale

between which various calving ease scores are expressed; traits related to ease of calving that are also recorded by the breeders are birth weight and gestation length. These two continuously distributed traits are also included in the analysis.

The calving ease analysis has recently been enhanced to allow genomic data to be included as an additional source of information. This latest development greatly improves the computational efficiency and the accuracy of the estimated breeding values.

SELECTION INDEXES

Profitability in the beef cattle industry is a function of numerous traits and some of these traits have antagonistic relationships to each other. To improve profitability, selection must be applied to those traits that contribute most to the costs and returns of an enterprise. If a trait has no economic value, it should not be included in the selection programme.

For Terminal sires, selecting for direct calving ease only is okay as, by definition, daughters are not being kept as replacements.

Where daughters are being kept for replacements, both direct and

daughters calving ease need to be considered as there is some antagonism between the two. An extreme example is to select a sire with very high calving ease direct that produces low growth progeny. The calves are born without difficulty, but the daughters are generally likely to be too small to calve unassisted to sires with more growth.

Over-emphasis of selection on any one trait can have unwanted consequences. Calving ease factors are no exception. For example, selection on light birth weight alone, will lead to lower growth rates later in life and increased chances of female progeny with poorer calving ability. Similarly, selection on large pelvic area alone, will increase birth weight and reduce the beneficial effects on calving ease. Therefore a balance between direct and daughters calving ease is needed. This generally suits most selection decisions as breeders are trying to balance calving ease and growth/carcass - so you can avoid using low growth bulls simply for CE direct only reasons.

A selection index is the most appropriate manner of making selections from a combination of EBVs, e.g. when a breeder is interested in a number of economically important traits. Selection indices simplify comparisons of animals by accounting for multiple traits simultaneously

and by considering both production levels and economics. As with all index selections, breeders need to keep an eye on key component traits as well as the index (i.e. use the index as an initial selection, then fine tune the selection based on the key component traits for their breeding objectives).

BreedObject is a programme, developed by the scientists at the Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit at the University of New England. It calculates for specified production systems the economic values for all traits in the breeding objective. With respect to birth difficulties, it considers not only the short-term farm profits through the loss of calf, death of dam, veterinary fees and extra labour, but also the long-term animal performance.

Given that the focus is profitability of commercial production systems, both costs of production and market returns are considered. In that way, a breeder can assess animals based upon requirements such as increased growth whilst minimising birth difficulties and managing mature cow weight. Although the growth traits and mature cow weight trait are antagonistic to each other relative to the breeding objective (i.e. increasing one but decreasing the other), it is possible to make progress in both traits since the assumed correlation between them is not one.

Many breeds have BreedObject Indexes available which target average market production systems for common uses of the breed. Breeders do however have the option of customising their own Index. This could be relevant if the breeder considers that there are important aspects of their market production system which are different to the breed version (e.g. earlier or later turn-off, different cost of feed, different calving rate, or more or less risk of calving difficulty) or if the intended breeding role for animals (e.g. terminal sire, specialised maternal) is more specialised or different to that of the general breed.

Breeders can customise their own Indexes online for immediate application by using the BreedObject website <http://www.breedobject.com/>

For more information on Calving Ease:

http://agbu.une.edu.au/PDFs/Technical_Information_Note_1_1995.pdf

BREEDPLAN - How to interpret BREEDPLAN EBVs (une.edu.au)

BREEDPLAN - Understanding Calving Ease EBVs (une.edu.au)

BREEDPLAN - Recording Calving Difficulty Scores (With Video) (une.edu.au)





Tesco & Foyle

The Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society has been working with Foyle Food Group and the Tesco Agricultural team to further enhance the performance of the Tesco Aberdeen-Angus beef scheme, with a bid to use high genetic merit sires. The expectations are that by engaging with Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs), the efficiencies and performance of cattle in the scheme supplied to Tesco will be lifted.

A FEW WORDS FROM TESCO

Since Tesco established its Aberdeen-Angus scheme in 2012, which was a first for the beef industry, the retailer has played an important role in growing commercial interest in the breed. Historically the Tesco beef contract has paid producers a premium for prime carcasses, sired by pedigree registered Aberdeen-Angus bulls, that meet a number of criteria. These cattle supply the Tesco Finest* range and deliver a high-quality offer for customers.

This year Tesco have made some changes to the bonus criteria in order to further deliver against customers' expectations of high quality, consistent beef, sourced from high welfare systems with reduced environmental impact. These changes will also look to incentivise both integration with its Tesco Sustainable Dairy Group and Tesco Cheese Group herds, and the use of improved genetics.

The 'High Genetic Sire' element of Tesco's revised bonus criteria features a plan to include sire Estimated Breeding Values (EBV's) in future years. Initially, a Tesco High Genetic Sire will be defined as one whose Terminal and Self Replacing indices meet the thresholds of +40 and +50 respectively. While the

thresholds may alter as genetic progress is demonstrated, it is worth noting that once a bull qualifies as a High Genetic Sire, this status stands for as long as that bull's progeny can remain within the beef supply chain.

This is an inclusive programme that will reward commercial producers who invest in genetics to help drive a reduced carbon footprint and more consistent end product. We believe that this initiative is a very positive move for the breed and will bring increased opportunity to those Aberdeen-Angus breeders who seek to market sires with higher EBV's. Qualifying sires will be marked on the database using a High Genetic Sire logo, making them easily identifiable for commercial producers.



Premiums paid for Prime Aberdeen Angus cattle

For more information contact

Foyle Omagh

Gavin Clements

gavinc@foylefoodgroup.com

+44 (0)2882243201

Foyle Melton Mowbray

Nathan White

nathanw@foylefoodgroup.com

+44 (0)1509881583

Foyle Campsie

Robert King

robertk@foylefoodgroup.com

+44 (0)2871863271

Foyle Gloucester

Barry Evans

barrye@foylefoodgroup.com

+44 (0)1594829906



A New Standard for British Aberdeen-Angus Beef

With Brexit looming and a strong push from consumers to shop local and buy genuine British products, The Society has embarked on a major project in collaboration with IdentiGEN to assure the authenticity of British Aberdeen-Angus beef.

British Aberdeen-Angus beef is a premium offer and a value driver for retailers and food service organisations, but as we know, not all Aberdeen-Angus is the same. As a new standard, in collaboration with DNA TRACEBACK® from IdentiGEN, the Sire Verified Aberdeen-Angus Scheme is an initiative promoting the verification of genuine British Aberdeen-Angus products for food suppliers.

The technology can be used to verify the provenance of not only fresh beef cuts, but also further processed products such as hamburgers, meatballs and lasagnes.

In working towards this solution, The Society, with the help of our valued members, has been collecting tissue samples at farm level since January 2015 and analysing all registered bulls since January 2018, to have DNA profiles available for each bull that is in use on farm, whether it is a commercial or a pedigree-use bull.

We'll be working with IdentiGEN to continue to further develop this database over the coming months and once fully validated, it can be used in the marketplace to differentiate the product and instil trust in the authenticity of the provenance of British Aberdeen-Angus beef.

Our relationship with IdentiGEN is paramount to the success of this scheme and the future protection of the breed and our brand. We'll continue with our close working relationship, benefitting from IdentiGEN's expertise to further protect and conserve the marketplace and premium that we enjoy as Aberdeen-Angus breeders and finishers.

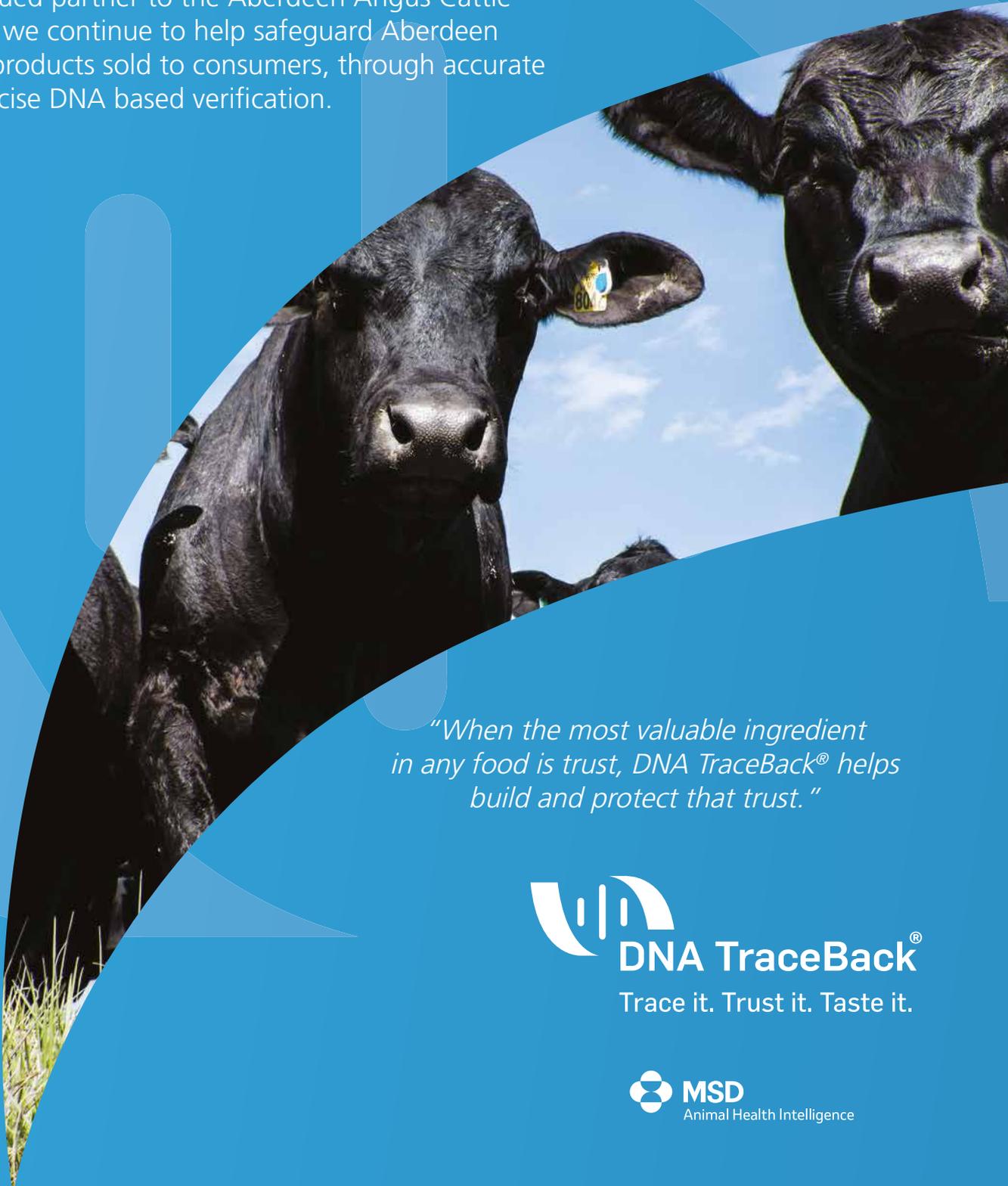
The new sire verified standard, backed by science, will be made available to processors, retailers, food service organisations and trading standards as an opportunity to monitor their supply chains and deliver truly authentic product, thereby avoiding past issues of paper trails claiming to be such.

Barrie Turner

CEO

Safeguarding the Integrity of Aberdeen Angus Products.

As a valued partner to the Aberdeen Angus Cattle Society, we continue to help safeguard Aberdeen Angus products sold to consumers, through accurate and precise DNA based verification.



"When the most valuable ingredient in any food is trust, DNA TraceBack® helps build and protect that trust."

 **DNA TraceBack®**
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Animal Health Intelligence



Sire Verified Update

As we continue through challenging times in the beef industry, we are continually reviewing what we can do to ensure our members are as protected as they can be and ensure that their enterprises are as financially protected as they can be. The only way we can do this is to guarantee we keep as many routes to market open as we can. We produce cattle, and cattle cease to be cattle as they disappear through the farm gate and enter the food chain. This is where we can work with our partners in the supply chain, right through to the consumer, to maintain and grow the demand for our premium product.

As we contemplate the distinct possibility of us being a 'third country' partner with the EU and the opening of the UK to the world market, we are considering who

is eyeing us up as new targets for beef. Traditionally the UK beef price has been the highest in the world leading to our domestic market being a target for our competitors who have lower production costs. We need to do everything we can to ensure that, if we can't keep the beef out, we can at least ensure UK and Irish Aberdeen-Angus is clearly identified in the market. We need to be very clear on this and be 100% sure that we can keep UK and Irish Aberdeen-Angus sired beef separate and distinct from the beef from our competitors around the world. We can do this but not without your help, using every tool in the box to secure a continued market for our product.

We do have the privilege of, on occasions, being the first point of contact for overseas enquiries for traders and retailers looking to source UK and Irish beef and they are asking for Aberdeen-Angus

in particular. Why the UK? It's the home of the breed and a provenance story that the marketeers crave, its reputation for eating quality sets it aside, people ask for it by name and hence they hunt the Society down to find out more. The Far East is a market which is opening for us and with this year's events in the pig industry in the region, this has meant they are very short of protein and are sourcing the balance they need from around the world.

The Sire Verified Aberdeen-Angus Beef Scheme is an additional tool in the box and a very sharp one. Using DNA technology, we can identify the sire of a piece of meat on the retailer's shelf. We are now conducting a validation on our database to see how far we are with it. We need to get to a point where 95% of samples can be verified back to a sire to make the programme robust and be relied on.

The Society is, at this point, funding as a project, the DNA testing of all registered bulls from the 1st of January 2019, so we are a year in towards total cover and a point where every working sire will have its DNA profile on the database. We have also invested in some historic testing of samples that we had taken and stored with the member's permission. This will mean going forward, all bulls in both the pedigree and commercial world, no matter where they are, will be traceable through this system. It is a large cost to the Society to fund this, but the long-term value of that database in protecting our market is an asset worth the investment.

The scheme will also be of great relevance to the many commercial producers out there who members sell bulls to. As we move towards this, it is important, from a slightly different perspective, that these producers are members of the Society and we can make sure their

market is secured and therefore creating a sustainable future for your bull sales. I would therefore ask that you encourage as many of your commercial customers as possible to join the Society and engage with what we are doing to protect their continued premium for Aberdeen-Angus Beef.

As you can see, our retail partners take pains to market the Aberdeen-Angus under their own label brands. It is a compliment to our breed that they do this and not only that, but the Marketing teams take great store in using powerful adjectives to differentiate the quality to the consumer. It's not just us saying it is 'Extra Special', 'Taste the Difference', 'Finest', 'Gold', 'Specially Selected' or 'Signature, Luxury' - all phrases that exude a good eating experience. Aberdeen-Angus beef delivers time and again. The rule is that for a retailer to put a product into their own label range, it must be of exceptional quality and the

assurances that are behind product integrity and food safety, need to be bomb proof in every case.

It is very important that we carry on developing the tools to help our partners ensure what it says on the pack is in the pack. Sire verification is a very powerful and robust way of offering assurances to the people who sell our product and maintain demand, which in turn will maintain the premium for our top-class product offer. Together we can ensure the future of our provenance.



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AB Europe: delivering a proven IVP system

Cattle breeders seeking to exploit their herd's genetic potential are introducing In-Vitro embryo Production (IVP), a cost effective and welfare friendly service from East Lothian based specialist artificial breeding technology company, AB Europe.

"The IVP process produces embryos from collected oocytes (unfertilised eggs)," explains AB Europe's Gavin Tait. "The oocytes are fertilized within a petri dish by selected semen, and subsequently cultured for seven days until fully developed embryos can be transferred or frozen.

"IVP is a relatively new technique within the UK, but globally, it is a widely used method of producing embryos where it outcompetes MOET for its flexibility and multiple benefits to breeders and their donor animals.

"AB Europe currently offers two distinct IVP donor programmes dependent on the individual animal requirement and/or farmers preference.

"The first programme is our non-stimulated system, where IVP donors are not subjected to any hormonal drugs or synchronization prior to the collection of oocytes, which accordingly makes it the simpler, cheaper and less labour-intensive option.

"The second programme is our stimulated system, which requires four injections prior to collection. Stimulation leads to a boost in oocyte quality on a given week - sometimes it can improve number of oocytes too, however collection can only be done every fortnight and requires additional handling of the donor animal."

The following table demonstrates a comparison between IVP and MOET.

IVP v IVP Coasting v MOET

	IVP	IVP coasting	MOET
Number of collections per month	4	2	1
Number of semen straws per donor	1	1	3
Average number of embryos per collection	2	5	6
Average number of embryos per month per donor	8	10	6
Collect from pregnant cows	Yes	Yes	No
After calving collections	4 weeks	4 weeks	8 weeks
Programme 'line-up' for donors	None	5 to 12 days	20 + days
Donor drugs / AI	None	4 injections,	
CIDR	9 injections / AI, CIDR		
Vet / drugs cost to programme donor	£0	£50	£100 +
Pregnancy hold rate (fresh embryos)	60%	60%	60%
Pregnancy hold rate (frozen embryos)	45%	45%	50%



IVP: TONLEY ANGUS BENEFITS FROM PROVEN IVP SYSTEM

Amongst the producers who are successfully using AB Europe IVP system is Mark Wattie who manages the 140 cow Tonley herd based near Alford, Aberdeenshire.

"We are trying to improve the herd year on year, develop stronger family lines and develop one of the breed's top herds. After becoming aware of In-Vitro embryo Production (IVP) from other breeders I believe it's a good way to help us improve our herd faster. I considered IVP as the preferred method of embryo collection over MOET which requires multiple injections along with accompanying time, effort and cost," he explains.

"We've got off to a good start with IVP; Tonley Lord Hoffman U588 sold for 5,500gns in 2020 and he was out of one of our first IVP cows Bleack Lady Heather," he explains.



"However IVP began with one of our senior cows, Bleack Jubilee Erica S442 purchased in 2013 and becoming one of our best producing a string of bulls - six sold to top of 10,000gns, but unfortunately she never threw a heifer calf. We introduced her to IVP, and achieved six embryos from a single collection, from which we so far have another two bulls.

"The Ericas are a very consistent line; they offer quality and style - just what the market is looking for; so continuing our quest for a female from the same family, we invested in Erica's half-sister, Hallington Jubilee Erica L322," he explains. "To date, she has undergone five IVP coasting collections resulting in 20 embryos. So far, we have implanted nine embryos of which six held - a very good result. We selected semen from five different sires, including Tonley Jester Eric S318."

Mark says the entire process has been relatively very straight forward. "We took Erica to AB Europe's livery run by the company's vet, Gavin Tait on his farm in the Borders. It offers a safe and convenient environment where she undertook a collection every two weeks during her stay.

"Interestingly, when it came to implanting the embryos, we found success was determined by condition of the heifer recipients. We fed half the heifers 2.5kg concentrate a day for four weeks prior to and four weeks after implantation to achieve average body condition score (BCS) 3; 10 out of the 11 held. On the other hand, nine heifers didn't receive any concentrate at all and maintained themselves at BCS 2 to 2.5, the result was just four held."

He adds: "Going forward, we have already booked in other IVP programmes with AB Europe for 2021. I think the process is a cost-effective way of enhancing the genetic potential of the herd's senior cows and heifers. This will enable us to sell some of our top end females in the herd that we have already collected embryos from and we will have pregnancies and embryos as back up."





Genomics

THE FUTURE OR A FARSE?

I suppose I should start by introducing myself. I'm Lucy Andrews-Noden and I've spent the best part of my 20-year-career in agriculture working with dairy genetics and genomics in one way or another.

Now I've been told I need to keep this article short and to the point – which will be a challenge for me as anyone who knows me will testify that I don't do short! I have a passion for genetics and dairy cows, which was identified by the wonderful and very sadly late Andrew Shuff. Andrew and I chatted about breeding over the Cheerbrook Farm Shop counter many a time, much to the frustration of the mounting queues behind me. It was quickly established that although my expertise lay with dairy, the principles and technologies used to underpin genetic improvement were as relevant to beef as they were in my world.

I grew up on a Derbyshire Peak District beef and sheep farm – so I guess I could speak Andrew's language a little bit, as well as the scientific jargon that often baffles the faint hearted. I'd also been a past Chairman of the British Cattle Breeders Club, so understood many of his challenges and interest in beef carcass and growth trait development. Coupled with this, I'd been lucky enough to complete a Trehane Nuffield Scholarship, which

allowed me to study the importance of knowledge transfer of science and genetics to farmers.

These were great opportunities to master the theory of it all – yet some of the most important life lessons I learned, was from a wonderful farmer called Colin Whitelock from Gargrave, who I milked for during my placement from Harper Adams in the late 90's. He's one of those guys who can usually sum things up in about three words. No, not like me at all! He taught me to foot trim and when I got a bit of a bleeder and look panicked, he'd say, "Dunner thee worry lass, it's a long way from its heart". He taught me to knock cows in calf at the auction and, "It'll be reet" became a sort of mantra during that amazing year in the West Yorkshire hills.

However, probably the most important lesson he bestowed on me from his bottomless pit of random, hilarious sayings and anecdotes, was I needed to learn to kiss properly. Wow I thought. Here we go. But of course, he didn't want to make a pass at me, he simply laughed at my rather startled expression and said, "Oh dear no - not what you're thinking! KISS meaning Keep It Simple Stupid".

So, with that said, why have I taken almost all my allotted word count to tell you all that? Well, the reason is that one day around 10-years-

ago, I rocked up at Cheerbrooks. As usual, Andrew asked how I was getting on and what I was busy with, "Genomics!", I told him with passion and delight. He looked baffled to begin with, but over the course of the years, I dropped in and discussed little nuggets of the new genomic developments in the dairy sector. He was so passionate about developing the Angus breed, that in 2019 invited me along to speak with the Aberdeen-Angus Youth Development Group. You have an amazing group of young people representing both the breed and also championing the scientific developments that will propel the breed forward – I enjoyed my day thoroughly and gave them an insight into how genomics had benefitted the dairy industry. Because of that, Barrie asked me to pull something together. Just not sure he was expecting War and Peace.

You'll be wondering why I haven't used this article to give you a crash course in genomics as I guess Barrie was hoping, well since 2019, I've re-written this piece around four times. Having worked in the genetics industry and for a Breed Society for a good 14 years of my 20 year career, I understand as well as anyone the challenge scientists and those passionate about this type of technology are facing, especially when a technology is relatively new to their world. So, I'm not going to

baffle you with science or scientific words, I simply want to explain a bit of genomic history that may or may not help your genomic journey.

I had a very hard time when the genomic development race first started with dairy in the UK back in 2009. This is because I too was a skeptic. Yep, I'm one of the biggest advocates of using genomics as a key management tool on dairy farms today – yet back then, I was concerned about small data sets, which in turn meant lower reliabilities and movement in the PTAs as a result. My largest concern at the time though, was that farmers may feel this was the Holy Grail, and place too much weight and reliance on the then volatile figures. I've always followed science and been led by data as I'm an animal scientist at my core, but there's more to genomics than just that – it's where the common sense comes in.

It's a leap of faith that some of our dairy producers and the UK took to alleviate my concerns and those of others – based on results from countries like the US, where they had gathered a growing wealth of genotypes from both bulls and cows. The UK data started to grow, but not at a rate that was going to make the impact and drive the stability we needed. The best thing we did as a country at that point, was to learn to co-operate well and quickly. Thanks to DairyCo, as it was then (now AHDB), and the work of Marco Winters, who is Head of Animal Genetics, plus that of data providers such as pedigree and milk records plus the evaluation centre, led by Professor Mike Coffey. We sat around a table with the US and others to pool our genotypes (genetic map) and phenotype (what the animal looks like, milk yield, health etc) together in one giant cauldron of data.

The US was chosen wisely, because we share a great deal of back pedigree in common with shared bulls and cow families. The UK also offered advantages to the US, because of the origin and breadth of the testing programmes of Genus ABS and Cogent, plus depth and

breadth of cow families and breeding that the US didn't have in their pool.

Cooperation is key with genomics. You can try to plough your own furrow, but the creation of a stable base and pool of genotypes on which to develop your evaluations and new trait development is expensive and time consuming. Many beef breed societies are investigating and investing in a plan to incorporate genomics into their long-term strategy.

Utilising the technology not just for genetic improvement, but vitally as a method of pure traceability is key. The Irish are rightly proud of their ability to be able to test a steak on the supermarket shelf and thanks to building an ambitious data collection centre, coupled with part Government-funded genomic testing of beef cattle, they can trace that steak unquestionably back to the animal and holding from whence it was produced. True traceability will stand them in excellent stead for brand development and export opportunities in the future.

The Angus Society is building their strategy and structures to better manage this new technology too. On this path I would urge you to be bold, brave and don't be afraid to share. Collaboration is the fastest way to ensure stability and reliability with genomics. Testing is still pricey, however the more animals that are tested, the cheaper and more competitive the companies supplying the testing will become.

Where has dairy genomics got too in 2020? So, here comes the KISSing bit - to use a comparison, it's like being back in the millennium with your cracking silver Nokia 6210i! It made calls, kept its battery charge for a week and allowed you to keep up to 10 text messages! Well genomics is like being handed the latest iPhone 12 in the year 2000. Of course, you're going to cry out that, "At least the Nokia kept battery life!", "At least it was cheaper!". Yep, I'll give you that, but you know what, it doesn't do your emails, play YouTube videos of how to mend the washing machine during a lock-down, play

you any music, keep thousands of your memories in its little chips, allow you to find almost anything you want to know on the web, give you directions to a farm sale or register your cattle online.

Yes, I'll admit that I'm am one of those people who've kept my old Nokia 6310i for the zombie apocalypse. That's what keeping pedigree and phenotypic weights and measurement records does – it's an invaluable back-up and reference base. However, could I manage to run my business without an iPhone? Yeah, sure I could, but to what expense when all my competitors have the amazing technology and marketing platforms available to them? Where does that leave me in the marketplace? I also couldn't afford to develop an iPhone of my own, so I joined the Dark Side and purchased an Apple. It does what it promises – the battery is getting a bit better and I enjoy the advantages. Does it have a downside? Of course. Once you've opened Pandora's box of instantly accessible data you can't go back easily, however you can make more informed decisions based on much, much more data.

I would argue that with the iPhone and the advent of genomics, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages and it's up to the individual how they use it and apply it to their lives and business. I understand the drawbacks but also the benefits.

In summary, I'd like to leave you with three things:

1. Does genomics work and are the reliabilities really double that of parent average, especially if you've got good data? Yes.
2. Are genomics a flash in the pan and going to fizzle out? No – it's here to stay.
3. You're either on the ship or sat on the shore watching it sail into the distance with everyone else aboard – get yourself a decent cabin and settle in.

Keep KISSing!

Lucy Andrews-Noden



Female Focus

Aberdeen-Angus cattle have populated the world and are now the staple genetic base for many countries around the world. In the ever-changing world environment of politics, environmental lobbies, veganism, flexitarians, global climate change and so on, and so on, we need to ensure that the British beef industry is equipped with answers to all the above. British native cattle breeds have flourished around the world none more so than Aberdeen-Angus in terms of global numbers.

Asking “why” is very pertinent and sensible in times like this. We have already recognised that we in the UK have very high costs of production of beef, and therefore an expensive product to process and sell, and is therefore considered increasingly to be a luxury, enjoyed only on special occasions. The Europe grading system does nothing to reward taste, texture and tenderness, in fact it demonstrates a blatant disregard for any such stupidity as to actually consider the reasoning behind purchasing decisions – hopefully that the consistency and repeatability is high!

Many of the countries renowned for producing quality tasty beef have predominately Aberdeen-Angus or British native led industries. Because of this fact, they produce a highly consistent

product in significant volume that delivers consistency in size, taste and texture across the board and reducing the doubt in consumers’ minds that it could be a disappointing meal.

Not only is consistency a very important factor, but environmental lobbies are also focusing on agriculture, particularly the cattle industry, resulting in its having been labelled as a significant contributor to the carbon footprint of the planet. Even though there is a lack of scientific evidence to support this theory, it is recognised that it is a difficult concept to calculate, given the variables between countries and farms.

It is a fact of the natural world that large animals need more energy and protein to maintain condition and body functionality. Muscle function, reproductive functions and breathing are a few of the essentials that any organism requires to live and maintain itself. The longer it takes to reproduce, the more the carbon footprint is affected. It is therefore advantageous to keep a smaller framed animal in a domesticated environment, which reproduces quickly. The sustainability and profitability of beef production will be increased by selecting an early maturing breed of cattle.

Taking this on to the next stage we need to consider the carbon footprint of a suckler herd.

Cattle breeding is a long-term goal as we all know. A heifer calf conceived today is born in nine months. She at best will have a calf at 24-months-of-age and that calf will then take a further 15 to 20 months to finish, depending on the system, before we see a return. At its optimum it is a four-and-a-half-year programme.

It is a slow turnaround and to establish an efficient suckler herd from a standing start would take at least 10 years. As a breed, our primary aim is to improve the profitability of our own herds and communicate this advantage to our customers in the commercial world, and shout from the rooftops the benefits of keeping Aberdeen-Angus, whether for terminal use or just a fantastically reliable commercially viable female as a very good option for a suckler cow.

Let’s not just consider the heifers that we produce as a bit of a by-product that we can ship off to Europe, let’s consider them as a valuable and saleable asset that would benefit any suckler operation and give the home market the benefits of the genetic capabilities of the Aberdeen-Angus breed.

Let’s focus our breeding strategy on temperament, fertility, calving ease and calf survivability. We should be selecting for soundness and balance, to ensure that the initial investment made lasts for eight

to 10 calves and herds can then achieve a low replacement rate enabling only the very best of home bred replacements to be retained and improve the performance of the herd. Utilise the tools that are available to make the best prediction of breeding value, but always keep an eye on the animal. Selection for multiple traits do not just focus on a single most desirable trait, or we may lose out on a balance, which may proliferate a weakness affecting performance in future generations.

Agriculture in the UK has benefitted from a farm subsidy system, the meaning of which has been lost in the eyes of the consumer where it is regarded as a handout to those who don't really need it! We had fair warning last year that this would be reviewed but was safe for the next five years. This money was not just to top-up farmers bulging wallets, but was intended as a food subsidy to keep food prices down. The move to a new system rewarding stewardship schemes and environmental schemes does not feed the people. Farmers feed the population and it is a must that we keep reminding consumers of that. The food supply situation is a precariously balanced one as any adverse conditions could see the shelves in the supermarkets bare.

As beef farmers, we need to look at our costs and take management decisions that can lower costs, both reducing inputs or increasing output value that can affect the margin of any enterprise. We have to be sure that we can compete in the marketplace with all the countries that are looking to the UK as a destination to export to. These countries never export the worst beef they produce but the best beef, they produce beef at lower cost and can sell it at a lower price. We need to compete with price, quality and cost. We need to think of every single way that we can increase the value and reduce the cost as it would seem that there is a threshold over which the consumer will not necessarily tolerate price increases.

The beef industry was encouraged in the last third of the 20th century, to produce carcasses with a high meat yield and to be ultra-lean. This has resulted in basically the bigger the better, which adds up to more cash per animal and was the barometer for success with little regard for the cost of production. Our continental cousins can deliver this and big became beautiful on both the dam and sire sides of the pedigree. British breeds have become the cows of choice with terminal sires to produce a slaughter generation. Within the Aberdeen-Angus herd, the trend for bigger cows is definitely reversing, and medium frame is becoming more desirable because it delivers efficiency.

A prosperous future for the beef industry will be grass based production, utilising land that has little other productive value apart from grazing, with suckler herds where costs are tightly controlled. Suckler enterprise profitability is determined by the number and value of calves sold less the cost of keeping the breeding herd.

It is well-documented that a female should be calving at two-years-old and we are fortunate, owing to the early maturing nature of our breed, that it is possible to do this maximising the number of calves and reducing unproductive maintenance costs of taking the females to an older age before reproduction. She should then go on to be kept at grass, conceive again and produce a calf annually. She should be weaning a calf at 40% of her own bodyweight as a minimum from grass alone without creep feeding and whether kept for replacements or sold to slaughter, have no difficulty in reaching slaughter weight within 20 months after a second season at grass.

When you look at the Aberdeen-Angus female, she naturally possesses all the attributes that are required to meet the criteria of an efficient suckler beef component. Selecting the best performing animal's progeny as replacements

is the first step. This policy considers the system on the farm and the animals that perform best within that system as the basis for selection – a medium frame with a high rumen capacity to utilise grass and forage, sound feet and legs as well as udder development and teat structure, along with temperament.

Selecting a stock bull to achieve the females is a vital part of the process, because his contribution to the ongoing profitability of a suckler enterprise is crucial. Particular attention should be paid to his structure and ability to serve 50 cows for a number of years, which will contribute to the longevity of his female progeny. Considering his Estimated Breeding Values (EBV) should be a guide and if looking to breed females for sale or retention his maternal traits such as calving ease, and milk are indicative, but the overall picture is compromise on all factors. It is often a good policy to look at the dam of a bull, to make sure that she complies with your policy for rearing good efficient heifers.

As profitable suckler beef farming becomes more and more of a necessity with the potential of less financial support becoming a reality, we need to focus as an industry on lowering cost structures, utilise areas of the agricultural land base that cannot be used for anything other than grazing. Converting low cost forage into high quality protein with taste texture and succulence that keeps consumers asking for it by name.

Aberdeen-Angus females can deliver all of the above, and must not be underestimated in terms of what she can, as has been recognised worldwide, contribute to the beef industry by way of efficiency. We will be focusing more on marketing the Aberdeen-Angus female in the UK as we move into 2021 and we have justification to shout from the rooftops about her suitability for contributing to lowering the cost of production, increasing efficiency and providing an excellent base for suckler herds.

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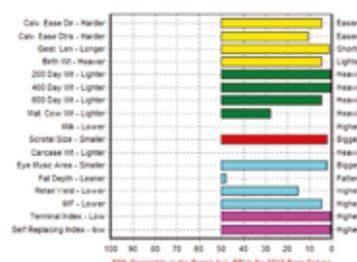
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JOHN ELLIOT
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 E: rawburn@aol.com
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FEED COSTS CAN BE AS MUCH AS 70% OF A BEEF PRODUCERS TOTAL PRODUCTION COSTS

The difference in feed efficiency between the average and best cattle in a group can be as much as 25%. These efficiencies are highly heritable and by breeding with high efficiency cattle, huge financial savings can be made, with a decrease in greenhouse gas of up to 30%.



To allow for us to have complete accuracy on the efficiency of our cattle, Rawburn is the first Aberdeen Angus herd in Europe to install a Growsafe feed efficiency system.

The Growsafe system will generate accurate data that will allow the herd to identify bulls whose steers will meet market weight in less time and with less feeding while their retained heifer mates will wean more kilos on the same or less acres of pasture



This year's sale bulls will be off test and available in April. Many will be amongst the highest performers in the UK and the first group from any herd to be sold with accurate feed efficiency data



Boosting Profits in the Suckler Herd by Calving at Two

Calving heifers for the first time at two years of age has been commonplace in many beef producing countries since the 1970's. However in the UK, it is estimated that only 35% of suckler herds carry out the practice.

When we compare ourselves globally, the UK suckler herds cost of production is significantly higher than elsewhere, and even with a relatively high beef price, often our income does not cover cash costs (Figure 1).

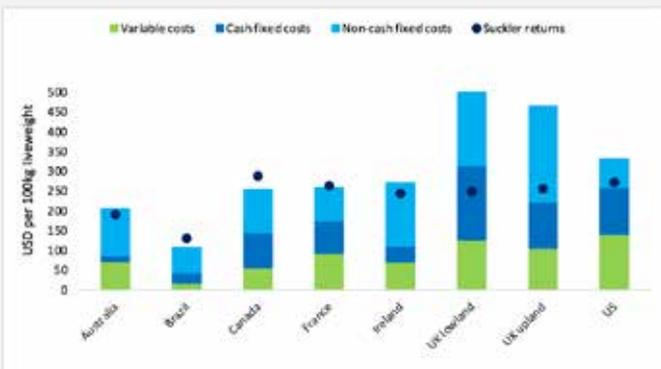


Figure 1: Typical farm suckler herd production costs and output, 2018. Agribenchmark, AHDB (2020)

Heifer development costs equate to around 9% of total cost of production and therefore if more herds implemented a calving at two policy, profitability within the industry could be improved. It has been estimated that calving heifers at two years of age, rather than three, reduces development costs by £600 per heifer. In addition, heifers which calve for the first time at two years of age are more productive, wean more calves over their lifetime and remain in the herd longer.

However, calving at two years of age is not easy and does require additional management. There are also concerns over increased risk of calving difficulties, stunted cows and challenges getting first calved heifers to rebreed. With this in mind, in 2018 I applied to do a Nuffield Farming Scholarship, with the aim of developing a blueprint which would provide farmers with the necessary information to calve heifers at two years of age successfully.

During my scholarship I was lucky enough to travel to the USA, Canada and Australia, as well as places closer to home, including Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, to uncover examples of best practice in more representative systems. No matter which country I visited, it was clear that the success of calving heifers at two was determined by genetics, selection and nutrition.

GENETICS

One of the things that struck me as I visited ranchers across the USA and Canada, was that they had clear breeding goals which had enabled them to use genetics to produce a very functional suckler cow. One which had good fertility, low maintenance costs and increased longevity.

Jerry Holtman, a rancher from Canada explained how he had been using genetics to improve the reproductive efficiency of his 350 Beef Booster herd. By focusing on six traits of economic importance including fertility, milking ability, weight, conformation, hardiness and disposition, he is now achieving a 93% conception rate within a 55-day breeding period.

Jerry has a clear focus on improving maternal traits. He really questioned my thinking when he said, "Why do we raise cattle the feedlot wants, when two thirds of the cost of a finished animal relates to the suckler cow?" I think in the UK we have become guilty of focusing majorly on terminal traits when actually the fertility traits are five times more important than end-product traits to the suckler producer (Lardner, 2019).

It is true that many of the maternal traits are less heritable than terminal traits, however, this does not mean they should not be considered when making breeding choices. As I travelled the world, the Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) which were mentioned numerous times in reference to breeding heifers were: calving ease daughters, age at first calving, scrotal circumference, mature size and milk. EBVs for each pedigree bull can be found on the relevant breed Society website.



Sarah Pick with Jerry Holtman and a Beef Booster cow with calf at foot

SELECTION

“A good cow starts with a good heifer”, was one of the comments I heard from a farmer in Scotland. Therefore, we must ensure our selection criteria is optimum so that only the most suitable heifers are retained in the herd.

Most herds did not retain heifers from cows which:

- Required assistance at calving
- Calved late in the breeding season (+ 42 days)
- Failed to wean a calf
- Large teats
- Weaned a light calf (less than 1kg/day)
- Bad temperament

Once the heifers reach weaning age, most selection decisions were based on their weight. Ideally heifers need to reach 65% of their mature weight before breeding, this is because age at puberty is strongly correlated with weight. However, any abnormally large heifers were culled, because of worries of increased mature weight and its association with high maintenance costs.

Most producers in the USA, Canada and Australia were operating a 60-day breeding period, so that calving was compact and management easier. One producer who was taking this to the extreme was Dan Kelly who farms 1,200 Simmental X Angus cows in Nebraska. The only selection criteria he used for his heifers was that they conceive within the first three weeks of the breeding period. All his 500 heifers were synchronised and inseminated to one service, with anything not in calf sent to the finishing pen. Dan achieves a conception rate of 60%, resulting in a replacement rate of 20%.



In calf heifers at Dan Kelly's farm in Nebraska

NUTRITION

Getting nutrition right is crucial to ensuring that heifers reach 65% of their mature weight before breeding. To achieve this, they need to be growing at around 1kg/day pre-weaning and 0.7kg/day post-weaning, which should be achievable in most beef breeds.

Often it is during the winter housing period when silage quality is insufficient that growth rates drop. To supplement a heifer with 2kg of concentrate each day during the winter would cost around £85, which when considered against the value of an additional calf, really is worthwhile.

When I travelled to Florida, I met with Travis Lybbert the heifer development manager of Deseret Ranches. Deseret farm 42,000 Brahman cross cows. Brahman are much later maturing than any of the breeds used in the UK and therefore nutrition is key to ensuring the heifers reach puberty before 15 months. Travis has developed a high-nutrition based heifer development system and although this is expensive, Travis has calculated that the value of the additional calf far covers the cost of the additional feed.



Travis Lybbert with Sarah Pick

Whilst travelling, one of the major barriers identified for calving heifers at two years of age, is difficulty getting them back in calf after their first calving. Heifers have a naturally longer post-partum interval (the time between calving and resumption of estrus) compared to cows, which makes it more challenging to get them to rebreed within 365 days. Body condition is the single most important factor controlling the post-partum interval. Research has shown that heifers which are thin have a 30 day longer post-partum interval compared to those which calved at body condition score 3.

In the past I have known producers who try to thin heifers down before they calve in an attempt to reduce calving difficulties. However extensive research has shown that this does not reduce calving risk but does reduce calf survivability, and the quantity and quality of the colostrum produced by the heifer.

Furthermore, it takes approximately five months to develop a healthy egg to ovulation, which means the process starts during the last trimester of the previous pregnancy. Therefore, by reducing nutrition pre-calving, both the current and succeeding pregnancy



Aberdeen-Angus calves in the UK

are detrimentally impacted. The most successful way of reducing calving risk is by using genetics to select bulls with positive calving ease EBVs.

CONCLUSION

There is no doubt that calving at two years increases profitability but to be successful we need to ensure we get our breeding policies, selection criteria and management correct. This involves a greater focus on maternal traits to ensure a functional suckler cow is created. As I travelled through many non-European

countries, I did not see one suckler cow which consisted of dairy genetics. This is due to concerns over health and maintenance costs of these extremely milky cows. If as an industry, we can work to improve the maternal genetics available in the beef herd, there should be no need to rely on the dairy industry to produce suckler heifer replacements.

Thank you to the Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust, Yorkshire Agricultural Society and Worshipful Company of Butchers for making this opportunity possible.

OVERCOMING THE BARRIERS

Barrier	Solution
Difficulty reaching breeding weight	Feed good quality silage during first winter. If forage poor, supplement with 2kg per day per head of concentrates. Ensure that there is sufficient feed space for every animal to feed at the same time.
Hard calvings	Use EBVs to select easy calving bulls. Look particularly at calving ease direct, gestation length and birth weight.
Stunted cows	The average mature weight of cows in USA, Canada and Australia was 550-600kg. Mature weight is strongly linked to maintenance costs, therefore if we can reduce weight, cost of production should fall.
Low rebreeding rates	Nutrition is key. Keep heifers in body condition 3 from pre-breeding to second calving. If cows look to be losing weight whilst nursing their first calf, wean the calves early to prevent further body condition loss.

Further information on managing heifers can be found in the AHDB manual “Managing replacement heifers for Better Returns” which is available on the website

<https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/managing-replacement-heifers-for-better-returns>

BCMS Update

HOW ARE WE FAIRING AGAINST OTHER BREEDS?

It was often said in Council and has been quoted, that BCMS registrations are a key performance parameter on how we were fairing as a breed and is a barometer of the success of our activities in our marketing strategy.

It was back in the 70s and 80s, when Aberdeen-Angus numbers had dropped to such an extent that our accountants informed us that if we did not change our direction and mortgage Pedigree house, we would not have been in existence after two years.

I guess things had to change, and an appeal made against the incoming continental breeds that

could produce a big weight of beef that suited the introduction of the Europe Grading System which was introduced in the UK in 1981. The introduction of this grading system saw a mass exodus of beef producers, moving away from native British breeds and change breeding policy to suit the grading system.

This is still the barometer that is used to grade cattle here in the UK today, but there is a resurgence in the native British breeds, for some very good reasons. Ease of management is a major factor and as the staffing levels on farms are reduced to try and suit the economy, then breeding policies must change. The number of farmers that I speak to every week who have got fed up of calving cows, molly coddling calves to get them

to live, is still a conversation I often have. Beef from the dairy herd is a massive part of the supply chain with up to 60% of beef going through the retailers coming from this sector.

The table below is an extract from the BCMS registrations information year to date from 1st January to the end of September 2020, which was the most up to date figures that we had at the time of writing this. It makes interesting reading and a barometer to the success of Aberdeen-Angus in the UK marketplace in 2020.

There is more and more work being done on the merits of eating quality of beef and a return to native British genetics, particularly Aberdeen-Angus that can deliver this, as it is renowned to do around the world.

Breed or Cross	Cross 2019	Pure 2019	Total	Cross 2020	Pure 2020	Total	Cross Diff	Pure Diff	Total Diff
Aberdeen-Angus	275506	52602	328018	302496	56039	358535	26990	3437	30427
Limousin	333194	53326	386520	327422	51654	379076	-5772	-1672	-7444
Charolais	147533	14403	161936	145817	14151	159968	-1716	-252	-1968
Beef Shorthorn	27729	10999	38728	28557	11286	39843	828	287	1115
British Blue	194687	13659	208346	196529	13170	209699	1842	-489	1353
Hereford	104835	24999	129834	100919	25378	126297	-3916	379	-3537
Simmental	12753	14774	27527	14532	16312	30844	1779	1538	3317
Wagyu	3429	759	4188	6051	744	6795	2622	-15	2607

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TULLYFERGUS BEAUTY



TIDY BEE



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PRELUDE



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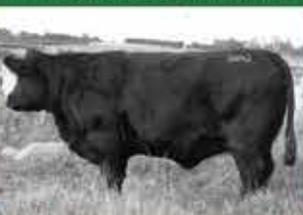
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Thank you to all our customers, new and returning



Aberdeen-Angus genetics help meet end-market demand

Aberdeen-Angus cattle are renowned as an easy care, hardy breed which is backed by a recognised consumer name and brand. Here, pedigree producer George Burrell, spoke to *Farmers Guardian*, in the article paraphrased below, about how Aberdeen-Angus and its extensive portfolio of genetics is enabling his family to run a profitable beef business.

“Our business aim is simple – produce profitable, quality beef,” says Mr Burrell, who runs the farm alongside his brother Toby, after they took over from their late father in 2018.

“All animals on the farm are registered Aberdeen-Angus pure bred, under the Aln prefix, which started when my father introduced the first group of pedigree cows in 1997. It’s a self-marketing breed and suits the system we want.

“Although we run a suckler herd, the calves are our end-product, making up most of the income, while the cows generally make up the cost. Genetics play a huge role in balancing this and so are critical to the business.”

Being based in Alnwick, Northumberland, he says they can experience a harsh climate and so require a hardy, easy care breed.

“Our system also relies heavily on grass, so we need cattle who can do well over-winter and put flesh on quickly, with minimal input, which is where Aberdeen-Angus fits in.”

BROOME PARK FARMS

The farm comprises of around 200 cows and heifers, with exact heifer numbers varying year-to-year.

“We have a tight spring calving window and wean in the autumn, with all cattle finished or sold by their second winter. The aim is to have steers finished by August or September and the youngest of the group finished by October,” he explains.

“For the system to work, it’s vital these animals are off the farm within two years, to free up the fields and allow the grass leys to recover for the next group. It’s a continuous conveyor-belt, but we’ve found it works, and most importantly helps us meet our aim.”

The farm seeks to sell steers at 320kg deadweight, aiming for R4L and liveweight at 620kg, averaging £1,268.80/steer in 2019.

“To consistently achieve these specifications, we need to ensure the cows and heifers are genetically strong, and we continually review the performance of each animal so we’re breeding from the best, adhering to several key performance indicators (KPI’s),” he explains.

“We know average yearly cost of the business, so we need to ensure our steers income/day beats this is to make a profit. A cow’s ability to calve at 365-day intervals is probably the most significant factor to achieving this,” he notes.

“Heifers must calve down in 24 months and then again every 365 days until she reaches 12-years-old. This has been in place for the last 20 years, and we’ve found it’s key in continuing to move the business forward.

“No cow currently on the farm has had its feet touched, had assistance to calve or suckle a calf and nor has any calf received creep in my memory.”

All cows are scored 1-5 for docility at calf tagging and all youngstock are scored leaving the crush at 400 days," he adds.

"I like to review pounds/day made for each animal, for example a steer which makes 240p/day and finishes on grass alone is a good one. In a good year I would like to see the average over 230p/day (price dependant). I also review the number of cows bulled to calves weaned, with the herd at 91% in 2019 (target is 95% plus) and I like to keep a track of total weight of cow mated to total weight of calf weaned (target 30% plus)."

IMPROVING THE GENETICS YEAR-ON-YEAR

Mr Burrell explains his father first introduced Aberdeen-Angus genetics in a bid to be profitable and produce the best beef.

"Know your end goal. Ours is a beef product which the consumer wants to buy again and again.

"A steer's carcass must be R4L 320 kg DW, yellow in fat (grass fed), low pH level (have experienced no stress), low in ossification (be a reasonable age at slaughter) and have high marbling (bred for intramuscular fat). If we achieve this in a regenerative farming system, we have something a consumer wants and is willing to pay a premium for. That's the product we want, so we need genetics which will enable us to do so at a cost which leaves a profit."

Mr Burrell explains estimate breeding values (EBV's), actual real time data, genomics and visual assessment are all critical to genetic selection.

"Finding a system which mirrors yours with similar breeding goals is the first step. Annually, we use a mixture of embryos, AI and natural bull joining's selected from our own herd, from both around the UK and globally.

"In 2021, we will be using three home-bred sires whose dams have all had at least 11 natural calves. The dams have never been touched except for routine vaccinations or health tests, have wintered out every year of their life and their calves have consistently ranked in the top 15% of the herd,

and rank in the top 1% of the breed for marbling.

"Furthermore, the dams all have proven sons working in commercial herds with good feedback. These are the kind of cows we want producing our product."

More recently, Mr Burrell has started to look for animals which bend the growth curve, or are 'curve benders'.

"This is an animal which has low birth weight and high growth and early maturity patterns up through 200 to 600 days weights but then stops growing, capping the mature weight at the 600-day mark," he notes.

"This isn't suitable for every system, but it's important to note in a suckler herd that cows will likely eat 70% of the dry matter available in a season. The cost is big and needs to be kept in check or reduced if possible.

"It is a long-term game. There is no quick easy solution with suckler cows."

KEEPING THE STANDARDS

In order to maintain a profit, Mr Burrell explains poor performing animals are identified and removed, breeding decisions are data led with profit from beef the main focus.

"If we have to keep a steer for an extra winter, then we have a knock-on effect year-after-year, with less grass available for the following year's calves, and overall herd performance will be impacted long-term. To keep a less efficient animal

longer is not for us – despite selling it sooner potentially realising a poorer price for that animal, the herd is better off," he says.

"We look across the herd, at cows, heifers and the bulls or semen we use. We also use this to monitor group performances from one bull or lineage – if they don't match up to average, we can review and look to use another one.

"Currently we are culling out over 20 daughters from a past sire. They're not bad, but consistently come in at the bottom end of the herd. Culling isn't seen as a negative here, but rather a positive as we're moving forward with the most profitable lineage possible," he adds.

"British beef has good consumer backing, and by using a breed which the general consumer recognises, I'm also reaping the additional rewards. However, standards need to be taken to new levels annually, which is why we continue to set new goals for the cow herd and produce a better product," he concludes.

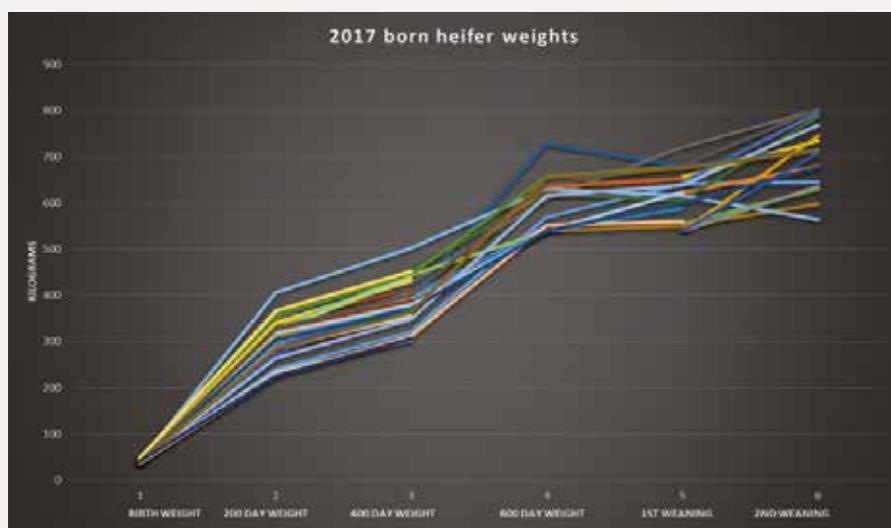
Benefits of Aberdeen-Angus as a suckler cow

Suitable to any environment

The only branded beef globally

A huge global and UK genetic gene pool available

Produces a quality beef product the consumer wants to buy repeatedly



Growth tracking of the 2017 Broome Park Heifers



Utilising Native Breeds to Meet the 21st Century Demand for Carcase Weights

A long overdue visit to the way meat is graded in the UK means it is evolving. The Europe Grading System has been in place for over 40 years and was introduced to reward meat yield from carcasses that fell into the 'top grade' for lean and fat deposition, but this premium offering for a heavy beast is altering.

Historically, farmers were rewarded for producing big, muscular, lean cattle and at that time, the bigger the better was the order of play to make the carcasses add up. This fact in itself, drew the UK's beef industry to introduce new breeds from the continent that would help them achieve this goal of size.

However, the trend has changed, with a shift by the supply chain for farmers to produce cattle with smaller carcase sizes. Barrie Turner, our Society's CEO, says this has resulted in mindset change in the beef industry, with more producers opting for native breeds of cattle which can meet the requirements of this new way of grading.

"In 2018/19, there was a change in direction from the supply chain, which saw processors reduce the weight specification for finished carcasses, and penalise against any cattle that go overweight," says Barrie.

"As we've seen in the beef industry in this country of late, the consumer, who ultimately drives the returns that we see at farm level, has changed their habits and the big family sit-down roast dinner has sadly become a thing of the past.

"The 'fast living' lifestyle we know today doesn't allow time for the regular preparation of a big Sunday dinner, with options for the leftovers to be consumed over the next three days in various guises. We're an 'eat it once' population, with leftovers discarded, making any requirements for roasting joints smaller than they once were."

He explains pack size is a crucial driver in the meat supply chain, with portion size linked to the 'one meal occasion' attitude now common place.

"This has resulted in the shift to smaller carcase sizes, which led to a

rise in popularity to produce native breeds, such as Aberdeen-Angus, who produce the smaller portions of meat desired by the supply chain, as well as being renowned for the superb eating quality," he notes.

"Consumer satisfaction is paramount to keeping and maintaining a demand for beef and the current Europe Grading System is not designed to reward the 'taste' factors that will prompt a repeat purchase week in, week out. There are so many examples around the world where grading systems have been developed around taste and texture, and repeat purchases."

Coincidentally, or not, Barrie acknowledges that beef consumption per head of population in countries which base grading on taste is greater than the UK, and again, by chance or not, British native breeds are extensively used in these countries too; so what should we learn from this?

"The UK beef industry as a whole needs to produce cattle who finish at lighter weights to deliver the pack

size, as well as providing a good consistent eating experience that fits in with the changed lifestyle, so perhaps it's time to switch the focus to our island's native breeds and the role they now play?"

ABERDEEN-ANGUS IN ACTION

Jim Fowlie, from Adziel, Strichen, Aberdeenshire, finishes over 1,500 Aberdeen-Angus cattle a year and has seen this industry shift in the last two decades first-hand.

"We always have the end market in sight when rearing our cattle and it's important to have an understanding from the day the calf is born or enters your farm as to what weight they need to achieve," says Jim. "Being 'heavy' is no longer specific enough.

"We sell directly to AK Stodgart when cattle weigh 650kg, which means we're aiming for a 350kg carcasse, but I know this is going to shift. The retailers need to meet

consumer demand – it's why we rear cattle in the first place – so we as the farmers, need to produce the beast to meet the need."

The cattle are sold at 19 to 20 months of age, with groups of 40 going at least once a week, every week, starting from 1st September.

"This means we need a consistent batch of calves, who are all achieving the daily liveweight gain (DLWG) targets throughout the season. As a suckler herd, this means care and attention needs to go into the cows, their fertility and ability to rear robust calves, and the breed choice is paramount."

Jim switched to Aberdeen-Angus 15-years-ago, when he began to see a change in specification and penalties for over-weight carcasses.

"The industry was driving the change in reducing carcasse size, which meant we needed to have a

breed which would finish at a lighter weight to deliver a pack size and good consistent eating experience that suits today's consumer.

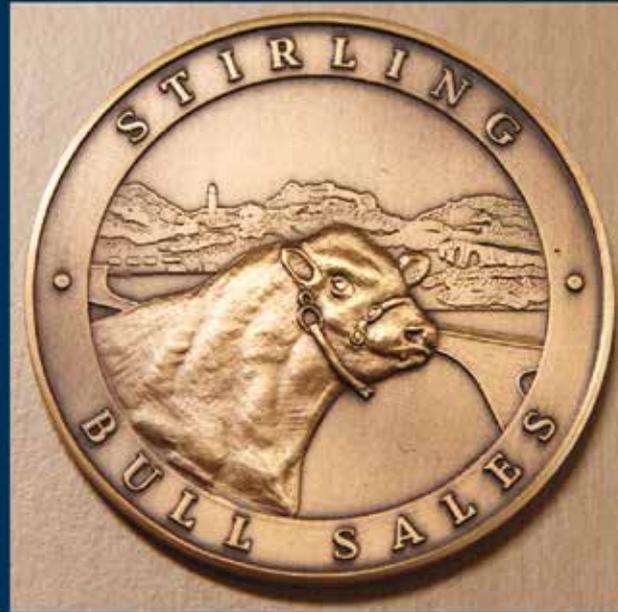
"As a native breed, Aberdeen-Angus cattle produce this consistent size and superb eating quality, so changing our system was a no brainer. We also recognised that there's a premium for this breed available. Aberdeen-Angus is known by consumers, which helps with creating a strong demand.

"Looking ahead, it's vital that we, the farmers, continue to rear cattle in a system which meets supply chain demand. Native British genetics have a huge part to play in the changing industry going forward, producing tasty beef with an environmental and great provenance story behind them. So, I have no doubt that more beef producers will opt to include the likes of Aberdeen-Angus genetics in their herds in the future."



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Sire: BLELACK BLUE JAY R631

Dam: BRYNAWELON PRIM J530

RODMEAD LADY BLACKCAP W073

Sire: BLELACK BLUE JAY R631

Dam: BLELACK LADY BLACKCAP J261

A selection of promising calves from our ET programme

WHO ARE WE? **DOWBIGGIN** MARKETING



We're Dowbiggin Marketing, the UK-based sale management company that works for you. Offering a portfolio of elite consignment sales for live and frozen genetics throughout the year, as well as providing full sale management services for production, reduction, dispersal, society and club sales including catalogue design, sale marketing & consultancy and event management. We work with the best auctioneers, sale venues, designers and photographers to ensure your stock and genetics get the exposure, credit, interest and revenue they deserve.

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Our Inaugural **ANGUS EVENT** WINTER 2021

In 2021, we will be hosting our inaugural Angus female sale in partnership with Harrison & Hetherington. Taking place at Borderway Mart in Carlisle, we cannot wait to get on the road and begin consigning quality cattle for our inaugural Angus event. Stay tuned to your emails for further updates in 2021 and be sure to give Josh a ring to discuss the sale and your potential consignments.

DOWBIGGIN
MARKETING

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Why Have We Changed the DNA Testing Procedure?

DNA - NATURE'S NATURAL BAR CODE

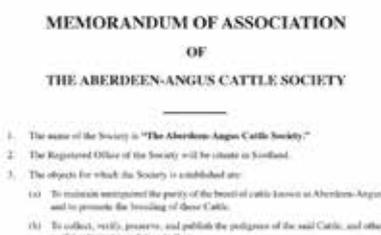


As a Society, we have been engaging with the use of DNA in animal identification verification for several years. Never has this become more important as we move forward, and it is paramount that the Society, when issuing a pedigree, must utilise the most up-to-date technology to verify that an animal is what it says it is. The initiative has been embarked on, on behalf of breeders, acting as a safety net capturing and resolving perhaps unseen or confusing events at bulling or calving times that can be incorrectly recorded.

We are all aware that mistakes can happen for several reasons, as around 12% of nominated sires come back to us with 'excluded' as the sire. We do get this up to around 99.5% complete when we make further nominations of sires in conjunction with the breeder and the case is resolved, ensuring that the information is correct. It is testament to the scheme that our members get 88% right first time!

This is not a witch hunt! It is also not an underhand scheme implemented by the Society to catch anyone out, as it is well understood by the Council, who are all breeders, practical farmers and members of the Society, that the practicalities of the farm situation often can lead to minor errors in recording events at busy times. If an animal is sold and subsequently proves through genomic work, or is exported, that it is not what it says it is, the consequences can be far reaching, as is being seen in the cattle world globally.

As a Society, we are in place to protect the integrity of the herd book, and we are duty bound to do that by our Memorandum and Articles of Association. This is not hidden or disguised in any way. It is the first part, other than the name and place, and is very clear in its intention.



We are as a Society, as are all the membership, duty bound to observe the Articles and employ technology as it becomes available, to ensure we protect one of the most fundamental missions of the dictate of our existence.

As the use of DNA has come into the cattle world, the process itself has developed and has moved forward from blood typing, to microsatellite testing, then SNP testing, and then to high density SNP testing. We must be seen to be taking every possible step to protecting our members from making errors on declaring parentage. The higher density 50K SNP test gives us a number of opportunities to streamline what we do with the DNA data. As a further expansion and explanation of what this is, we were using 200 SNP panel to parent verify animals as recommended by ISAG. This data consists of 200 markers, whereas the 50K SNP has 50,000 markers on it, so much more information of the animal's 'bar code'

is available to work with. We have gone from a simple bar code to one that holds much more information on the animal; bar code to QSR code being a similar comparison.

Using more SNP markers increases the accuracy of what we do. We have more high density profiles for both male and females in the herd, so we can perform a search of the database for a match in cases that are found to be excluding a sire or dam to find the correct parentage. In the future, we hope to get to the point where all animals having SNP profiles on our database and we may be able to do away with everything apart from just sending in and testing a sample, which will search for a match and we can print a pedigree based on that result. I hasten to say that this would be a long way off as we stand today, but is a goal to aim for in future, simplifying the whole registration process for the membership!

A further advantage of having more lines on the bar code, is that we can cross the bridge of Genomic evaluation, a process that identifies animals with certain sequences of markers that can be genetically selected for traits such as, feed efficient, carbon efficiency, desirable carcass traits and disease resistance, as just some examples, but the list is endless.

As has been seen in the dairy industry in the UK, genomic evaluation has taken performance of dairy herds forward at a significant pace and enhances the accuracy level of EBV's. We need to make this available to anyone in the



membership who wants to use this powerful tool to aid selection and improve their herd performance. There has been a great deal of work done in other countries around the world on large Aberdeen-Angus populations, the stock of which was derived from the UK, that we perhaps do not have to reinvent the wheel, and can tap into, to make the most of nature's bar code.

I hope that this goes some way to explain why the Society has made some changes in consultation with independent sources, to make an informed choice of making the most of opportunity that DNA offers us, from a membership perspective.

I found this statement and extracted it from a large meat wholesalers website,

"There is more Aberdeen-Angus beef sold in this country than is ever produced. Belted Galloway graces more menus than pastures. Gloucester Old Spot pork is lesser spotted than you would be led to believe.

"10-years-ago, the fashion for naming breeds and single farms really took off. The result? Producers and suppliers over promising and chefs having unrealistic aspirations on what is achievable".

This statement reflects the last 10 years, where this has become a fashion of using provenance to exude premium quality taste and texture by telling a story. Going back in history and to the roots of our breed, the drovers in the North East of Scotland used to set off, driving their quality animals south to satisfy the demand of the high society in London, a trek of some 500+ miles. This was not 10-years-ago, this was 200-years-ago, when Aberdeen-Angus even then had a story of provenance that merited such a trip and expense, to grace the tables of the aristocracy in London. You had not quite made it if you did not have Aberdeen-Angus beef on your table when entertaining.

Aberdeen-Angus is still regarded as a premium product and the most recognised breed of cattle that is used in packaging and on menus,

and still commands that extra shilling or two.

As is suggested in the statement, it would seem that there may be some doubt as to some of the provenance surrounding claims of premium products, damaging the integrity of the claims and potentially the reputation of the people and companies involved, which as we know can be financially disastrous, and can and has closed businesses.

Building trust of the consumer in a brand is paramount and it goes without saying, a very important factor in repeat business: lose the trust and you lose the business. Like many things, transparency, honesty and integrity are all keys to maintaining customer trust.

Nature's natural bar code in the form of DNA, has a huge place in helping our partners and stakeholders maintain the trust of their customers as we move into a new world of consumer focus on provenance, and on what they are spending their hard-earned cash on. The government is implementing new strategies to fight food fraud and crime with more and more cases coming to light.

We are around halfway through the process of building a database of DNA profiles, which when complete will be able to be utilised to identify beef on the shelf or a plate in a restaurant, back to an Aberdeen-Angus bull registered with the

Society here in the UK. The Society considers this as an enhancement to the existing utilisation of DNA information as technology moves on, and a vital tool to be used to protect our marketplace for Aberdeen-Angus beef and the premium that we enjoy.

Remember that beyond the farm gate, without the black hide, the beautiful polled head, whether it be dairy bred or pure bred, it can be difficult to differentiate Aberdeen-Angus Beef from the rest. DNA can make sure that we can tell the difference.

This is a further use of the DNA technology that we as a Society are investing so heavily in, as it's crucial that we ring fence our Aberdeen-Angus beef produced in the UK and Ireland, clearly differentiating it from imported beef, as we head to World Market trading conditions after Brexit on the 1st January 2021.

We would ask you to help us with this, ensuring that what you do behind the farm gate, which is a four year investment from bulling a cow to selling the progeny into the food chain, is protected with what happens to your cattle when they leave the farm. When on the hook or in the pack, its all-beef and recognisable as such. Using the DNA fingerprint we can ensure that Aberdeen-Angus beef produced, grown, processed, packed and consumed in the UK is exactly what it is claimed to be.

Barrie L. Turner



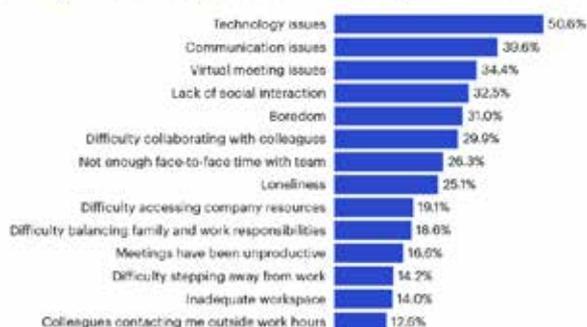


The Realities of Working from Home

The great compulsory working from home experiment, for everyone that can do, of 2020 has gone on for eight months and the preliminary results of this are coming in. Overall, in surveys that cover this very topic, reveal that most of us like it, most of the time, apart from several debilitating factors as outlined below in the graphic, that are out of our control to a certain extent. The camaraderie of teamwork is the number one thing that everyone is looking forward to in the eventual return to the office. Loneliness is a major issue on the list of downsides to remote working or working from home, which has been and still is, the default guideline wherever possible.

Technology issues have affected us at Pedigree house, as we did not think in our wildest imagination that the situation would have gone on for this long, so temporary fixes for home working were put in place. The next seven items on the list are all linked to the eighth item on the list – lone working remotely is not easy.

What problems have you faced while working from home?



Feeling lonesome at work is not only a side effect from working from home, social interactions, holidays and free time outside work have also been curtailed. We can normally brighten up the week with meeting a friend or two for a coffee or a bottle of wine in a convivial atmosphere of our choosing, dinner with friends, family gatherings and celebrations that we all enjoy. This has not been able to happen and cannot happen during a pandemic.

Working from home means there is no escape from the workplace, no real cut-off, as the home office or desk is lurking in the corner of the room, waiting for the next shift to start. Space is limited and you just don't have all of the resources at just arm's length like you do in the office environment. This can cause delay and frustration.

Depending on the type of person you are, the weight of loneliness has differing effects on you. An extrovert personality who loves their job, loves coming into the office and getting on with it, can feel a lack of praise for doing a good job. It's not everyone who can thrive when working from home. The ones who are feeling lonely are more likely to be the ones who fit into the company culture and can be at their authentic best at the office.

At best, with the backing of Council, we have kept our member services going, but like every single sector of business, remote working has affected the capacity of what we are able to do. Simple tasks like dealing with post, sending samples to the lab, dealing with enquiries by phone, Zoom calls just to keep in touch with the outside world and our colleagues, is not the same as doing it in person. It takes a lot more planning than physically doing it to sort out a simple thing that would have been a quick chat across the desk.

With virus cases growing again as we head into winter, it seems unlikely that we will be heading back into Pedigree House anytime soon, despite all the preparations we have and precautionary practices to prevent any of our staff contracting the virus through work. I can assure you all that the first time we are able to do this safely, we will do. But in the meantime we ask you to recognise that we are working within the Scottish Government guidelines to keep everyone of our staff and their families safe and healthy, and also acknowledge that the staff are having a challenging time at the moment to keep things up to speed remotely.

In the meantime, Pedigree House remains closed for the foreseeable future, with limited attendance from our team members to perform essential tasks that simply cannot be done at home.

Barrie L. Turner
CEO

The Unresearched Marketplace – Food Service

In a previous life, I was Managing Director of a family business called Function Junction. We started this as a possible opportunity for my son, who is a trained chef, to possibly plough a furrow in that field. It was an incredible journey; our first venture was to take the catering franchise at a local caravan park where there were 400 static caravans and offer a menu to the residents. Owing to our growing reputation for a quality offering, we also were offered a franchise at a local golf club catering for members and visitors and also build a trade for 'third party' diners to make use of the facility. We also invested in a 350-seat marquee to cater for functions to add another dimension to our business. A friend of mine then bought his local pub and wanted us to go and take that on following a huge refurbishment which we did, giving us a multi-outlet business, which had a substantial turnover.

One of the key elements to the success of the business was to source sensibly, but also to focus on quality. We used locally sourced fresh fruit and veg, used a local butcher who in turn sourced locally for our meat, but always with the focus on quality and understanding the quality of the meat, which was really important to us. Meat was our dearest portion cost on every plate, so important to get it right.

Very often we hear discussions on marbling and the benefits that marbling gives to the taste, eating quality and eating experience of beef, but all meats in general. We in the Aberdeen-Angus Society recognise that a nicely marbled steak will deliver a good eating experience. Chefs are also acutely aware that marbling is a good thing for meat, and they understand the term and what it will give them in customer satisfaction in their restaurants.

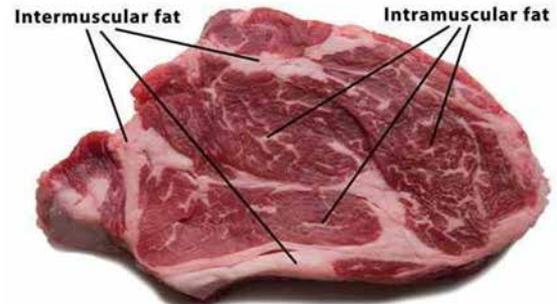
The USA has three grades and they grade on marbling, prime, choice and select. Prime, the most marbled beef, is paid a premium and is rarely available for the consumer to buy, as it is all scooped up by the food service market and paid a premium for. I have often been in the company of people who, like me, have been to the USA, I often ask the question, "Have you ever had a bad steak over there?" and the unanimous answer is never!

The difference between the retail market and the food service market is that marbling is not greatly understood by the consumer in retail, and a well-marbled steak will be the last one left on the shelf, probably go into waste or be returned to the supplier. Consumers in the UK want beef to look red, with the least amount of white

fat preferred and as lean a look as is possible given the selection. Marbling is not attractive to the retail consumer and the look that they want, is not really conducive to a good eating experience.



The difference in food service is that firstly, as I have said, chefs understand marbling and secondly, the cooked appearance of the steak is completely different to the raw. The intramuscular fat or marbling cooks out, leaving the spaces between the protein part or the muscle fibres separate and distinct making the beef tender.



The key to this is that the consumer can't see it and therefore it is not perceived as unhealthy, whereas in the picture of the raw meat (above) would give that perception and a leaner piece would be purchased. If

only we could bridge the gap of eating experience and marbling with consumers, we would be on a winner.

Fats (lipids) and oxygen are the main fuels that power muscles. Fats are packed with calories, which are potential energy released when the chemical bonds are broken. From a culinary standpoint, fat comes in three types

1. Subcutaneous fats are the thick hard layers beneath the skin.
2. Intermuscular fats are layers between muscle groups.
3. Intramuscular fats are woven amongst the muscle fibres and sheaths improve meat's moisture, texture, and flavour when cooked. These threads of intramuscular fat are called marbling because they have a striated look, similar to marble.



Fats are crucial to meat texture. Waxy when cold, fats start to melt around 55°C to 60°C, lubricating muscle fibres just as they are getting tougher and drier from the heat. Fat does not evaporate like water when you are cooking. As you can see on the image of the probe, rare beef is at a core temperature recommendation of 60°C and the medium and well are higher so most of the fat is 'cooked out' and therefore not visible.

Fat also provides much of the flavour in meat. It absorbs and stores many of the aromatic compounds that the animal has been fed in its diet. As the animal ages, those flavour compounds build-up and get more noticeable. After the animal is slaughtered, the fat can turn rancid if stored too warm, too long or in contact with oxygen. So, we have a trade-off. The muscle fibres and connective tissues get tougher as the animal ages and exercises, while the fat accumulates and builds flavour.

A well-marbled steak when cooked should not need a sauce! It should taste good enough without and sauces should be reserved on menus for protein that has little or no flavour, and will cook and dry out because of the absence of fat in the protein.

The benefits of marbling don't stop there for the food service market and because of the process above,

marbled meat is very forgiving when being cooked and if slightly over done or underdone from what appears in the kitchen on an order slip, it will still taste good, so long as it's not burnt or raw! This is an added bonus, because complaint rates in restaurants are crucial to profitability, as food sent back to the kitchen is costly to put right, may well spoil an evening celebration for a party of guests, who in turn will tell 10 friends each about a bad experience and repeat business for that establishment is lost.

As the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society, we have the badge of quality. Just the name itself signifies a premium offering in Food service throughout the world. In the UK we have perhaps not visited and looked at this market yet, but perhaps now is the time to start. I have been working with two abattoirs, some wholesalers and restaurant chains, who are working on this concept with us, but the pandemic has interrupted this project to accelerate the progress that we would have hoped to have made this year.

The hospitality sector has been decimated by COVID-19 pandemic during 2020 and I must admit, referring to the opening paragraph of this article, I am somewhat relieved to be out of that business. It will for some, with closure being forced upon them, be a straw that will break the camel's back. It is an industry that is, however, very resilient. The demand for eating out of home will return and there will be many people who look at this as an opportunity to get into hospitality. The inevitable rationalisation of a marketplace that was to some extent in over supply, may lead to affordable premises being available, reduced competition for the trade available and quality focused, entrepreneurs will do well.



We are sitting at a point where we have unprecedented numbers of Aberdeen-Angus sired beef coming onto the market. We have to ensure we keep the demand for it in front of every consumer at every opportunity. This is part of our four pillar strategy that is developing as breed promotion to keep our premium market in all sectors buoyant and increasing.

I hope that this insight into a market place is of interest and as producers, helps you understand that the story does not end as you close the trailer door on some cattle at the market for our product reaches out beyond that, and also that the consumer is the decision-maker in the supply chain.

Barrie L. Turner
CEO

Pedigree House

THE HOME OF THE SOCIETY SINCE 1972

Situated in Kings Place in Scotland's fair city Perth since 1972, the office has seen a great deal of business since our relocation from Aberdeen. The move to Perth was considered a must, as it was the home of the famous Perth Bull sales, where February's sales saw at times, upwards of 1,000 bulls offered for sale. Not all of our members have been to the offices, so we thought a brief insight into them was in order.



A very youthful looking Eddie Gillanders, Assistant Breed Secretary and Editor of the review for some 40 years supervises the move.



Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, Patron of the Society for many years unveiling the plaque commemorating the opening of the Office on 20th October 1972



Pedigree house as it is today



All our activities are watched over by 'Paris', the last survivor of the Paris Group bred by William McCombie of Tillyfour, born March 1877 and died at Aboyne Castle, December 1891



The boardroom at Pedigree House, that over the years has hosted many visitors from home and overseas, famous and not so famous but all important, such has been the extent where our magical breed has spread across the globe.



The Prix D'Honneur graces the boardroom table and was presented to William McCombie

This ultimate prize for best group of beef animals, which was won by William McCombie, did more than any other award to establish the Aberdeen-Angus as the most favoured beef-producing breed of cattle throughout the world. The prize was decided by a panel of experts consisting of 29 French or other foreign nationalities and only two Britons. They were judging 1,314 cattle from France and 370 from other countries, altogether representing 65 different varieties. The judges voted 24, for McCombie's group of cattle and seven for a group of French-bred Shorthorns. This was a decisive victory for William McCombie and the Aberdeen-Angus breed.

If you are passing through Perth, you are more than welcome, COVID-19 permitting, to pop-in and have a look round at the archives that we have held in our HQ.



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WHERE PEDIGREE COUNTS

FOUNDATION FEMALES INCLUDE:

Retties Lady Ruth N228
Mosston Muir Etta K245
Cardona Jeweliot Erica G519
Blelack Lady Blackcap P325
Lockerly Laura D444
Weeton Princess Chartreuse R467

STOCK SIRES:

Retties JFK M195
Retties Euromillions R307
Waterend Payton N108

NEW JUNIOR STOCK SIRE:

Blelack Equator V976

Purchased at 13 months, we very much look forward to seeing his offspring.



Retties Lady Ruth N228



Waterend Payton N108



Overall Interbreed Group of 3 Winners,
Royal Welsh Show 2019



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XVI PREMIO LA NACION ANGLICO GALICIA A LA EXCELENCIA AGRICOLA FEBRUARIA 2018



Aberdeen-Angus Argentina

100 años ANGLUS 1920 - 2020

On 18th September 1920, a group of enterprising breeders founded the Corporación Argentina de Aberdeen-Angus (today, known as Asociación Argentina de Angus). The aim was to improve their business, defend their interests and promote the virtues of the Aberdeen-Angus breed in Argentina, which was first imported into the country in 1879.

Those who are linked to the cattle industry in the country, who visit its main cattle areas or attend the breeding ranches and auctions, can confirm that Aberdeen-Angus is the number one breed in Argentina.

Surveys and censuses carried out in the country make it possible to ensure that more than half of the country's cattle population is Angus. And, if the crosses with Angus are taken into account, the "Angus influence" in Argentinean cattle exceeds 70%.

OUR MAIN ACTIVITIES

Today, the Association offers numerous programmes and services to ensure the quality and excellence of the Aberdeen-Angus breed. These are some of them and their growth between 2009 and 2019.

Puro Controlado: In this Pure Controlled programme, only Aberdeen-Angus males and females that meet the breed standard and quality established by the breed are identified and registered.

Madre Angus Seleccionada: This Selected Angus Mother programme was created by Angus breeders who required the Association to have a selection service for their commercial Angus herds.

Evaluación de Reproductores Angus (ERA): This Angus Cattle Evaluation programme emerged in 1989, from an agreement between the Association and the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA), in order to genetically evaluate the Angus population. Last year the Angus Genomic Evaluation service was launched, with the Aberdeen-Angus Association being the first Society in Latin America to have a genomic service. Today, more than 590,000 registered animals included in the ERA National Database have Enhanced EPDs for 12 traits of economic importance.

Carne Angus Certificada: This certified Aberdeen-Angus beef programme seeks to increase the dissemination of the Angus breed through its meat; add value to the “beef commodity”; create a greater demand for animals that meet the requirements of the programme; guarantees the legitimacy of the product and creates an economically sustainable programme. Today, 18 packing plants are enabled to process Angus beef for markets around the world.

Shows: The Aberdeen-Angus Autumn, Spring and Calf National Shows are the most attractive shows for the breed. In the traditional Palermo Show, established in 1875 by the Sociedad Rural Argentina, Angus is the biggest livestock breed showcased. The results of these exhibitions add points for the Banderin award, which the Association has given since 1956 to the highest scoring ranches with their animals. In addition, the Association sponsors another 70 shows which are held in different regions of the country.

Auctions: One of the main commercial outlets for registered Aberdeen-Angus are the ranches’ sales (about 120 per year), sponsored by the Association, and special auctions organised by the Association along with different auction houses.

Aberdeen-Angus Magazine: With four annual publications, all published since 1939 when the Association only had 188 members. It should be noted that in 2018, the Association received two important awards from the Argentine Technical and Specialized Press Association (APTA).

All of the above confirms Aberdeen-Angus as the leading breed in Argentina. This led the Association to receive the prestigious award for Agricultural Excellence, for being the best service organisation for the agricultural and livestock sector, awarded annually by Diario La Nación and Banco Galicia.

Thank you very much and we are looking forward to celebrating our first centenary together.

Alfredo Guzmán

President

Asociación Argentina de Angus

Growth of the Association’s services from 2009 to 2019

	Year 2009	Year 2019	Growth
Registered herds	646	774	+19%
Herds in the ERA program	352	503	+42%
Aberdeen-Angus with Enhanced EPDs	310,000	561,000	+80%
Herds with ultrasound	138	202	+46%
Aberdeen-Angus registered per year	63,000	110,000	+74%
Auctions sponsored per year	76	128	+68%
Presence in shows per year	51	163	+220%
Enabled packing plants	8	18	+124%
Exported tons of Hilton Angus quota per year	85	242	+184%

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Friday 21st May

Annual Spring Sale of Bulls & Females

Friday 1st October

Annual Autumn Sale of Bulls & Females

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Tynet PegasusT033

Junior and Overall Reserve Champion Stirling October 2018.
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Tynet Bolero W065



Tynet Milkwood Princess W070

Tynet Aberdeen Angus



Now a 30 strong herd of breeding females established in 2014 with female lines including Lady Heather, Diana, Poppy and Princess and more recent acquisitions from Ardoyne including Bolero, Duchess, Mulberry's Princess and Royal Lass.

AI and Embryo sires we await in 2021 include Rawburn Jumbo Eric, Warrenho Dalmigavie, Ballindalloch Earl, Gretnahouse Blacksmith, Millah Murrah Klooney, Weeton Diamond Mine and Balmachie Jack Eric

Our Stock Bull: Gretnahouse Blacklight R806's first calves at Tynet look look very promising. Semen now available at £30/straw.

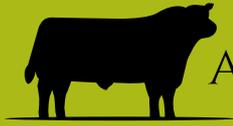
Embryos also now available including full mating embryos to Tynet Pegasus. All enquiries welcome.

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Aberdeen-Angus, its more than a breed, it's a brand.

TONLEY ABER

TONLEY JESTER ERIC S318



Dam: Blelack Jubilee Erica F422. Sire: Duncanziemere Edwin J311

Jester is the best Bull ever bred at Tonley.

A brilliantly balanced Bull, with a huge hip, tremendous power & length, he has produced some exceptional cattle so far and we think he has an exciting future in front of him.

A half share was sold to Blelack at 11 months old.

His first four sons won Best Group of 4 at Stirling February 2020 and sold for an average of 9,000 gns.

Jester is currently at stud. Exportable Semen will be available in April 2021. Pre order now at £80 per straw.

Deal for 2021, the first 20 straws will be sold at £60 per straw, so get in quick!

BLELACK PRINCE CHARLIE (JESTER'S SON)



Sold for 11,000 gns at February Stirling Bull Sales.
Sold to the Newbank Herd.

TONLEY KASPER (JESTER'S SON)



Sold for 11,000 gns at February Stirling Bull Sales.
Sold to Hallington, Thurnton and Saville Herds.

TONLEY

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T: Neil Wattie - 07803 186 748

E: markwattie@hotmail.co.uk



@TonleyAberdeenAngus Facebook Page

DEEN ANGUS

TONLEY ROYAL LEGEND T474



Dam: Wall Royal Lady E408. Sire: Rawburn Elysium F547



Royal Legend's first Calf at two months Old

Royal Legend has great breed character and is an easy fleshing Bull, he is ideal for Cows and Heifers. He has been put to 25 heifers calving down at 2 years old this year after finding him easy calving. Royal Legend is currently at stud. Exportable semen is available in April 2021 for £50 per straw.

TONLEY EZRA T365



Dam: Tonley Ester R132. Sire: Rawburn Transformer

Ezra is a stylish Bull and is easy calving, used on all the yearling heifers who are calving down at 24 ss for the last 2 years. Look out for his two promising sons for sale in the Spring. Exportable semen available now at £40 per straw.

Semen also available from past sires:

- Warrenho Emperor
- Deveron Leggat • Tonley Pato

First ever Production Sale October 2021.

Over 50 head of cattle with some of our best females in the herd forward.

Young Bulls and Heifers always for sale.



Aberdeen-Angus New Zealand

Aberdeen-Angus is the predominant beef breed in New Zealand and the breed of choice among many of the country's commercial cattlemen.

This is reinforced by the fact that Angus genetics make-up more than half of New Zealand's beef herd, which has been slowly growing in size in recent years.

A strong beef schedule has given New Zealand beef farmers the confidence to maintain or increase their beef herds and an average increase of 8.6% per farm. More than 6,000 stud bulls are sold annually to commercial and stud breeders. Angus make up 52% of the country's beef herd which includes pure and crossbred Angus genetics.

Angus NZ supports and promotes the Angus cattle breed, from maintaining pedigree records to marketing top quality AngusPure beef to the world.

The Association, which has 282 registered breeders, supports its members in their efforts to ensure the very best genetics are available to commercial farmers and – further along the chain – to meat processors, marketers and ultimately, consumers.

The goal of the Association is to maximise profits for beef farmers.

And it's fair to say that given the results of 2020's bull sales, that goal is being reached.

In the past calendar year there were 108 Angus bull sales and more than 16,000 people attended those sales, which saw about 6,000 stud bulls sold to both commercial and stud cattle men.

Despite the challenges the COVID-19 global pandemic presented, it has been another strong year for New Zealand Angus breeders at their on-farm sales.

A notable highlight of the year was a staggering price tag of NZ\$104,000 for a rising two-year-old bull. The Powdrell family from Turoa Angus near Wairoa on the East Coast of the North Island, sold him to the partnership of Kaharau Angus and Orere Angus of Gisborne, further up the East Coast.

But the highs of the sales didn't end there, with another rising two-year-old selling for NZ\$92,000 at another bull sale not long after. This bull was sold by Wairoa's Cricklewood Angus and was bought by the partnership of Kenhardt Angus, on the East Coast, and Mt Mable Angus, near Woodville.

Angus NZ boasts a genetics programme that features science-based data accuracy from the TransTasman Angus Cattle Evaluation (TACE - formerly known as Breedplan) - a reliable genetic selection tool that ensures the best beef genetics are supplied to commercial beef clients, when used in conjunction with



structural soundness selection criteria. Our EBVs are based on all available pedigree and performance records provided by breeders in New Zealand and Australia, along with available overseas genetic information.

TACE represents a major improvement over the more traditional methods of performance recording. It uses all the records available on the animal and its relatives, to disentangle genetic and environmental factors, giving the best estimate possible of the animal's breeding value from the available information. TACE also uses 'multiple trait' evaluation which further increases the accuracy of the EBVs.

Because there is usually a genetic association between different traits (which may be positive or negative and vary from weak to strong), this information can be used to enhance measurements of recorded traits or estimate an animal's breeding value for traits that have not been directly measured.

TACE also plots the genetic trend for herds. This trend illustrates the genetic direction of a herd for individual traits from year-to-year, and lets breeders see the effect of environmental changes such as pasture improvement on overall herd production.

After 150 years in New Zealand, the Angus breed is well adapted to New Zealand's farming systems – and the end product stands out from the rest.

Angus beef has been a repeat winner of The Beef & Lamb NZ Steak of Origin Competition, and consistently achieves top results in carcass quality determinants such as marbling, fat depth, meat colour and pH, assuring a tastier and more tender beef product and it's these traits that are imperative to Angus NZs beef brands – AngusPure and AngusPure Special Reserve.

AngusPure is the official branded beef programme of Angus NZ and was established in 1999. It's a grass-fed beef programme that showcases traceability using

Angus NZs Source and Trace ear tags and only accepts progeny that are sired by registered Angus bulls.

AngusPure is free from hormone growth promotants, antibiotic free, steers and heifers, grass-fed and finished, processed at an appointed plant. Carcasses must measure a pH level of 5.8 or below and is aged for a minimum of 21 days.

AngusPure Special Reserve has the same base requirements, but carcasses must also record a minimum marble score of 2 and is aged for a minimum of 28 days.

As New Zealand consumers all know, the country has some of the best farming systems in the world with large numbers of farmers voluntarily fencing off thousands of kilometres of waterways and planting large areas of native trees.

Recent research has revealed that the country's sheep and beef farms are already close to being carbon neutral.

The study led by Dr Bradley Case at Auckland University of Technology (AUT) estimates the woody vegetation on New Zealand sheep and beef farms is offsetting between 63% and 118% of their on-farm agricultural emissions. If the mid-point in the report's range is used, on average the woody vegetation on sheep and beef farms is absorbing about 90% of these emissions.

Beef + Lamb New Zealand CEO Sam McIvor says absolute greenhouse gas emissions from New Zealand sheep and beef production have reduced by 30% since 1990.

"This research shows that of the remaining emissions, the vast majority are being offset by the trees on our farms and New Zealand sheep and beef farmers are well on the way to being carbon neutral by 2050."

Breeding and finishing quality Angus genetics in NZ is the winning formula for all beef farmers.

www.angusnz.com

Aberdeen-Angus Hungary



**BRIT HÚSMARHAFAJTÁKAT
TENYÉSZTŐK EGYESÜLETE**

Aberdeen-Angus breeding in Hungary began in the 1980s with the red colour version. It was partly imported with breeding animals, partly with crossbreeding and later embryo implantation, which was a slow and costly process. Today the number of females is between 14 to 15,000. The climate and grasslands of Hungary favour the rearing of British type beef cattle, especially the Angus.

Following the change of political regime (1990), estate sizes have developed, allowing 50-100 cows to be kept, but there are some farms with hundreds of cows. Due to the lack of capital of smaller farmers, imports of purebred individuals was not common and the crossing programme was not properly managed in the beginning. Therefore, only a few farms were able to achieve significant genetic improvement on their own. For the above reasons, the number of individuals with a high percentage of Angus genetics is relatively small. The verifiable 87.5% and higher blood ratio was only 15-20% of the total herd three to four-years-ago.

Due to the lack of professional management, dominant and leading breeders formed the new British Beef Breeders Association in 2016, with the intention of correcting previous errors and recording correct pedigree data. We have now achieved a proportion of individuals with a verifiable 87.5% and higher blood ratio of 60%, a substantial increase on a few-years-ago. This required a lot of new blood tests and phenotypic assessments.

One of our goals was to integrate into international Aberdeen-Angus breeding as soon as possible, as without it, we can't achieve good results in breeding.

We participated in the 2017 World Angus Forum in Edinburgh and joined the European Angus Forum.

Due to the territorial conditions of Hungary, the significant increase in the number of cows is limited in comparison to international partners. Therefore our goal and opportunity is in with genetic progress, and this is on the rise. To do this we want to connect and provide data to a common SNP database.

One of the biggest challenges in the near future is an increase in the consumption demands of domestic high-quality and healthy beef. Beef consumption is currently 3-3.5kg/person/year, while in the 1930s, that number was 13kg. Unfortunately, the war and the subsequent Soviet-type agricultural policy were not favourable in this regard either. The good quality traditional Simmental and some Limousin fattened bulls and heifers that appeared in the 60s and 70s were primarily for export purposes. Domestic consumers only encountered meat from animals as a bi-product of dairy farms.

In 2020, we planned to promote the consumption of Angus meat at exhibitions and festivals, but unfortunately, this programme was overwritten by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Currently 75% of Hungarian Angus breeders are members of our Association and nearly 10,000 females are in the herdbook. Almost 70% of the total Hungarian Angus population is red, but the black is increasing in popularity.

By 2025, we would like to reach 20,000 females in Hungary, but strictly together with genetic development. Our other big goal is to double the domestic consumption

of good quality and healthy beef, using Angus as the flagship.

Thanks to the Association's work, communication and results over the past three years, more and more farmers want to replace French-type and crossbred beef cattle with Angus. Even Hereford breeders have moved to Angus because of marketing difficulties.

The surrounding Southern European countries are traditional and regularly keep breeding animals longer. Weaned calves can be purchased to fatten on farms, providing an opportunity to sell our growing stock. The increase in domestic meat consumption is an additional incentive, benefiting Hungarian Angus breeders.



Aberdeen-Angus Czech Republic



This year was somewhat exceptional from its beginning. We did without our traditional visit to the February Stirling Bull sale and went to southern England instead. It was interesting for us to see how the Aberdeen-Angus cattle can perform well in the harsh conditions prevailing on Land's End. This was not true for the Czech visitors who all caught the cold! 13 heifers and bulls from Gear, Rosemead and Hawkley herds, arrived with their new owners in mid-February. Although there was some uncertainty with the rules after BREXIT, the only obstacle was Storm Dennis that hit transport just before boarding and prolonged the trip from one to four days.

Shortly after, Linda McKendrick came to scan over 700 Aberdeen-Angus yearlings all over the country within a week. This was already the second year as a part of a project that should establish routine scanning of beef cattle in Czech Republic. Just after Linda left, COVID-19 arrived and put us into partial lockdown until the end of May. Meanwhile almost 100 embryos came from Canada after a breeder's trip to Farmfair show in Edmonton at the end of 2019. The embryos were immediately transferred, so a large crop of calves with Canadian genetics are expected soon. Canadian genetics has a major influence in the country, as most of the cattle came from Canada in the early nineties.

We have been able to implement a key step in promoting Aberdeen-Angus beef on the local market. After more than a year of numerous meetings with the retailer, Lidl put Aberdeen-Angus beef on its shelves. This would not have happened without the advice of many UK breeders, the AACS and namely Robbie Galloway from Scotbeef. Consumption of beef has dropped from 30kg/hd since 1989 to less than 9kg today, in favour of poultry. Now, it is the right time to bring it back! We are at the very beginning and many hard steps are ahead to permanently establish our beef on the market, but this will be the major task for our Association in the future. We have also made another significant step. All our

historic performance records were sent to Breedplan Australia for a trial EBV calculation that is now evaluated, and we are considering joining the international platform.

As the number of COVID-19 infections were relatively low compared to other countries, we were able to organise a National Aberdeen-Angus show on 22nd August, hosted by Mr. Lepša's family on their Pěčín farm. More than 60 animals from 20 herds competed in all categories. An international atmosphere was ensured by the judge Bernhard Delle from Germany and British photographer Catherine MacGregor who photographed the show. Claiming overall champion was an adult bull, Mewil Black Star 45D, sired by HF El Tigre 28U out of Mewil Queen 27T. Reserve champion went to a 2019-born heifer, Rantirov Duchess V164, sired by Lockerley Black Boromir K173, out of Fordel Duchess N464. Clearly a competition between Canadian and UK genetics.

The enthusiastic mood from the show disappeared after a sudden increase of COVID-19 infections, that contributed to almost no exports to our new markets for pedigree cattle in Central Asia, leaving hundreds of calves on farms unexpectedly. Luckily, the year was very rich for rainfall after three consecutive years of extreme drought, so the farmers have had enough feed to keep them over the winter, hoping for an improvement in the coming year. However, it might mean the rich years with massive exports of pedigree cattle are over and we should focus on the local production and sale of beef.

Finally, we would like to welcome you to the next World Angus Technical Meeting that will be held after the postponed WAF in Australia.

Vladimír Matěj Šašek
Czech Aberdeen Angus Association
T: +420 732 628 651
info@aberdeenangus.cz



STANDLYNCH Aberdeen-Angus



We still keep an eye on our figures:

Breedplan October 2020 -



Herd Terminal Index 44
Herd Self-Replacing Index 61
No calves pulled in 2020.

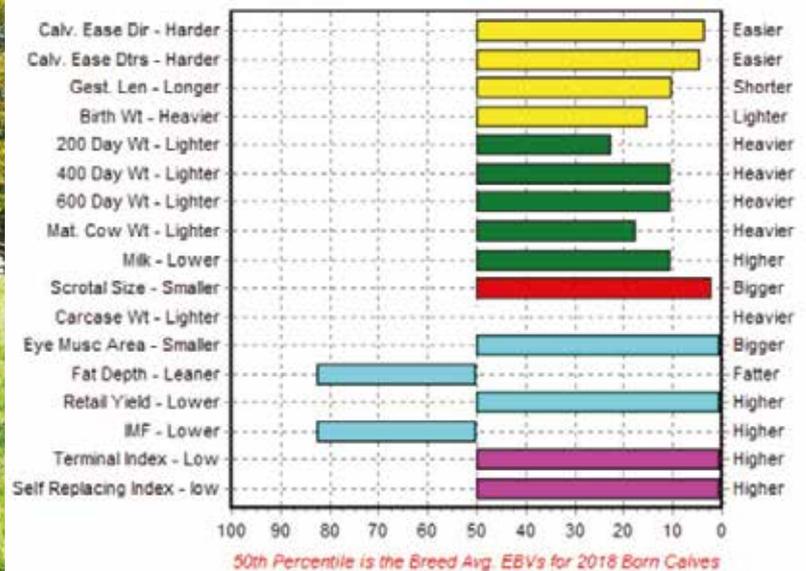
No need to run from these figures

PCHS member with high health status



**** Semen Available ****

EBV Percentiles for STANDLYNCH ROCOCO U055



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**Embryos available (for local and world-wide sale) from elite Vine donor females in herd *Bulls, heifers by herd sires Rawburn Rock Solid and Drumherk Mister P213 are for sale on farm *Visitors welcome by appointment*



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Sire: Hoff Limited Edition

Dam: Prairielane Rosebud

“Rocky” is the first Rawburn-bred proven stock bull to be exported to Ireland. He is a full brother to Rommel, has an excellent breeding history at **Glympton** and an impressive 2011 UK Summer Show performance. EU exportable-standard semen is available

Contact: James Mulvey, Ballinwing House, Leitrim, Carrick-on-Shannon, County Leitrim, Ireland

Tel: 071 9620723 (International: ++353 71 9620723) or **Mobile:** 087 2560621 (International: ++353 87 2560621)

Web: www.ballinwing.com

Email: mulveyj@supanet.com



Aberdeen-Angus Bulgaria

Rebel Ltd is part of a Bulgarian group of agricultural companies called Atridi Group, managing over 1,500 hectares of land in the North East and the North West of Bulgaria. With leading expertise in agriculture, the group has decades of experience in crop production, grain warehousing and trade, farm inputs, storage and distribution.

Bulgaria is an excellent place for raising beef cattle, where mountains and great lush pastures occupy most of its territories. Rebel Farm - the first and only AACCS member in Bulgaria, is located in one such location and cattle farming is the most recent venture of the company. It was established back in 2018 with the import of 60 pregnant pedigree heifers and it quickly refocused to become the only pasture-raised Angus seed stock operation in Bulgaria.

The farm is located in the small mountain village of Chuprene, in the northwestern part of Bulgaria. This rugged and secluded place has long history and traditions in livestock production and animal husbandry, which have been sadly abandoned in the last 30 years. Ultimately, for Rebel Ltd that meant the company would be starting this venture from scratch.

The decision of getting into cattle farming hasn't been an easy one. Although it was the natural continuation of the company's operations in the area, bringing the pasturelands back to their former glory, taking almost seven years of extensive work; it also meant an enormous amount of research in order to justify such kind of investment and commitment.

The location of Rebel Farm offers ideal conditions for raising cattle on pastures all year round. The climate is temperate-continental, having four distinct seasons, with high temperatures during the summer months and low ones during winter. Being the childhood home of

Rebel's owner, he knew what the conditions in Chuprene had to offer and a need was identified to choose a breed that would not simply adapt well, but would thrive in such an environment. Naturally, that led to the best of choices - the Aberdeen-Angus, specifically Scottish bred, born and black.

In November 2018, Rebel Ltd imported the first 60 pregnant pedigree heifers, through Karpaten Meat, a Romanian company. The animals had been selected from six farms, including Glenbervie, Newcairn, Tofts, Rosemount, Upsall and Caruthers. During the heifers' adaptation period, the need for proven genetics in the Bulgarian cattle farming was quickly becoming more obvious to everybody in the industry. Having imported those purebred heifers, Rebel Farm quickly realised it was their duty to continue the trend of introducing proven and high quality genetics in order to produce well adapted and correct breeding bulls, that would ultimately improve performance levels across stock herds in the country.

In the spring of 2019, parallel to the first calving season, Rebel Ltd stepped up their operation by purchasing another 30 heifers and five stock bulls. This time the cattle were chosen with great precision from the HW, Netherton, Wedderlie and Airedale farms. The owners of Atridi Group are extremely grateful to Mr. William McLaren, Ms. Wanda Hobbs and the Tilson family, and David & Judith Isherwood from Airedale farm, for their warm welcome and close cooperation they established throughout the process of choosing the next elite animals of Rebel Ltd, and especially for their friendship ever since.

In 2020, Rebel Farm reached a dam count of 93 cows, with another 21 heifers to join the main herd during this winter breeding season. Rebel's five herd sires had their first two progenies with a third one on the way in spring



2021. So far, the results of using HW, Wedderlie and Weeton bulls have shown tremendous positive impact on calving ease, birth weight lightness and rapid daily liveweight gain.

Rebel Farm's cattle are on pastures all year round, therefore it is very important to control all major processes that take place out there. The Farm uses only natural service by its own five sires. The bulls do their service for just two months, twice a year - summer and winter. Calving happens between April - May and mid-September till mid-November. The two calving times are intended to spread the workload and are also planned in harmony with the season's suitability, in order to provide the best start to the farm's next generations. Calves are weaned at the age of 5-6 months, by gradual weaning. The calves are being separated from the dams, but still remain at the same pasture as their dams, allowing for communication and contact between the fences. That has proven to be the least stressful method for cows and calves alike, especially when the calves are all sorted with nice straw bedding and high-quality alfalfa hay, of course the same goes for their mums.

The animals are divided into contemporary groups and according to their status and all groups graze on fresh grass during the summer months. Pastures are selected accordingly to provide shade during the heat and are also rotated throughout the season. In the autumn, all groups are brought back to their winter grounds located close to the farm for easier management purposes. All winter pastures have wind protection systems, keeping the cattle sheltered from the elements.

The latest upgrade took place this summer with the complete transformation of the infrastructure encompassing the winter pastures. The ultimate goal was to make it safer and easily accessible for the farm's equipment to serve the cattle during the wet and muddy periods.

Up until now, the herd have been enjoying high quality hay bales, placed in feeding trailers imported from Scotland. This winter, however, the farm is introducing a new and more efficient way of feeding, installing trail feeding troughs, thus optimising the feed intake/forage

loss ratios, and the man power, needed for feeding. All cattle are fed predominantly with hay and haylage during the non-grazing season, however concentrate feed is given to specific groups according to their needs.

The health and well-being of the herd is of utmost importance to the team at Rebel Farm. A hands-on management approach is used in order to quickly identify arising issues and address every new challenge. Rebel Farm has introduced a tailor made vaccination programme, additional to the mandatory vaccines for Bulgaria, in order to provide the most adequate protection for the animals' health and well-being.

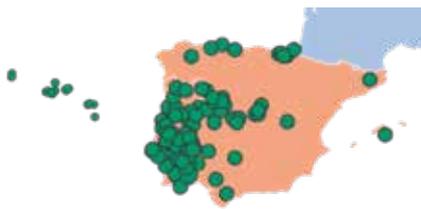
The team at the farm work hard to address the herd's needs and takes pride in being the pioneers in innovation. That is evident in the hands-on management; the introduction of the triple combo ID tags, still rare for Bulgaria, using precision technologies in forage production and most importantly in terms of genetics - the EBVs.

The biggest advantage of being an AACS member is having the EBVs and all the necessary information in relationship to genetics. Rebel Farm relies on those as a tool to make well-informed decisions in stock bull selection processes for customers. Being the new member in the Bulgarian cattle community, it has also given Rebel Ltd, a leading edge when it comes to the reliability of genetics of our pedigree animals, especially when such institution, as the AACS has approved them.

The team behind Rebel Farm is proud that they have created a deep pool of renowned genetics, readily available to the Bulgarian farmer. As all business ventures of Atridi Group that have had been started from scratch, the owners of Rebel Farm are no strangers to the challenges along the way. The current trying times are no different. According to the team's code of conduct: "We believe that external limitations and obstacles should not defy us in our doings, but rather give us the opportunity to overcome, expand, create and be more resourceful than ever before. We are all here to meet those new demands by coming together in order to shape our future. In terms of our seed stock operation we believe that our answer is the genetics and the work ethics that we have today which will contribute to a better future - tomorrow."



Aberdeen-Angus Portugal



Despite all the restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the current year has brought more growth and consolidation of the Portuguese Aberdeen-Angus herd book. There was an increase both in the number of breeders and animals, and the year ended with almost 4,000 cows registered in the herd book, spread all over the Iberian Peninsula and in the nine Azorean islands.

The pandemic brought restrictions to the circulation, including the closing of borders, but we managed to visit all of the breeders, at least once, from the islands of Corvo and Flores (the most westerly point of Europe) to Catalonia, next to the French border. These visits are extremely important, not only to collect data (like weights, scrotal circumferences and other measures), register and check the animals (phenotypic evaluation), but

also to maintain a close relation with the breeders, explain procedures, and understand their difficulties and struggles. Due to this effort, the number of animals weighted and controlled increased, which resulted in more information collected about the breed performance and more data to improve the BREEDPLAN.

The genetic improvement programme and the accuracy of the information are the priorities of the Association. Pursuing that goal, 2020 brought some changes in procedures and new activities. All the animals born after 1st January are DNA tested for sire verification prior to registration (before that, only males were tested). This reinforces the pedigree verification and soon, all animals registered in the Portuguese herd book will have their sires confirmed by DNA analysis, which will also allow the easier confirmation of dams.

With focus in the study and improvement of the breed, Aberdeen-Angus Portugal started a performance test of bulls in station. 12 bulls from 12 different farms started the testing period in August and, by the end of the year, after 120 days, the results

are going to be published and the approved bulls will be sold at auction. The animals are weighed every 21 days and the feeding equipment allows the measure of all the food ingested and therefore, the calculation of feed efficiency. 13 biometric measures are taken three times during the test (in the beginning, the middle and the end of the test) and the animals will be scored at the end of the test. These tests are very important for the studies of the breed, its performance and efficiency in specific environmental conditions, and the goal is to keep testing bulls annually.

In 2021, we will start the scoring of adult animals registered in the herd book. A practice usual in other breeds, and recommended by the ICAR, that allows a more precise and unbiased morphological evaluation of the cattle.

The pandemic situation brings new challenges and many uncertainties, but the Association is looking forward to continuing the path of growing and consolidation of the breed in 2021, working together with all the Portuguese and Spanish breeders associated to the Aberdeen-Angus Portuguese herd book.



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Aberdeen-Angus Canada

The year 2020 was filled with challenges and successes for everyone. The Canadian Angus Association started the year with the exciting launch of our own annual publication in January. Angus Life is mailed every January and is also available online through the CAA website. The profits from Angus Life have been reinvested into programs and initiatives to further advance the Canadian Angus brand both nationally and globally as well as through programs which add value for our members.

One of the new initiatives made possible by Angus Life in 2020 is a branding partnership with Canadian curlers Team Koe. Through this partnership, we launched Bringing the Heat. This Canadian Angus cooking video series with chef Johnny Morris of Team Koe launched in the autumn of 2020 and will run through 2021. It is designed to engage with consumers through a series of educational and entertaining cooking videos. In autumn 2020, we were able to tell our story like never before—about our members, our commitment, our product, our research—through the Behind the Scenes documentary initiative. We are enhancing and

making new investment into Gold Shows. With the 2020 season all but cancelled, allocated funds are being carried into 2021 to create an even greater show series. CAA also launched a new partnership initiative with the app Ringside to make Gold Shows more interactive.

For the past two years Canadian Angus members have participated in the High Immune Response project, a partnership between the Canadian Angus Association, American Angus Association, Semex Beef, and the University of Guelph. The goal of this project is to phenotype animals across Canada and the United States for High Immune Response (HIR™). These phenotypes will be used to estimate the heritability of the trait in Canadian and American Angus cattle, and to develop a genetic evaluation for health. Ultimately, members will receive a High Immune Response (HIR) EPD that describes their animals' genetic potential to mount an immune response and fight off disease.

Updates on the HIR project and the Canadian Angus balanced index which is expected to be launched in 2021 can be found on our website. We were very proud to launch a completely redesigned www.cdnangus.ca website in June 2020.

The new website features more than just a brand-new look; users will find much more information and a fully responsive layout for all platforms.

In 2021, the Canadian Angus Association will celebrate 25 years of maintaining our own breed registry. From the time the Association was formed in 1906 until 1995, Canadian Angus cattle were registered with Canadian Livestock Records Corporation. In 1996, the Association assumed responsibility for the breed registry.

In June 2020, the Canadian Angus Association became the first beef industry group in Canada to pivot and offer our annual general meeting online after the COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of our annual national convention. Convention is scheduled to take place in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan June 10–12, 2021 and will be held in Moncton, New Brunswick in June 2022.





SwissAngus represents a total of around 200 registered Angus herds. We have about 11000 purebred Angus cows and almost 1000 Angus bulls.

With creating our new Brand Swiss Black Angus, we sell an increasing amount of our Angusbeef as a premium quality beef with the standards of biodiversity to high class Swiss markets. The cooperation with IP Suisse and the quality Meet processor Lucarna pays in a rising demand of quality Angusbeef and helps us for a successful growing of the population over the last few years.

We are delighted to welcome any visitors from all over the world in beautiful Switzerland. Don't hesitate to get in touch with us if you want to visit our herds.

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E-Mail: info@swissangus.ch

Homepage: www.swissangus.ch





Aberdeen-Angus USA

AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION MOVES FORWARD IN 2020

Over a cup of coffee on my morning commute, I recently listened in on a conversation with a billionaire.

Microsoft Corporation co-founder and philanthropist Bill Gates built his fortune as an entrepreneur. In addition to developing revolutionary software for the personal computer, the once Harvard student is considered an extremely intelligent individual who can seemingly become an expert in many fields.

While a guest on a podcast, Gates answered the host's questions: "Does your brain have any deficits? Is there any price to the aptitude you have in these other areas?"

Gates laughed and answered he's not that great socially and cannot cook well or speak other languages fluently.

He continued, "Sometimes when I'm learning something new, it does take me a while to adopt to it ... It's more confusing than I expected it to be."

He credited his success to a simple mindset — be a student.

"Be willing to be confused," he suggested. "Most adults, the minute they start getting confused, they're like, 'This isn't for me. I'm not good at this.' But you have to feel good about, 'Wow, I just jumped in here and I'm so confused.' Eventually pursue things that don't fit until they really do."

I had the pleasure of attending the 137th Angus Annual Meeting of the American Angus Association in November, and I want to highlight a few words from keynote speaker Kevin Ochsner. "We can learn a lot from other businesses," he said. And there is wisdom in being able to anticipate consequences and turns in the road.

Ochsner said, "Now, Bill Gates has some wisdom as one of the fellas who've built more wealth than anybody in the nation's history, and he said this, 'IBM was more dominant than any company there'll ever be in technology, and yet they missed a few key turns in the road.' Now that makes you wake every day thinking, 'Let's try to make sure today is not the day we missed a key turn in the road.'"

As breeders navigating the beef industry, Ochsner said it's your responsibility to not miss the turn in the road.

"The genetics you're creating today to create that herd bull that goes to that commercial cow outfit ... We're not going to be eating that steak for another five years, are we?" he said. "It's critically important that you anticipate and recognize the turns in the road."

What turn in the road did Bill Gates just about miss? It was the internet, Ochsner explained. "He was focused on software, and he said, 'There came a point in time when I recognized that this was not going to be as much about software computing power. It was going to be about communication networks, and the internet was fundamentally changing communication networks.'"

Ochsner added, “Each one of us owe it to ourselves to spend some time identifying those epiphanies in our mind and saying, ‘What does that mean to us as a cattle breeder and association?’”

MOVING FORWARD

In fiscal year 2020, the American Angus Association, for the sixth consecutive year, registered more than 300,000 head and there were 142,651 transfers.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought uncertainty to spring production sales, but the averages held strong at \$4,884 for bulls and \$3,970 for females.

Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI) released new expected progeny differences (EPDs) and dollar value indexes (\$Indexes), including hair shedding and pulmonary arterial pressure (PAP) EPDs and a combined value index (\$C), which characterizes profitability differences across the entire supply chain.

With increased interest in dairymen using Angus genetics in their programs, two new Angus-on-Dairy \$Indexes were developed and released – Angus-on-Holstein (\$H) and Angus-on-Jersey (\$J).

To add value to Angus genetics in the commercial cattle sector, AngusLink™ combined its suite of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Process Verified Programs (PVP) with the Genetic Merit Scorecard. Enrollments increased by 70.3% at 90,104 head total. Cattle that were enrolled in some part of the PVP programs earned an average \$9.93/hundredweight (cwt.) premium.

On the end-product side, the Certified Angus Beef® (CAB®) brand sold more than 1 billion pounds, across 52 countries, for the fifth consecutive year. This year 35.9% of Angus-influenced cattle met the brand’s 10 quality specifications.

The pandemic brought challenges to the foodservice and international sales in the spring – down 72% and 64% respectively – but brand partners demonstrated resiliency. Retail sales were up nearly 44% and by year-end retail had a record year increasing 12%. Foodservice and international sales were down around 22% by year-end.

The road that is 2020 has certainly thrown us some sharp curves. And while a global pandemic and horrific natural disasters cannot always be anticipated, as Ochsner advised, spend some time thinking about the future and how the Angus

Julie Mais, *Angus Journal* editor





Aberdeen-Angus Brazil

With a herd of 215 million head, Brazil has been growing consistently in the premium beef market thanks to the increased use of Angus genetics in sustainable and profitable systems. Each year, 5.8 million doses of Angus semen are sold nationwide, half of the demand from the whole beef industry in the country. Much of this volume is used in crossbreeding with zebu cattle to produce half-blood calves. It is estimated that nine out of ten crossbred calves in Brazil have Angus genetics. To meet this demand, hundreds of farms work on the selection of purebred Angus cattle, using highly accurate data through breeding programs to develop calves that can adapt to the hot climate of the Brazilian central region, where the largest herds for beef production are located.

"Brazil has an extraordinary potential for producing high-quality meat. We have natural grasslands, a wide stretch of land and an Angus genetics suited to the tropical climate. Our ranchers adopt sustainable livestock farming practices, focusing on a quality that only those who handle the herd with care and respect can have," said Nivaldo Dzyekanski, president of the Brazilian Angus Association.

The raising of Angus cattle in Brazil started in the Southern region, where the mild climate helped the breed thrive in the grasslands. Over the years, new regions emerged, and today it can be said that Angus is found in almost the whole country. The Brazilian Angus Association promotes field activities and research to

ensure that the breed is a good business inside and outside the farm gate.

After consistent improvements in carcass data collection, the selection has expanded to include difficult-to-measure criteria. In 2020, the Brazilian Angus Association started its genomic program, through which it hopes to increase the accuracy of its selection and provide innovative markers. One of the new tools – a world-first – is the prediction of traits related to resistance to tick – an ectoparasite that infests the Brazilian farms. Consistent progress is also expected in aspects directly related to meat production.

The Brazilian Angus also runs the largest branded beef program in the country. The Certified Angus Beef Program has 18 partners producing certified cuts in 11 Brazilian states. The process is thorough and includes qualified professionals at all meatpacking plants. With exports to European and Middle-Eastern countries, the Brazilian Angus beef has reached international standards, entering gourmet niche markets. In addition to the Brazilian Certified Angus Beef logo, two other brands are displayed on the labels of meat products: the Angus Gold seal and the Sustainability seal. The first identifies beef cuts with high levels of marbling that, in addition to basic quality specifications, meet requirements for the pH of meat. The sustainability certification verifies the production process in the farm, based on an extensive checklist that ranges from the validation of environmental and conservation issues to labor regulations and animal welfare practices.



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South West Scotland

FARM FACTS		
CHAPELTON	ROSSLAYNE	MCCORNICK
Grange Farm, Castle Douglas	Raeburnhead Farm, Kirkpatrick Fleming, Lockerbie	Boreland Farm, Kirkcowan, Newton Stewart
Partners: Donald, Jamie and Duncan Biggar + 5 members of staff	Giles Lane	Martin, Emma, Gemma and Kate McCornick
1500 acres; 140 ac arable; 100 ac rough grazing	535 ac; all grass	600 ac; all grass
75 Angus Cows; 75 Shorthorn Cows; 200+ Crossbred Cows; 800 Cheviot Mule / Lleyn / Aberfield sheep	40 Pure Angus Cows; 10 Belted Galloway Cows; Feeding cattle; 22,000 laying hens; Pony Stud	100 Pure Angus Cows; 12 Pure Charolais Cows; 20 AAx Commercial cows; 400 commercial sheep; 40 Purebred Roussin; 30 Park Cheviots
Spring Calving; March – April (8 weeks)	Spring Calving; March (8 weeks)	Spring Calving; Mid-April
Straw bedded courts; Slatted sheds; 125 cows outwinter	Straw bedded courts; None outwintered	70 cows wintered in cubicle shed, remainder outwintered
All progeny finished on farm, kept for breeding or sold for breeding	All progeny finished on farm.	All progeny finished on farm, kept for breeding or sold for breeding

The South West of Scotland, with its mild moist climate and exceptional ability to grow grass, is home to not only a large population of dairy cattle, but some unique beef enterprises. The amalgamation of three counties; Dumfriesshire, Kirkcudbrightshire and Wigtownshire, into its better known Sherriffdom of Dumfries and Galloway, has been used since the 19th century. Dumfries and Galloway covers the majority of the Western area of the

Southern Uplands, and it also hosts Scotland's most southerly point, at the Mull of Galloway in the west of the region. The local authority areas covered by the region stretch from Annandale, Eskdale, Nithsdale, in the east, across Stewartry and into Machars and the Rhins of Galloway. The sheer size of the region means it borders several other local authority areas – Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire, The Borders, Cumbria, The Solway Firth and The Irish Sea,

to the west. The area boasts three National Scenic Areas within its borders, hosts a significant portion of the coast-to-coast Southern Upland Way, and has a rich history as a Royal Burgh, is where Robert the Bruce murdered Red Comyn in 1306 before being crowned King of Scotland, and where Robert Burns spent his last years.

Research into the regional environment fed an expectation of grass-based beef enterprises,

with all the restrictions that a lack of accessible arable land brings. However, selection of three units to visit, that were spread across the region, highlighted the differentiation within the beef sector in this region. While they all capitalise on grazing cattle on lush pastures from early spring until late autumn, some are able to outwinter large numbers of stock, utilising the relatively mild climate and rough grazing areas. This format acknowledges that, in general, the further west you go, the climate/land mix lends itself to growing more forage than crops, and ability to outwinter stock reduces the need for both straw and infrastructure.

The two furthest west units both outwintered significant numbers of cows, and in the far west, Martin McCornick, at Boreland Farm, Kirkcowan, outwinters more than half of the herd, only having cubicle housing for 70 cows and a small number of young stock, a remnant of the renowned Ayrshire herd that was replaced in 2000. The farm has recently been purchased, having been rented for 3.5 generations, and there is evidence of some fencing improvements already. However, it is likely that winter housing may be some way down the priority list as the climate is mild, being only

six miles inland from the Galloway coast, and there is enough dry, sheltered ground to accommodate outwintering cows.

The cubicle housing accommodates a sizeable slurry store that provides a reservoir of fertilizer for the grassland. Martin describes the ground as “hungry” in relation to the appetite for rainfall, unable to withstand periods of drought. In the relative east of Kirkpatrick Fleming, the 40 cows on Raeburnhead Farm (Rosslayne) earn their keep on this busy integrated unit, but the land is level and outwintering would poach the summer grazing land too much, so they are accommodated inside during the winter. The Grange, at Castle Douglas, somewhere in the middle geographically, has adequate housing for their cows that need in-wintering, but with a bit of drier hill ground in hand, they utilise this by out-wintering as many as 125, of the 350+ cows, every year. This allows more space for hygienically calving cows within the available non-slatted shed space.

The arable enterprise at Chapelton is integrated around their grassland and is useful for production of both home-produced cereal for feed and straw for both bedding and feeding. Chapelton also grow 40 acres of rye for a nearby AD plant, from which the

digestate is returned for fertilizer. Raeburnhead has the advantage of 22,000 free-range laying hens to reduce the fertilizer bill.

All three units quote the benefits of the Angus female that is capable of calving at two and rearing a calf that weans as heavy as calves from older dams. Two-year-old calved heifers need more careful management, acknowledged by all three systems, but all had practices in place that easily made this possible. The obvious efficiency of the extra lifetime

output from calving two-year-olds, was only one of the management efficiencies in practice. There was obvious focus on reducing incidence of feet and udder problems both of which are exacerbated in out-wintering situations. At Chapelton, even the purebred Shorthorn first calvers go to the Angus bull, to minimise the risk of calving difficulty at this critical age. All three herds are using homebred sires in their breeding programmes, alongside purchased sire genetics. Regional Club herd competitions results have recently confirmed success in the two-year-old calved heifer and medium herd sections for Rosslayne.

The south west of Scotland is advantaged by an abundance of marketing opportunities both through



the live market, of which there are many outlets operating within a relatively short distance, but also access to processing facilities. This is possibly one of the reasons that the region has been able to differentiate so widely and specifically – there is a combination of options to suit all systems. There are at least six different live auction marts operating within the region, not to mention the various farm-to-farm facilitators, and the numerous processors procuring for the deadweight market. In particular, Scotbeef at Bridge of Allan supplies M&S with a dedicated Angus range, AK Stoddart supplies Costco, and ABP supplies both Tesco and Asda. Good opportunities exist to achieve maximum premium for cattle that meet the specification. In addition to all these choices, however, all three units have also cultivated their own customer bases marketing pedigree bulls into pedigree, commercial suckler, and dairy herds. Moreover, there is focus on what added value the female can bring, tapping into the demand for high-health bulling heifers both for breeding and recipients.

Martin McCornick, and daughters Gemma and Kate, have cultivated market selling purebred bulls into both suckler and pedigree herds, keeping the best for selling at Stirling and Carlisle. This strategy has paid off in recent years with some tremendous results. In particular, McCornick Pathfinder U465, Intermediate and Overall Champion at Stirling in February 2020, and selling for £7,500, while his stablemate McCornick Florida U540 was also first in his class, making £8,500.

An achievement that cannot go without mentioning is McCornick's Keira's Highland Show Championship in 2019 as a 14-month-old bulling heifer, having been brought out by Gemma and Kate. In an effort to increase numbers, upwards of 30 heifers have been put to the bull every year, and McCornicks are now in a position to offer a few females for sale alongside the bulls. Giles

Lane sells eight to 10 commercial bulls per year and then sources the store calves back, sired by his homebred bulls, for further finishing. Donald Biggar has further developed his marketing strategy into somewhat of a brand. Male calves which are deemed good enough to be kept entire are sought after across the spectrum; dairy herds, suckler producers and pedigree breeders, including three bulls to Cogent. Virtually all bulls are sold off the farm now, many to repeat customers. A highly developed customer service approach backed-up by longevity of brand integrity, with added value through extra services such as delivery and transparent performance records has ensured this market for Chapelton.

Through some clever database management, integrated EID technology and a clear understanding of the focuses on which both they and their customers need cattle to perform, both Rosslayne and Chapelton have certainly cornered their respective markets. Both use an on-farm database to capture essential data points for future selection decisions. The Chapelton database contains some 25,000 data points (and growing) and employs a traffic light system to sort and monitor data trends and help with selection policies. The focuses for the female herd are temperament, fertility, calving ease and calf survivability, rolled up into 'Ease of Management'. All cows are scored within 24 hours of calving for temperament, which is something that both Donald and Jamie were adamant is most important to them.

"All cows with newborn calves are moved outside within 24 hours of birth", Donald said, "Unless there is 3ft of snow on the ground, and we must be able to comfortably work with these animals during this period. Anything that scores badly for temperament at this stage is culled."

Similarly, the calving interval, calving ease and calf survivability are all scored and recorded into

the database. Furthermore, all three units to a lesser or greater extent, keep an eye on mature dam size, preferring to maintain a medium sized cow, albeit with the capability of weaning a heavy calf. Combination of all of these factors into an overall ease of management profile, highlight the culling policy and the heifers from which to choose from at selection. Once the data has been considered, and those that make the cull on paper are put forward for selection, it's the stockman's eye that makes the final selection.

Donald admits that he will use breed EBVs to aid with selection of a purchased stock bull, but that the variability of the maternal trait EBVs in relation to their performance in reality makes it impossible to let this influence the purchasing decision entirely. The database also captures weaning weights and carcass records such as carcass weight, conformation grade and days to slaughter. This information is all related to both dam and sire and can be used in a filtering process, with added scoring, to ensure that both males and females are then put forward for further rigorous phenotypic selection, which is 50-60% of the final score. Rosslayne have particularly tried to avoid selection of females that have a history of twins.

Chapelton employ a rotational grazing system, utilising single strand electric fences so that cows essentially mob graze in groups of 50-60 for a short period and are then rotated to new pasture. Donald admits that it takes a little coaching at the beginning, but the education process is quick. Similar to Raeburnhead, calves are not creep fed at grass, which Donald suggests allows the individual maternal ability to be clearly demonstrated. The only situation in which cows would be supplemented at grazing would be if the grazing was poor at calving time. Calves are weaned at housing, with cows wintering on a straw and silage diet, and calves go onto a forage



based TMR diet supplemented with barley and protein.

The second summer introduces a formal rotation, with a two to three day shift and a little barley. In a change to traditional practice at Chapelton, all the finishing cattle are re-housed from Aug to Sept onwards and relatively intensively finished on a home-produced ration incorporating barley, straw and molasses. The change to a more intensively managed finishing period has been to target the pre-Christmas market, with traditionally higher prices. This has become achievable, having selected for better genetics and better grass management in the first two summers, resulting in an overall increase in performance and decreased days to slaughter. It has been recognised that there is little point in allowing finishing cattle to graze a sward that is rapidly decreasing in quality through the autumn, when this can be utilised to extend the grazing season for dry cows. The number crunching has highlighted that the finishing period is the most expensive so there is a concerted effort to keep it as short as possible.

There is a similar regime at Raeburnhead, and Giles Lane comments that this has become possible because of increased growth rates resulting from years of selection. This system is so popular at Chapelton that there are plans to augment the autumn/winter

grazing period with 40-50 acres of rape hybrid. Only the two-year old heifers are managed differently, once they are bulled. Similar to both Rosslayne and McCornicks, the first calvers are outwintered longer than cows, and must get past their first trimester without silage supplementation. Straw is a valuable commodity in these parts, not least because it helps to reduce the quality of the silage in feed rations as the silage is almost too good for overwintering cows. The area is challenged by warmer and wetter winters, which impacts on soil structures for the following summer, in outwintering situations. Managed hard standings with access to relatively clean feeding areas where silage is carted in are essential, both from an environmental and welfare perspective. These systems, while relatively warmer throughout the winter, highlight the need for easy fleshing cows that can carry condition through the winter.



While the emphasis within each business may differ, the message from all three herds visited is certainly around using genetic selection to increase the efficiency of the breeding females. Selecting females with conformational correctness, medium size, better than average maternal characteristics, good feet and legs and with good temperament is universally agreed. Beef suckler systems in this area of the world have it good in relation to their marketing opportunities and all have found their strengths to specialise at what they are good at, while also developing as many different markets as they can. This can be seen by the focus on all different types of output, from pedigree bulls into the pedigree market, to Angus crossbred heifers to the breeding market. Use of data and technology has been embraced to further strengthen phenotypic selection. Marketing strategies are well developed, effectively creating a brand approach.

While there are differing approaches to supporting activities, such as arable cropping or poultry, more than one breed or a sizeable sheep enterprise, these activities play a supporting role around the key livestock enterprise within the businesses. Aberdeen-Angus is the breed of choice because it ticks all the boxes for commercial efficiency in a grass-based system, and excellent maternal characteristics, while providing a broad range of marketing opportunities and attracting premium prices.

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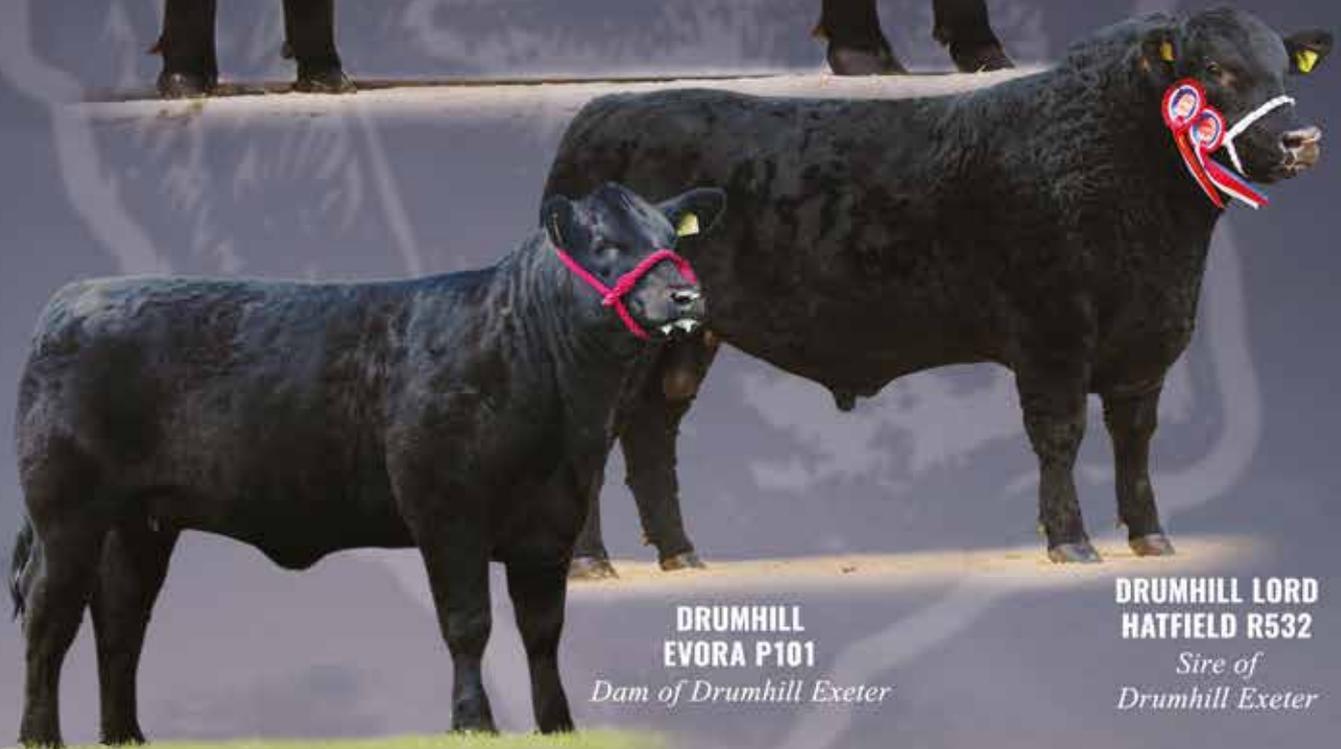
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— **WE** want to thank all the visitors that took the time to call to our Farm this year and look forward to welcoming many more in 2021. Also thank you to all the purchasers of Drumhill Bulls throughout the year

— **2020** has been a tough year and the sad passing of a great friend, mentor and breeder Willie Robertson has been particularly difficult and he will be sadly missed for all his wise words! Our sincerest condolences to the entire Robertson Family



Scotland: Sworddale Aberdeen-Angus

Ease of management, maternal instincts and the ability to produce superior eating quality beef from a forage-based system are just a few of the reasons why the Watt family from Sworddale in the Scottish Highlands continue to rely upon the Aberdeen-Angus breed, both on a pedigree and commercial basis.

Brothers David and Sandy Watt, along with their mum Morag, run the 50-cow Sworddale herd at the 100-acre unit on the outskirts of Bonar Bridge, some 38 miles from Inverness and just 10 miles off the main A9 route north.

The pedigree herd was established in 1992, with foundation females from the late Tom Bowmer of the Wingfield Park herd in Derbyshire and has been built up with the addition of other top breeding family lines from a variety of renowned breeders.

Home-bred replacement females bred from leading AI sires have also been retained over the years, as well as the careful selection of leading stock bulls.

The family rent a further 50 acres of grass and along with the cattle, they have recently purchased a small starter flock of Aberfield cross ewes which are tugged to the Texel, with plans to add North Country Cheviots ewes next year.

Lambs will help to supply the family's successful Sworddale Farm Butchers in the village of Bonar Bridge, which operates as a retail and wholesale business.

As well as farming, David works for Robertson Crop Services, which supplies animal feeds, minerals and animal health products to farms across the north of Scotland.

Sandy is kept busy between the farm, the shop and the recently launched Livestock Lounge, which is an online members' platform for promoting farm and associated businesses, with the added ability to buy and sell livestock.

"Aberdeen-Angus cattle tick all the boxes for us, as they are so easy managed and calved, and they don't tend to eat much," said Sandy.

"Since moving from continental cattle to the Angus, we get better conversion rates and find the cattle are more suited to the heavier ground at Sworddale, with our average cow weight being 800kg."

Stock bulls are usually purchased privately off farm, with one of the most influential being Blelack Topper, bought from the Massie family in 2016.

He has gone on to breed extremely consistently for the Watts, with one of his daughters exhibited at the Royal Highland Show, before being sold privately to new breeder Lucy Pittendrigh, who went on to show her successfully at local shows in the south. A full sister to this heifer has been retained for breeding.

Blelack Topper's first son, Sworddale Ewok U265, sold for 6,500gns at Stirling Bull Sales in October 2019 to Robert Laird, Cambwell, Biggar and W & R Dunlop, Auchengrey, Lanark, while another son, Sworddale Elton U275, has been retained as a stock bull, with a half share sold to Neil and Mark Wattie, Tonley, Alford.



Elton won the Aberdeen-Angus section of the virtual Royal Highland Show, as well as the Highland Aberdeen-Angus Club's virtual show and has been used on half of the Swordale herd, with the first of his calves due in April.

At the recent October round of Stirling Bull Sales, another Topper son, Swordale Echo V284 sold to The Scottish Government Bull Stud, Inverness.

Sandy has successfully completed an AI technician course, so is planning on doing more insemination work at home to further introduce new bloodlines.

There are also a lot of exciting young females coming through the herd on the back of using embryos which the duo hope to make use of next year.

"We are using home-bred pedigree cows as recipients, mainly because of our elite health status, and we also know their milking abilities and temperaments. These cows will tend to be swapped every year, so we make the most of our herd's genetics" said Sandy.

The herd's new junior stock bull Hallington Equity V655, purchased from the Lawson family in spring 2020 has been used on a dozen heifers, with his first calves due in April.

He is by Blelack Banjo Man, out of the Hallington Ebolass family.

With 15 replacements due to come up into the elite hi-health herd next year, this will boost cow numbers within touching distance of the planned 70 head of pedigree breeding cows. David and Sandy aim

to get replacement heifers in calf at 14 to 16 months of age at an average weight of 500kg.

Bulls are out with the cows for eight weeks to operate a more compact calving period, which has now been shifted back to April and May.

"We have been calving the majority of our herd from late February to late April in recent years, but the seasons are getting much wetter and younger bulls seem to be selling better at the sales, so it made sense to shift our calving to suit farm and market," said David.

The in-calf heifers and first time calvers are managed in separate groups away from the mature cows, which are strip grazed on winter forage brassicas along with silage and straw.

Distillers draff is usually introduced to all groups on the run up to calving.

Calves used to be introduced to creep feed eight weeks prior to weaning in October, but this past year the duo has reduced this period to four weeks and plan to reduce further in the future.

After weaning, the heifer calves receive 2kg of protein along with ad-lib hay, which is then reduced to 1kg and ad-lib first cut silage at the turn of the year until they are approximately 12 months old, and bull calves are fed a slightly bigger maintenance ration.

Bull calves not suitable for breeding are either kept entire and sold direct to ABP or castrated and fattened to sell through the shop.

"We weigh our cattle every 100 days and any bulls which don't make the grade at 12 months of age are put into the fattening pen," said Sandy.

"Culling is something we are fairly strict on too, particularly where fertility, locomotion and milking ability is concerned," said Sandy.

"The females must hold to the bull and be able to rear their calves as close to 50% of their own body weight as possible by weaning. Most of our calves are achieving over 40% with the top performers hitting 50% and they're usually out of the same cows."

In terms of the home-grown beef sold through the shop, Sandy says they are getting a good consistency of marbling from the Aberdeen-Angus with plenty demand for locally reared produce.

"We aren't keen on having huge amounts of wastage on live carcasses where the shop is concerned, so we tend to try and keep a good ratio between maintaining the natural fleshing ability from forage whilst keeping a reasonably clean carcass," commented Sandy.

"This is a very fine balance and we must remember that these cattle need to thrive outdoors all winter in the north of Scotland and must retain breed character and versatility."

"Our cattle for finishing must be a good length and have good tops. Every bit of the animal's carcass the sun hits is where the money is."

The brothers are making headway with sowing grass seeds after the winter brassicas and have worked a paddock grazing system for the last few years.

"We are sowing our grass seed in the spring and are getting multiple uses in the 12-month period," concludes David.

"We are able to get two cuts of silage and multiple rotational grazing out of these reseeds. Our aim is to get all of our land up to this spec, which should improve our live weight gains in the cattle."



Tynet Aberdeen-Angus

The Tynet Aberdeen-Angus herd may be relatively new in the pedigree world, but owners Hugh and Cara Thomson, have already managed to build-up a strong herd of cattle by securing some tremendous foundation females and using embryo transfer and top AI sires.

On top of this, the duo enjoyed huge success at their first ever Stirling Bull Sales in 2018, when they secured the junior and reserve supreme championships with Tynet Pegasus, which went on to sell for 13,000gns to the Wedderlie herd.

Although the first foundation was purchased back in 2010, it wasn't until 2015 when the husband and wife team really got stuck into the breeding and began building the herd up alongside their full-time jobs.

With Hugh a vet at Seafield Veterinary Practice based in Keith, and Cara, a rural surveyor at Aberdeen and Northern Estates, the Aberdeen-Angus breed ticks all the boxes for the Aberdeenshire couple, particularly as ease of management is top on their priority list when working long hours away from home.

"Our Aberdeen-Angus cattle are really easily managed and as a vet, I

can see first-hand why the suckler beef industry should move towards low maintenance, easy calving and easy fleshing cattle," begins Hugh.

"As well as being synonymous with superior quality meat, the breed has the ability to finish cattle with very little input and off grass or a forage-based system."

The couple started at Hugh's home farm, Burnside of Tynet at Buckie, where his family run a 220-cow suckler herd and have relied upon the Aberdeen-Angus commercially for a number of years, with some stock bulls now purchased from the Tynet herd.

Hugh and Cara moved to South Ardoyne, near Inch, one-year-ago and are now using the farm as their base for the 30-cow pedigree herd.

"The first foundation female was an in-calf heifer purchased at the Rosemead on-farm sale when I worked down south as a vet," says Hugh. "I then returned home in 2014 and bought 10 females from John Scott's herd at Fearn Farm, Tain, and many have been successful in the herd.

"Along with Cara, we then bought two cows at the Weeton dispersal in 2015, an Effie and a Lady Heather."

Over the last few years, it's embryo transfer which has boosted herd quality, with home-bred pedigree Angus females which aren't suitable for joining the herd used as recipients.

All embryo work is done through Gavin Tait at AB Europe and the couple have had good results over the last few years, averaging 75%+ conception rate for over 30 embryos implanted.

The BVD accredited herd has maintained a Johnes Level 1 status and is monitored for IBR and Lepto, with purchased females bought in from high-health herds only.

"We run a fairly strict culling policy, so anything that is not breeding as we feel it should be is used for embryo work if they are fertile and good milk producers," said Cara, with around a third of the herd currently used as recipients."

"All females were AI'd for the first three years, using around four to five sires per year which was a good experiment to see which female clicked with different sires."

One of the most successful AI sires used in the herd is Warrenho Dalmigavie, which sired the 13,000gns Tynet Pegasus, while the

dam was an in-calf heifer from Fearn, a Poppy herself.

“When it comes to selecting a stock bull, we are only mindful of figures, it does not dictate which bulls we use,” adds Hugh. “We will try and pick a bull that we think will improve progeny figures but we are aware of the flaws of selecting on this alone.

“A lot of what you can see visually in a bull is reflected in the figures, but they must have a strong top, good mammary and be correct on their legs.”

Weeton Lady Heather M355 has been a successful breeder since day one with Hugh and Cara, and has produced a breeding bull every year, all of which have sold on to new homes, including a one pedigree herd. Her 2019 bull calf, sired by Gretnahouse Blacksmith, is one of the Tynet entries for sale at the Stirling Bull Sales in February 2021.

At the beginning of 2019, the couple purchased heifers from near neighbour Hendrick Rennie from Westfield of Ardoyne. These heifers had the potential to be strong foundation females with great depth of pedigree.

All of the aforementioned now have calves on the ground and Hugh commented that although they are not all show types, they are very productive and there are some stand-out calves among them that would certainly have been shown.

Calving takes place at different stages throughout the year and those calving throughout the winter months come inside to straw bedded courts for ease of management.

“We would like to outwinter our dry spring calvers, as we do commercially, but the soil type is not suited to that at our new farm,” said Hugh.

Cameras have been installed in the shed so Hugh and Cara can keep an eye on them when they are working away from home, but they both point out that they rarely have to assist at calving.

“The breed’s calving ease is a huge bonus to us when we aren’t at home

all the time and we are also able to calve our heifers at two years of age,” he adds.

All bull calves are kept entire and the duo select breeding bulls at weaning so they can be introduced to a specific diet and then turned out to bull paddocks in January to harden them up and get exercise.

Bull calves are finished and sold direct to ABP at 650kg-680kg at 12-14 months of age.

“We take our first cut of silage at the end of May/beginning of June and feed this to the newly weaned calves so they are receiving the best quality forage,” comments Hugh.

“Creep feed is introduced to the calves during the summer as we feel we need them to up the size for breeding bulls and although it’s an added cost, we reckon creep feed is a good return on investment and also aids weaning management while reducing stress.”

The couple has also used the Quiet-wean two-stage weaning for three years now and again this helps to make weaning a smoother process with the milk withdrawn a week before they leave their mothers.

There is no diet feeder on the farm at South Ardoyne so the couple select the forage which is most suitable at the time, with dry cows fed haylage, before being introduced to silage nearer to calving time to increase milk production.

The couple has found a good market for commercial bulls and sell four to seven bulls each year, with the majority sold privately off farm.

Four bulls have been sold off farm in the last 12 months to commercial herds within Morayshire and Aberdeenshire, while three heifers were recently sold privately to two pedigree herds in the Scottish Borders.

It’s predominantly Harbro feed which is used on the farm and the Thomsons feed with fertility in mind.

“Harbro Pedigree specialist Ian Anderson, has been a huge help

since we started with the pedigree cows and although we maybe don’t buy the cheapest of feed, we feel it is a good return in terms of feed conversion and future fertility,” comments Hugh.

In January 2019, the couple purchased their first stock bull Gretnahouse Blacklight, which they put to half of the cows to introduce a bit more length and scope in the herd.

Black Light’s first crop of calves have just recently been weaned and are looking promising.

“We have gone for a compact type of Aberdeen-Angus cow, so we felt at this stage we needed to introduce a bigger, powerful bull,” explained Hugh, pointing out that the next stock bull will be purchased for breed character.

“Blacklight has really added value to the bottom end of the herd as well as the top with excellent carcass traits in bulls that we feel are less suitable for breeding which is important too.

“It’s also an advantage to have a stock bull to go in with the females after being AI’d or using embryo implants, as we were previously relying entirely on AI but fortunately were getting good results. It just became too labour intensive with other commitments to rely solely on AI with 25 plus cows.”

Looking ahead, Hugh and Cara believe there is a bright future ahead for the breed, as beef producers move towards cattle which boast longevity and ease of management characteristics, while still producing a good end product with less inputs.





Preston Farm Aberdeen-Angus

PRESTON FARM, DUNS, BERWICKSHIRE

The wee county of Berwickshire was looking its very best when we visited the Forrest family at Preston Farm, Preston, Duns. Berwickshire is a county with a mix of excellent farmland in the lowland areas and improved pastureland as it rises to a medium level, and then moorland as it reaches its height in the Lammermuir Hills. Preston Farm incorporates land from 250ft to 800ft above sea level and supports 325 hectares of arable land with the remainder, some 243 hectares of grassland and 40 hectares woodland. The arable rotation includes winter barley for feeding, spring barley for malting, milling oats for Quaker, wheat which is all sold for distilling and beans for feeding. Straw is utilised for the cattle and the resulting muck returned to the arable land. Cows and youngstock are fed on silage based TMR diet over the winter.

Preston is home to 340 commercial cows, 70% of which go to an Angus bull. Bob, who is now in charge of the day-to-day running of the farm, is in the process of increasing the cow numbers to circa 400 spring calving cows and implementing a number of management changes. Preston used to finish all its store cattle, but a self-analysis of their operation has highlighted their strength is in focusing on the breeding sector which has resulted in all calves having been sold as stores through UA. This will free up both land and shed space for the additional cows planned. Bob said that he prefers using the Angus Bull over an Angus x Simmental cow as the calves have high vigour at birth, easy fleshing with good growth rates, in demand for finishing and attract a premium at point of sale. The herd calves 60 homebred two-year-old heifers every year to gradually increase numbers. There

are nine Aberdeen Angus and three Simmental stock bulls. Simmental genetics are maintained at Preston, having had a prestigious history in pedigree Simmental, to ensure as much milk about the females as possible. Logie Red Eagle purchased in Stirling has certainly left his mark. Semen has been retained from Logie Red Eagle and all the late calvers are AI'd to him. A few purebred male calves have been sold for breeding. Cows are calved inside on straw bedded courts from late March for nine weeks and turned out as quickly as possible. All male calves are castrated at birth except the few purebred calves. The herd is an active member of the Premium Cattle Health Scheme, focusing on Johnes and of course, BVD. Attention to detail and focus at calving time is paying off, having achieved a calving percentage in 2020 spring calving period of 98%, but normally 95-98% calves from cows to the bull.

Preston has had an influx of fencing on grazing land in the last couple of years to accommodate a rotational paddock grazing system, where groups of cows are moved round a set number of paddocks in 10-day shifts. Group size has been reduced from 50 to 35 per bull, resulting in better conception rates. The grazing has been much better utilised and the worm burden is lower. There are no sheep on Preston apart from some wintering hogs, which are an additional help with the grazing management. Calves are creep fed from August to prepare them for weaning at housing and keep them going as the grass reduces in quality into the autumn.

The newly implemented store sales regime, although in its infancy for comparison purposes, is already showing promise in relation to management efficiencies. The majority of store cattle are sold in the spring, at one-

year-old, having been over-wintered on a silage based TMR ration which only includes 1kg of concentrate/hd/day to encourage a growing period. During a tricky sale period this past spring, bullock calves averaged 438kg and returned an average of £955 per head, while heifer calves scaled an average 391kg and averaged £839 per head. The 60+ breeding heifers are selected initially and put to the bull for calving at two-years-old. There are always a few extra heifers available to sell as breeding heifers. A further 36 bullocks and 40 heifers have been kept on grazing over the summer to market as forward stores (15 months) in the autumn. There is little analysis required to determine that store sales are the way forward for a unit that excels in breeding cattle, has significant other commitments during the finishing period and has the capacity to increase cow numbers in compensation.

The radical re-think at Preston has included the introduction of carbon emission reduction measures which began with registration into the Scottish Beef Efficiency Scheme including a Carbon Audit. The ethos is to identify how much carbon dioxide equivalent is produced per kg of animal and then to introduce whole-farm efficiencies and practices to reduce this. The estimated average carbon dioxide equivalent produced on Scottish farms is 38.32kg, while Preston has been able to reduce their level to 32.72kg. Production efficiencies such as increases in calving percentage, percentage weaned and percentage sold, allows a unit to divide more kg of production over a static land area, thus reducing the emissions per unit of land.

Rob said in a recent *Farmers Weekly* article, "I want to cut emissions but not if it means sacrificing financial performance. That said, I believe there is a strong correlation between efficiency, profitability and low carbon emissions." More efficient forage production has also helped the farm's carbon performance, and now re-seeding 20 to 30 ha annually, alongside clover stitched into some swards to increase forage protein – reducing fertiliser use. Approximately eight to 12 ha less forage ground is required for the same production as previously. Woodland and permanent pasture mitigate emissions through soil carbon sequestration, the process of capturing atmospheric carbon in soils. Solar panels (40kW) power the grain drier and steading complex. Changes in the arable tilling operations, moving to a no-till and cover crop system will further reduce emissions. Alongside becoming more self-sufficient, one of the production efficiencies that Rob would like to be able to capitalise on more, is using genetics to increase feed conversion rates. More feed efficient cattle would utilise less ground and produce less methane while maintaining their production rate.

The Forrest family at Preston are reinvigorating this integrated farming business while introducing the next generation. Small to medium sized changes in every part of the business, supported by a focus on lower carbon-higher efficiency system, have brought about a significant shift. The influence of Aberdeen-Angus genetics in one of the most important parts of the business have been pivotal to driving these efficiencies.



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Oakchurch Aberdeen-Angus

JEREMY PRICE – OAKCHURCH

Since the establishment of the Oakchurch herd in 2002, Jeremy and Ala Price have continued to breed top performing Aberdeen-Angus cattle each year for both the pedigree and commercial market.

Based at Staunton-on-Wye, in Herefordshire, the livestock enterprise is home to 20 Aberdeen-Angus cows, 20 pedigree Charolais and a flock of 100 pedigree Charollais sheep. Most of the livestock is sold from home or at Society sales at Worcester and Welshpool, with returned buyers coming back time and time again to purchase pedigree bulls or breeding rams. Home-bred Aberdeen-Angus cattle, not suitable for breeding and other bought-in commercial Aberdeen-Angus are finished on a separate holding to maintain a high-health status and are sold through Jeremy's brother's farm shop.

Around three prime cattle per week are marketed through the Oakchurch Farm Shop, which employs up to 40 staff and includes a food department, garden centre, restaurant and clothing etc.

Alongside the cattle, the duo also run a fruit business which focuses on growing strawberries, raspberries and cherries. Jeremy and Ala aim to produce and deliver a product that is based on quality and flavour, so the same desire is applied to the beef production side of the business.

"We were looking to breed native cattle and reckoned the Aberdeen-Angus had the most to offer," Jeremy begins. "The Aberdeen-Angus has a terrific brand name for both suckler cows and retailing beef. To the beef farmer, they are easy calving, maternal and easy fleshing, and to the consumer, the beef is superior. Most importantly, they are so easy management and require less inputs. We are always looking to improve the herd, otherwise effectively you are going backwards."

It was Ballyheather Dolly Z682 which formed the nucleus base of the Oakchurch herd, and the couple has been fortunate with her purchase, as the majority of females go back to her line of breeding. The first son bred out of Dolly was Oakchurch Dynamite, which went on to sell for 11,500gns at Perth Bull Sales, while another of her sons, Oakchurch Dominator, sold for 10,000gns.

Other successful females have included Southfield Fortuna and Southfield Felicity, both of which were full sisters to Netherton Fabulous Cruz. Felicity's first son was the £10,000 Oakchurch Field Marshall, sold at just seven-months-old, while an embryo purchased out of Southland Duchess, by Hoff Limited Edition, bred the 6500gns Oakchurch Domino. Admittedly, the couple don't tend to stick with the same stock bull for too long and aim to introduce fresh bloodlines to the herd each year, having used AI on numerous occasions.

After around 10 years of breeding, the couple imported Te Mania Berkley semen, which went on to sire some terrific breeding bulls including Oakchurch Duster M109 – Genus' top selling beef bull for four years in a row. Duster was also a number one selling Angus sire, used in dairy herds as he provided great calving ease, short gestation lengths and good calf quality, helping to maximise the value of every pregnancy within herds.

A second bull was also sold to Genus and was bred by another later addition, Blelack Evora D988.

“The use of Te Mania Berkley helped switch us onto a more practical commercial view and we now look for structurally sound cattle, with a balance of easy calving, growth, muscle and natural fat cover,” commented Jeremy. “Over the last 10 years, we have increased our 400-day weight, EMA and marbling, and at the same time, have reduced our birth weight and the average maternal cow weight in our herd. In turn, this has increased the kilogram of beef produced per hectare with less days on the farm, which means our clients can use the spare feed and space to run more sucklers. Small tweaks result in more kilogram of beef per hectare which improves our client's profit.”

Another noted stock sire used on the herd was the home-bred bull Oakchurch Equity, which has produced many show winners over the years.

With eight to 10 stock bulls sold off the farm each year, the herd has also sold heifers to 4000gns for a female sold at Worcester. This was Oakchurch Donna R221, a daughter of Te Mania Berkley B1, out of a Netherallan Peter Pershore daughter, which goes back to the Ballyheather Dolly Z682 foundation female.

In more recent years, the couple has been making use of Australian genetics, combining them with current genetics, as they find that they are very practical, especially with the added bonus of Australians using Breedplan, which makes it easier to translate figures. “We have just recently brought in semen from two additional bulls, Te Mania Nebo and Te Mania Legend, to further complement our practical commercial cattle approach,” said Jeremy. “The driving force in Australia seems to be easy, practical cattle with performance which require less management and inputs, while driving up the outputs per hectare, so that's something we have implemented in our own herd. We are breeding moderate framed cows whose progeny are finished by 18 to 20 months-of-age off a forage diet up until the last 60 days, when it is still mainly foraged based with a small amount of concentrates added.”





Thrunton Aberdeen-Angus

IAN, ANDREW AND BRUCE CAMPBELL - THRUNTON, NORTHUMBERLAND

Good cattle are never a bad colour. And so it is at Thrunton, where the two pedigree herds of Aberdeen-Angus and Charolais co-exist on a 600-acre unit, farmed by Ian Campbell, his wife Sue and their two sons Andrew and Bruce. The renowned Thrunton Charolais herd is still the biggest in volume on the unit, but the Aberdeen-Angus herd is growing in number and now stands at 25 breeding females. This productive Northumberland farm also carries 400 ewes and grows 220 acres of wheat, feed barley and oats. The wheat is all sold off-farm, while the barley and oats are used for feed, whilst all the straw for bedding and feeding is home produced. The remainder of the ground is permanent pasture, utilised as both grazing and fodder in the form of silage and hay.

The Aberdeen-Angus herd was established with only two cows purchased for relatively good money at the time: Pure Parsley of Highgate and Lakewood Rhapsody. All the females in the current herd can be traced back to these two females. Until the current breeding season, all the Aberdeen-Angus cows have been AI'd to Netherallan Peter Pershore, Rawburn Transformer and Blelack Prince Consort. The concept behind this AI process has been to enable use of a small selection of proven genetics to breed a herd of similar type more quickly, more cheaply and with less risk, than would have been possible having to purchase a bull for a relatively small number of females. Bruce is able to AI the cows himself, which has ensured good conception rates, but

requires a greater attention to detail than simply running a bull. Ian maintains, though, that the Angus females are really fertile and they have had good results with AI. A stringent culling policy, not based on total numbers, but on what's good enough to be kept as a breeding female, has enabled the herd to quickly develop into a very level and consistent herd of cows. Now the herd has reached the stage of having a sufficient number of consistent typed females, Tonley Kasper U512 has been purchased in conjunction with Hallington and Saville herds. Kasper has run with the majority of cows for his first season at Thrunton, and any that come back will be AI'd or run with a homebred young bull, Thrunton Robroy. Most of the Angus calve in April and May, along with a quarter of the 75 strong Charolais herd. The remainder of the Charolais calve in the autumn, which not only spreads out the labour requirement but also ensures that there is always a suitable age of animal to market. In comparison between the two breeds, the Angus are better able to calve at two-years-old, without special management thereafter, and a focus on selecting genetics for milk and fertility has paid off.

Approximately 80% of the spring calving cows are overwintered on stubble, supplemented with silage and straw up to calving, when they are brought in. Heifers are overwintered on fodder rape after winter barley, supplemented with straw and hay. The following barley crop is benefited by the intervening rape and natural fertilizer application over the winter. Grazing is set-stocked over the grazing period, on a mix of silage

aftermath and permanent grazing and both breeds of cattle and sheep run together on very well managed weed free pastureland. Young bulls are reared outdoors wherever possible and are only inside full-time when the weather becomes too poor. This regime provides important grazing to aid digestion and exercise, to maintain and encourage functionality. Bulls are fed on an ad-lib home produced straw based TMR mix, over 14 months of age.

The contrast between the two breeds is anything but a negative, in fact it is a positive as they complement each other so well. For example, the Campbells use a homebred Angus bull on their purebred Charolais yearling heifers to enable the Charolais to calve near enough two-years-old, ensure an easier calving and increase the longevity of the cow. This regime also saves needing a specific Charolais bull for Charolais heifers and allows more investment in a smaller number of bulls for second calvers and beyond.

The culmination of any farming business is the production stream that it focuses on, be it arable output or other. It would be an oversimplification to say that the main product at Thrunton is a consistent stream of high-quality pedigree bulls for both commercial and pedigree markets, because there are both arable and sheep enterprises too. However, it is evident that the team at Thrunton have identified their skillset and developed their craft over 40 years and now apply this to produce market-leading Angus bulls. Most bulls are sold off-farm to commercial producers and the demand for Angus bulls has increased. The very best are often offered at a Society sale, and the first Thrunton Angus bull offered through the ring topped the sale at Carlisle, having been Champion at the pre-sale show. The top price achieved for Angus bulls has been with Thrunton Panther, sold at Stirling February 2018 for £15,000, the top price on the day, selling to Idvies. Bulls have also been sold to Cogent and AI Services Northern Ireland. Store cattle, produced as a result of the Angus bull on Charolais heifers, surplus heifers and cull cows are all marketed through the live ring, at local marts. Without being described as a strict culling policy, the Campbells admit they like to keep a younger herd of females, helping to keep the fertility high and provide the opportunity to bring in better

homebred heifers. Aside from the obvious high health requirement, selection policies have been on size, type, fertility and milking ability, but also includes keeping an eye on avoiding too much myostatin to minimise the deleterious effects becoming established in the herd. Ian admits that he likes well-balanced breeding females with size and scope, foremost. "It is not usually possible to breed bulls that perform as we need them to from small breeding females, and so we select for size, shape and style. We have always liked the Angus female as a commercial cow, and now that the prices are more rewarding and demand is greater, the pedigree Angus have been an ideal addition for our operation at Thrunton." Indeed Ian commented that his father ran Angus bulls with commercial cows more than 40-years-ago, so commercially, it is not a new concept, more an extension of what his father did and a compliment to the Charolais herd.

The operation at Thrunton is the epitome of a well-run mixed livestock unit, utilising the best of Northumberland geography. The Angus breeding females are a credit to the Campbell family, having used their superb stockmanship to quickly build a consistent herd that compliments their existing herd of Charolais. At first glance the system appears simple, and perhaps that is by design, but that would be extremely deceptive and certainly wouldn't give credit to the skill, stockmanship and attention to detail that it deserves. Producing top quality bulls, season after season is nothing short of difficult even for this team, and to make the job look as easy as they do requires skill and dedication in spades. The Angus fits in nicely here, having added an extra dimension and increased the diversity to the established farming system. There is certainly something to be said for, "Do what you do, and do it well".



Wick Farm Aberdeen-Angus



Commercial beef farmer William Dickson from Wiltshire, believes there is nothing to beat the Aberdeen-Angus, particularly when it comes to the breed's ease of calving and the ability to thrive on less improved land all year round.

Based at Wick Farm, at Downton, near Salisbury, the 1,400-acre unit is home to an arable and beef enterprise, which includes 1,000 acres of arable land and 140 three-quarter Aberdeen-Angus cows which are all bulled to the Aberdeen-Angus bull.

William grows perennial ryegrass for seed, oilseed rape, spring and winter malting barley, as well winter wheat which is also grown for seed.

The cattle are outside throughout the year and graze on water meadows and downland in the summer, before going onto stubble turnips in the winter. This is a huge benefit to William's system, saving on labour, feeding and bedding costs.

"My first attraction to the Aberdeen-Angus was its ease of calving", began William, who runs the farm with a team of three staff, Steve, Nathaniel and stockman, Angus.

"As the beef and arable enterprises got bigger here, I knew I needed to be working with a breed that could not only survive, but thrive on unimproved pasture. I didn't want to be keeping cows that needed a huge amount of pampering in the winter either and I'm fortunate that the land is free draining so although the fields get a bit muddy at times, the land dries quickly."

Originally the cattle were farmed organically when William started out

with Aberdeen-Angus cross dairy-bred heifers in 2001.

He was then offered the tenancy on a dairy unit that was being wound-up by his landlord and the heifers became the nucleus of the new suckler herd.

40 of the heifers in the herd were bulled to an Aberdeen-Angus and the first calves arrived on the ground in 2003.

"I breed all my own replacements and select purely on maternal traits," said William. "I tend to pick heifers which were the earliest born as this indicates that the dam is more fertile, however it is important that they are also visually correct.

"When selecting stock bulls, we do consider EBVs, but again, they must be good on their feet, legs and have breed character for producing home-bred replacements. I have tried AI in the past but I wasn't getting great results."

The majority of cows at Wick Farm calve during March and all heifers calve in the autumn at two-and-a-half-years-old, before being pushed into the spring herd for their second calving.

Cows are only brought inside three weeks prior to calving and are then put back outside once calved.

"I initially calved heifers at two-years-of-age, but then struggled to get them back in calf, so I had tried calving at three-years-of-age and although got really good conception rates, I did encounter some calving problems as often the heifers were not in the right condition at calving," explained William.

"Calving heifers in the autumn also provides finished stock throughout

the year, an advantage with supplying local butchers."

The herd is now calving heifers at two-and-a-half-years-old, which seems to be working well, as 27 out of the 31 scanned in calf this year, from a six-week bulling period.

"We put 35 heifers to the bull this year which gives us plenty choice and will allow us to cull hard in the spring herd if we have to," commented William.

"I believe it's important to keep a young and fit herd, especially when the cows here are outwintered all year round."

The calves are weaned from their mothers by mid-November and are brought inside where they are fed bale silage along with a home-grown barley and protein mixture.

William pointed out that he doesn't use much concentrates in the diet during their winter and that the heifers hardly need any, with the majority thriving on home-grown silage.

All male calves and heifers not suitable for breeding are finished on farm, with the vast majority sold through Dovecot Park/Waitrose and a small proportion sold through a local butcher.

The first are sold at 20-months-of-age and William aims to sell them at 620kg.

"Around 45-50% of the prime cattle produce R grades which is a statistic I would like to improve, but as I select harder on replacement heifers, I am hoping this will help", said William.

"Another huge of advantage of the breed is the fact that it's a recognisable brand so it's great to be supplying a local butcher who usually buys heifers."

Out with the beef enterprise, William also runs a breeding ewe flock on a shared farming basis with shepherd, Jack. The flock includes 250 Romney crosses topped to the Texel, all of which are lambed outdoors, with lambs sold through Salisbury Livestock Market and a proportion sold to the local butcher.

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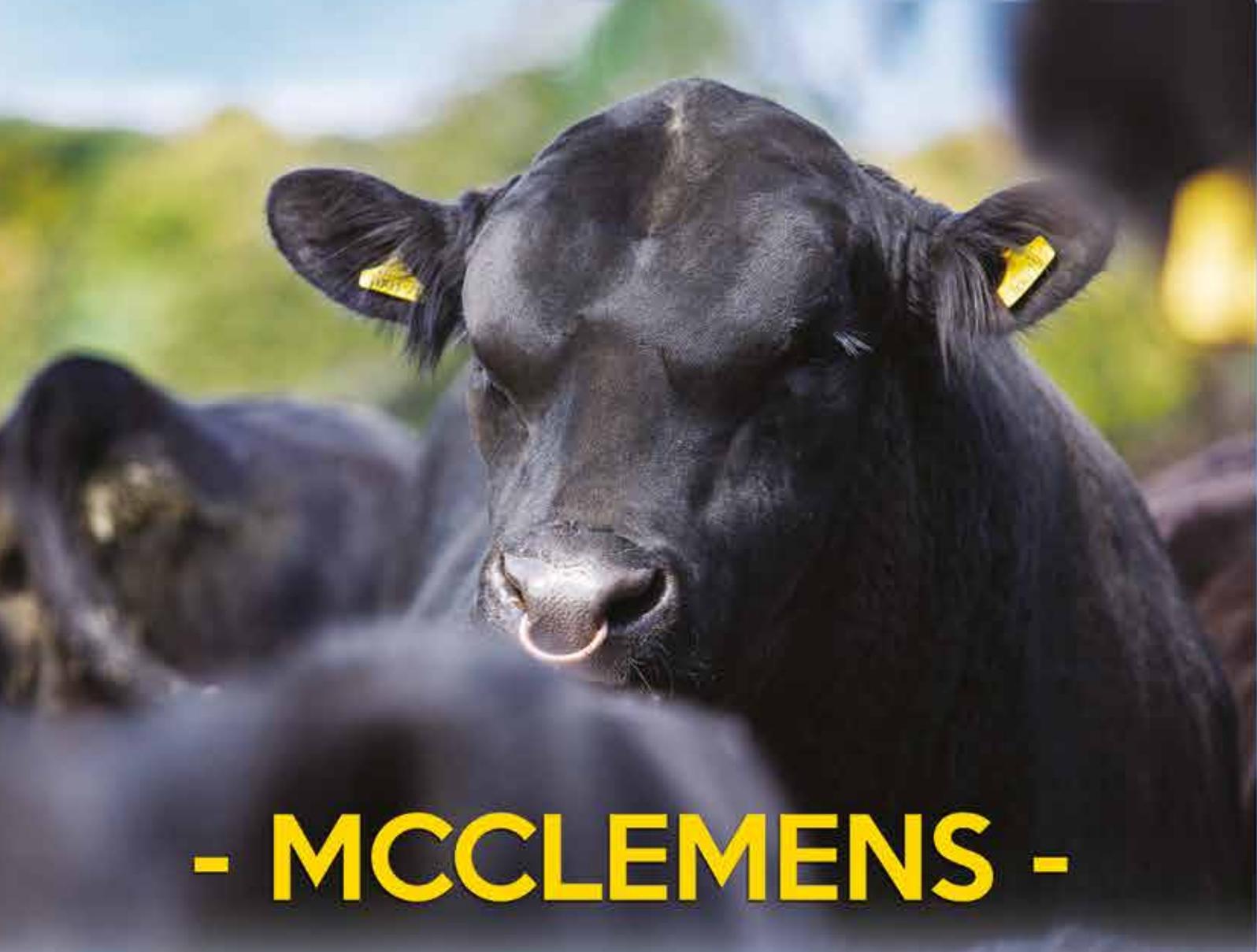
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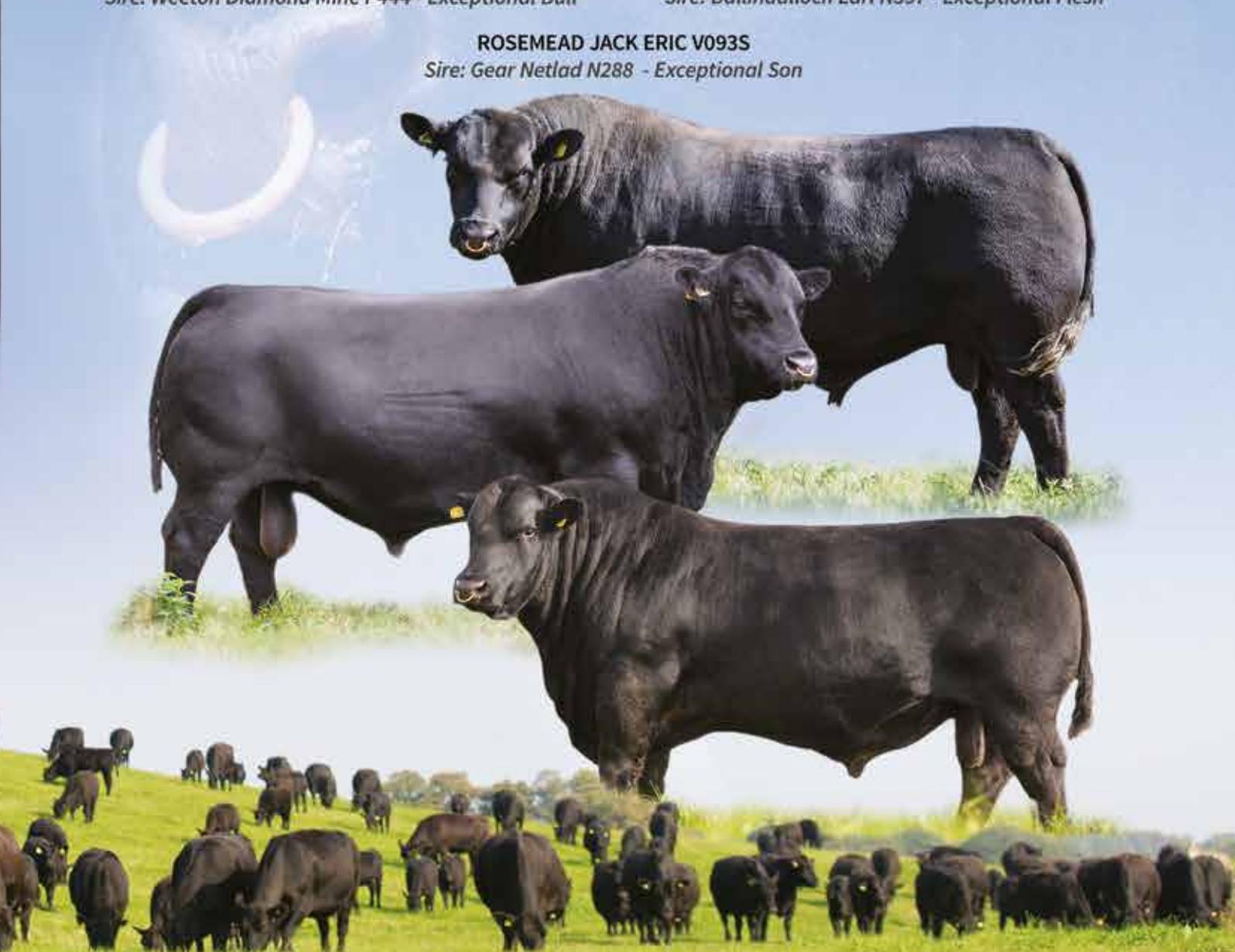
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Glasnant Aberdeen-Angus



BEEF FROM THE DAIRY HERD

Owned by John and Harriet James, and their children, Glasnant Angus is a pedigree and commercial beef enterprise run over two farms in Mid and South Wales, producing pedigree Aberdeen-Angus breeding bulls predominately for the dairy industry, from a 50 cow pedigree herd, along with 20 commercial suckler cows and rearing of over 200 Angus sired calves per year sourced mainly from specific dairy herds using Glasnant bulls.

The pedigree herd was established in 2007 after two successful years of using an Angus bull for the first time on their then commercial herd of suckler cows, made up of mostly Hereford, Limousin and Angus cross cows. They were greatly impressed with the growth they achieved, improved calf vigour and calving ease and the move to a pedigree herd began.

Over the past 13 years they have built up a good loyal customer base covering Wales, the English borders and Somerset, with many customers now on their third purchase with the family. One customer lately took delivery of their sixth and seventh bull. Many of these customers would have been purchasing an Angus bull for the very first time. When they sell

a bull, it is not just that bull they are looking to sell, they are looking to sell the third, fourth and so on to that customer in the future. They pride themselves on honesty and have always aimed to breed bulls that do well and suit their customers, in the hope of repeat custom.

They currently purchase 350 Angus calves a year, with over 200 reared by them and the remainder supplied to other rearers. If possible, they like to purchase calves sired by their own bulls and pay a small premium for these being bought direct off-farm. These are then sold as weaned calves through to strong stores to specific buyers, that they have built relationships with. Over the coming years, John and Harriet would like to increase this to 1,500 calves a year.

Their mindset from the start has and always will be based on producing a beef animal that is commercially viable for them on a relatively low input system, whilst leaving a profit. The cattle keep them, not the other way around. "It always surprises me", says John, "When I see continental sired cattle which have barely achieved 1kg a day liveweight gain. 1kg DLG is barely breakeven on costs for us and many others. We are consistently achieving up to 1.7 kg DLG for Angus x dairy calves at just 16 to 20-weeks-old, taking into account

that these are born mainly out of 24-month-old Holstein heifers."

Use of a good bull is critical to be able to produce a calf from the dairy herd that will perform and leave a decent margin. Good feet, clean over the shoulder, length, a reasonable hind quarter and of course fertility is absolutely crucial when choosing a bull. A bull suitable for a suckler man may not necessarily be suited to a dairy man, where calving ease is of absolute importance and the calf value being of little importance. It is important to note that it is not only the premium paid at slaughter associated with the Angus breed.

A far greater premium is achieved when the ability to calve a small dairy heifer at 24 months, joins the milking herd with little or no stress. The smaller type Kiwi dairy cows do present a bit of a problem, leaving a viable beef calf, but with a good thick fleshy bull used, a reasonable calf can be had. This therefore addresses a huge welfare issue within the dairy industry, whereby male dairy calves are generally culled. Using sexed semen along with an Angus chaser bull following on, goes a long way to rectify this problem.

Over the past two years, The Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society has invested in increased promotion within Wales and now signs of huge growth are starting to show. Figures released by the British Cattle Movement Service for beef Sired calves registered in Wales in the first five months of 2020, show an increase of 11.7% for the Aberdeen-Angus breed which is phenomenal. The family see a strong future for the Angus breed, and though many challenges lay ahead, they are confident that the breed can navigate these and play a major role within a profitable, sustainable beef industry for the UK in the future.

Pengelli Farm Aberdeen-Angus

Pengelli Farm is a 250-acre farm situated in rural North Pembrokeshire. Pengelli Farm has farmed cattle and sheep for many generations by Dyfrig Bowen's family and is now run solely by Dyfrig and his partner Lindsey.

Dyfrig has farmed all his life, being born and bred into farming, and never wanting to do anything else. Lindsey's background has always revolved around animals – her father was a herdsman for many years, but really finding her passion for farming especially cows when she met Dyfrig nearly 10-years-ago.

Pengelli is predominantly a sheep farm, running approximately 950 Aberfield x Ewes and breeding our own replacements. The ewes are all run on a grass-based system. Lambing starts in mid-February, with the first batch of around 170 ewes lambing indoors, then moving through to April where the remainder lamb outdoors. We also buy around 1,000 store lambs every year to finish, and these again are finished mostly off grass. Dyfrig's passion is the sheep side of the farm, and Lindsey's is the cows, so it works well!

There have always been beef cattle here at Pengelli, since finishing milking nearly 10-years-ago after Dyfrig's father sadly passed away. The couple bought and sold store cattle for several years, and they also bought in batches of calves to rear.

However, since 2016 they now have an established Aberdeen-Angus sucker herd – Pengelli Aberdeen-Angus.

In 2016, the couple saw an advert for pedigree Aberdeen-Angus for sale – that's where all this started, purchasing 30 cows plus their calves from the well-established Talyfan herd in Cowbridge, South Wales. In the summer of 2017, they headed back to Talyfan to purchase another 10 cows and calves and a stock Bull. They were hooked!

The herd has built-up quickly to where they want it, however they feel they were extremely lucky to buy some excellent quality Aberdeen cattle with some very good breeding lines. They have gone on to be very successful breeders here for operation at Pengelli.

To date, all heifers have been retained for breeding to build-up the herd, and all the male calves have been run on to sell as breeding bulls. Young bulls are sold at around 15 to 16-months-old, mainly to local dairy farms, however this year they have sold much further afield to the south of England, as well as selling to their first pedigree herd. We are looking to sell some breeding heifers this year as we have the herd at about the right numbers for where we want it.

In 2018, they sold their first home reared bull from the farm. They have continued to build on this each year, and this year they have sold nine bulls, all from home. The couple pride themselves on not pushing their bulls – they are on a grass-fed system and allowed to mature naturally. And equally important is that they have quiet temperaments as Lindsey does most of the work with them.

The herd numbers are approximately 40 suckler cows, which seems to be the right number for us here at Pengelli. Our aim is to concentrate on breeding and producing the best quality stock that they can from their low input, grass-based system.

They have in the past used AI mainly Oakchurch and Rawburn lines, but are running two stock bulls at present, their senior stock bull Oakchurch Diplomat, and a homebred Junior stock bull Pengelli Black Jack sired by Rawburn Makka Pakka which have been used on a small batch of heifers.

Their aim is to produce decent sized angus, with a good temperament. Easy calving is very important to

them. Herd health is vital, and they have recently joined the SAC premium cattle health scheme and have started with Johnes and IBR testing, as well as BVD. They aim to test for more things in the future and possibly look at going into the recording side/EBV'S as it will benefit them when selling bulls.

In 2019, they started selling their home reared lamb and pedigree angus beef from home. They sell mainly to their guests who stay in their holiday cottage on the farm, as well as locals, and have built-up a good customer base with plenty of returning customers. Their motto is for premium grass-fed meat with very low food miles having been processed and packaged locally. This is something they aim to build on in the future.

The Angus for the Bowens family is the perfect fit – very low maintenance, grass-fed system, great temperaments, polled and most importantly easy calving.

They are committed to the Angus breed and aim to continue to produce good quality stock, mainly to sell as breeding stock but also growing the premium quality meat side of the business.





Mogeely Aberdeen-Angus Herd

The Mogeely Aberdeen-Angus herd probably needs no introduction and even those with a casual knowledge of pedigree cattle breeding have most likely heard of Mogeely or its owners, husband and wife team, Albert & Jennifer DeCogan from Killamuckey outside the town of Castlemartyr in East Cork.

The DeCogan duo are very familiar faces at shows and sales, traversing the length and breadth of the country with their show cattle, year after year, and more often than not coming home with a whole assortment of rosettes and trophies to show for their efforts in the show ring. The Mogeely Aberdeen-Angus herd is widely considered one of the heavyweights of the Aberdeen-Angus breed in Ireland but originated from humble beginnings with the purchase of two heifers, Drummullian Wit and Kilkelly Annette in 1984. One of the foundation females, Drummullian Wit went on to take the reserve All-Ireland Aberdeen-Angus championship, a sure sign of good things to come for the Mogeely prefix as the All-Ireland finals proved to be a very fruitful stomping ground for the DeCogans' showing endeavours over the years ahead. Other notable cow families at Mogeely at the present time include

Jody, Lady Jane, Black Beatrice, Estella, Miss Essence, Flora, Lady Blossom, Tilda, Miyo, Elize, Evening Tinge, Blackbird and Pru. Good cow families are the backbone of the herd with members of several of these cow lines, excelling on the show circuit over the last few years.

As well as productive cow families, the prodigious use of stock bulls has also paid dividends at Mogeely. "I have always tried to secure the best stock bull I can, where possible, with trips overseas to Scotland always proving to be especially beneficial for us. A stock bull is more than half the herd and the quality of the bull is generally always reflected in the quality of his offspring", says Albert. The first bull to be purchased from Scotland by the DeCogans was Eljap of Eastfield in 1986 with the All-Ireland Aberdeen-Angus championship winning bulls, Deveron Jasper Eric F170 and Wedderlie Blackbox J935 following in the intervening years. Mosston Muir Lord Ringo F138 (who was never shown) and 2017 National Livestock Show champion, Cheeklaw Jake Eric R535 were also purchased in Stirling with the Irish-bred stock bull, Glendara Walnut (who won two All-Ireland Aberdeen-Angus titles himself), purchased at Carrick-On-Shannon, rounding out

some of the best-known sires to have stood at Mogeely. Stock bulls winning All-Irelands seems to be the norm rather than the exception at Mogeely, but few bulls in the breed come as decorated as former herd sire, the English-bred, Rosemead Karona J957, who won a hat-trick of three All-Ireland Aberdeen-Angus championships from 2012- 2014 inclusive. Current senior stock bull for the 70-cow strong pedigree herd is Wedderlie Oscalade R250 (also purchased from Scotland) with the Irish bred junior stock bulls, Laheens Reputation and Drumbeera Everest U241 having been added last year too. These bulls are also making their mark at Mogeely with one of the first progeny of Wedderlie Oscalade R250, Mogeely Diane T540 taking the Munster Junior female championship in 2018.

Showing cattle is a regular activity for both Albert and Jennifer, with most summers spent competing all over Ireland, supporting local and national events alike across the showing calendar. Albert explains, "Apart from being something that we both enjoy tremendously, exhibiting cattle at shows is the best way to promote your herd. People get to know you and see the best of what you can produce and this type of exposure has played its part in

allowing us to sell the majority of our bulls privately at home each year.

“We have also exported pedigree cattle to Northern Ireland, all parts of mainland UK, Germany, Spain, Romania, Portugal, Kazakhstan and the Czech Republic too. At last count, we had won over 150 individual breed championships, but it is our seven All-Ireland championships that we are probably most proud of. It was also particularly satisfying to see the homebred Mogeely Dreamer T534 win the All-Ireland Aberdeen-Angus championships (for new owners, Liss Aberdeen-Angus) in 2019. He is sired by Wedderlie Blackbox J935, who won the All-Ireland for us in 2016, and is out of a Mogeely Joe (MLJ) cow, and it was something really quite special for us to see the Mogeely bloodline come through with such success.

“It has also been a huge honour for the herd at provincial level to have won the Munster Provincial Trophy for the best Aberdeen-Angus animal in Munster for the last seven years in a row, as well as winning the Best Large Herd at the annual Munster Aberdeen-Angus herds competition for the last seven years too”.

The Mogeely Aberdeen-Angus herd has proved itself to be no slouch at the sales either, with several top priced bulls and heifers selling at local and national level. The herd has provided the supreme breed champion and overall sale topper at the Irish Aberdeen-Angus Premier Autumn sale in Carrick-On-Shannon with Mogeely Lord Blender R399 selling for €4,000 in 2016. A year later, Mogeely Jerry T544 took the top price in the male section and sold for €3,900 in 2017, whilst Mogeely Lord Hub R400 also took the championship and the top price at the Munster Aberdeen-Angus Club sale in Bandon that same year, selling for €3,600. Just last year, a large scale dairy enterprise in Cork purchased a truly astounding 14 (fourteen!!) pedigree breeding bulls in a single transaction with dairy farmers and pedigree breeders providing the bulk of the repeat business for bulls each year at Mogeely.

The showing exploits of the Mogeely Aberdeen-Angus herd are well documented, but Albert is also no stranger to the centre of the show ring, having judged at several of the most prestigious events at home and abroad, including the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society Spring Show in Balmoral, the Northern Ireland Aberdeen-Angus Calf Show, the Winter National Show, Carlisle, the Black Beauty Bonaza, Kelso, the Royal Highland Show, Edinburgh, Stirling bull sales, the Royal Welsh Show and Pico Island, the Azores, Portugal.

“It is always a tremendous honour to be asked to judge at any show but particularly at the calibre of shows like these as they are truly in a league of their own. I also thoroughly enjoyed presenting rosettes on behalf of Ireland at the show at Punta del Este in Uruguay after travelling there for the World Secretariat in 2019.”

Another source of fond memories for Albert is his time as Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society President in 2011. “My year as President was full of wonderful highlights, but perhaps the best of all was my visit to the Castle of Mey in Caithness to view HRH The Late Queen Mother’s herd of pedigree Aberdeen-Angus cattle. I also had the opportunity to meet with HRH Prince Charles and it was a day that I will treasure immensely. A very close second to my trip to the Castle of Mey was representing the Aberdeen-Angus breeders at the World Secretariat in Argentina that same year. It really was a true honour to be there to represent the breed as President of the Society and it is an experience that will always stay with me.”

As well as his presidential tenure, Albert has also served as Oresident of the Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association, Chairman of the Munster Aberdeen-Angus Club and has been a council member of the Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association for nearly 30 years in total and has been a huge supporter of the YDP programme over that time too.

Albert explains, “It has always been a big priority of both myself and

Jennifer to give back to the youth in the breed and it was our pleasure to host the YDP workshop at our farm in Mogeely in 2014, with nearly 30 enthusiastic youngsters attending on the day. We also hosted the Munster Club’s open day two years later, in 2016, and we found both experiences to be hugely rewarding”.

Looking ahead, Albert believes the future is bright for Aberdeen-Angus breeders, commenting, “The easy calving, easy fleshing nature of the Aberdeen-Angus puts us in high demand with dairy and suckler farmers alike. I personally would not like to see that breed get any bigger, but it is important not to find that middle ground and not go too small or reverse the progress we have made to date either. Likewise, there are significant challenges facing the Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association at present and a close eye must be kept on various issues affecting the breed at present such as accurate recording of birth weights, the myostatin gene and the white gene.”

It may seem like the Mogeely Aberdeen-Angus herd has done it all over the last 36 years, but it seems nothing will slow down this dynamic duo who are just as passionate about Aberdeen-Angus cattle as ever.





Crann Mor Farm Aberdeen-Angus

Over 300 head of Aberdeen-Angus cattle are farmed by Dermot Byrne, proprietor of Crann Mor Farm Ltd, situated at Kilmoon Cross near the town of Ashbourne in County Meath. A small pedigree Aberdeen-Angus herd of 14 cows and followers are also bred at Crann Mor, but it is the 300 commercial Aberdeen-Angus cattle that take pride of place on this 230-acre holding. Owner Dermot Byrne, assisted by herdsman Niall Lynch, run a commercial Aberdeen-Angus calf to beef operation, with this initiative continuing to go from strength-to-strength for this newly established dairy beef business.

As the national dairy herd continues to expand domestically in Ireland, this has brought lots of opportunities to source calves easily, with dairy calf to beef enterprises springing up all over the country. Farm manager at Crann Mor, Niall Lynch explains, "The commercial Aberdeen-Angus calves are all sourced privately. We always buy from credible and reliable dairy herds within a one hour radius of the farm, with the calves being purchased from three weeks of age upwards. We will only buy calves sired by an Aberdeen-Angus bull and our preferred breed of the dam is British

Friesian or Montebeliarde, as these dairy breeds have natural dual-purpose characteristics and are best suited to what we are trying to achieve at Crann Mor.

"The calves arrive on the farm aged between three to four weeks and weighing between 50-60kgs. They are fed milk on an automatic calf feeder for a further 55 days, with a peak of six litres of milk fed to each calf, per day. This amount of milk is reduced steadily from day 40 until weaning at day 55, at which time the calves, now weighing approx. 120 kgs are put out to grass and are eating 1kg each of 18% protein ration. Ration is increased to 2kg/calf before housing in mid-October, with the vast majority of cattle slaughtered at 20 to 22 months, with just one full winter spent on the farm for each animal".

The Aberdeen-Angus has always been the breed of choice at Crann Mor, with the easy fleshing, low input nature of the Aberdeen-Angus something that is highly valued by both Dermot and Niall. Another big factor in choosing to buy Aberdeen-Angus bred calves over other breeds, are the lucrative bonuses offered by Angus Beef Ireland at slaughter. To qualify for these bonuses, all cattle must be sired by an Aberdeen-Angus bull, have AA or AAX on their official Department of Agriculture

identity passport and be produced on farms that are Quality Assured with Bord Bia. Animals eligible for the bonus payments are also visually inspected by trained personnel at the factory to ensure all cattle adhere to all the standard characteristic Aberdeen-Angus breed traits, with DNA sampling and regular audits also routinely carried out on qualifying cattle too.

At Crann Mor, all bull calves are castrated on the farm, with bullocks being sent for slaughter at around 22 to 24 months, when they have reached the 600kgs+ mark, with heifers reaching 525 to 550kg, with some of the heifers being fit for slaughter at just 15 months.

“It’s fairly self-evident that the profitability of the enterprise depends on efficiency, as profit margins grow tighter every year on beef units. Aberdeen-Angus cattle have the genetic potential to fatten quicker and more cheaply than other major beef breeds, and this is the biggest single strength of the breed from the point of view of our production system. This efficiency of production is hugely important, and pedigree Aberdeen-Angus breeders should endeavour to keep the traditional attributes of the breed at the forefront of their minds and stop trying to chase the growth rates of the continental breeds. It’s not by accident that Aberdeen-Angus beef is in huge demand all over the world and breeders must continue to choose genetics that will produce more feed efficient cattle and protect our place within the meat industry”, says Niall.

“Beef sire selection in the dairy herd has a massive input on the quality of calves coming into the beef market and this is something that needs to be closely monitored. Dairy farmers must try to purchase the best type bull they can and the traditional type characteristics of the stock bull should always be a major consideration for any bull purchaser”.

The term dairy-beef itself can have extremely negative connotations in some circles, but the use of good quality Aberdeen-Angus bulls can pay dividends in the beef market, even when produced off dairy cows. In fact, the Aberdeen-Angus meat produced at Crann Mor is of such superior eating quality that a local butcher regularly buys cattle from the farm each month, with the sole purpose of providing high-end beef for local restaurants and shops in the area. The majority of the cattle are slaughtered at Dawn Meats in Slane, with in-spec, good quality Aberdeen-Angus cattle always in high demand by the meat processors. Niall goes on to describe his perfect commercial Aberdeen-Angus beast as, “An easy fleshed animal with good growth rates, with a deep rump and a considerable stretch of loin and of course, a good temperament which the Aberdeen-Angus is well known for and makes the breed so easy to work with”.

At a time when beef producers continue to face increased pressures to stay profitable, the Aberdeen-Angus breed continues to demonstrate its ability to produce top class beef from a low input system and it is

surely this efficiency of production that will surely keep the Aberdeen-Angus breed in good stead for many, many more years to come.





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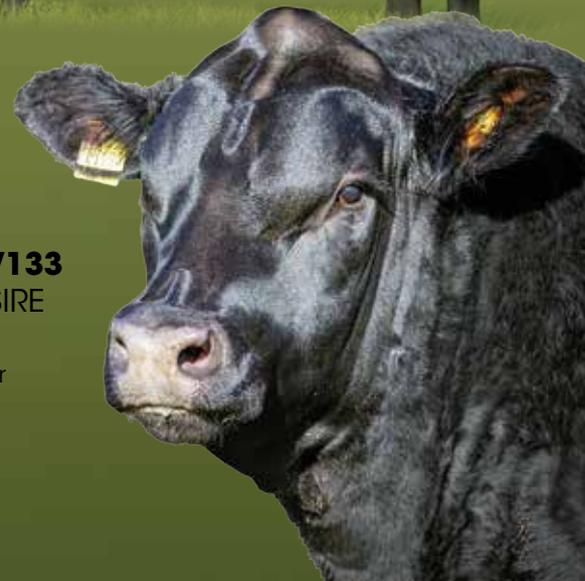
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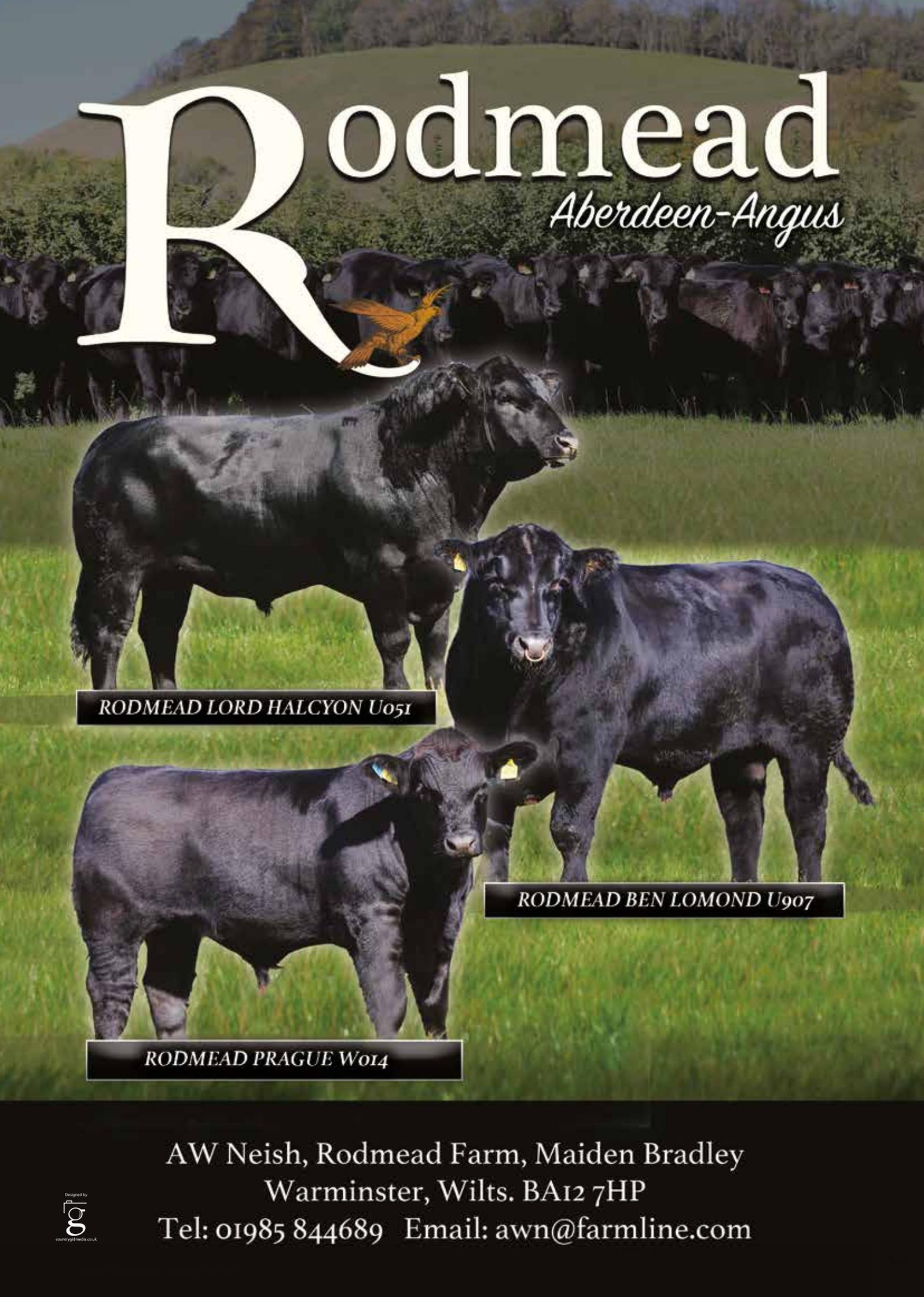
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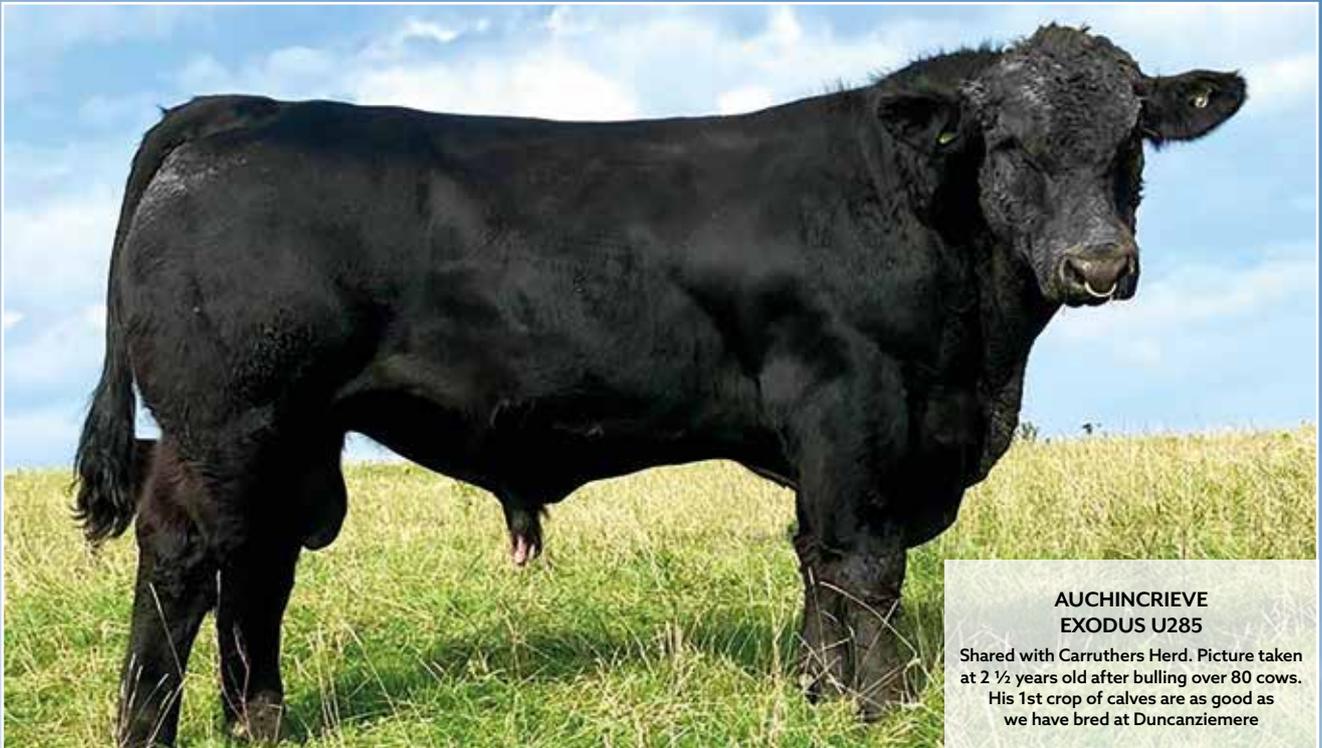
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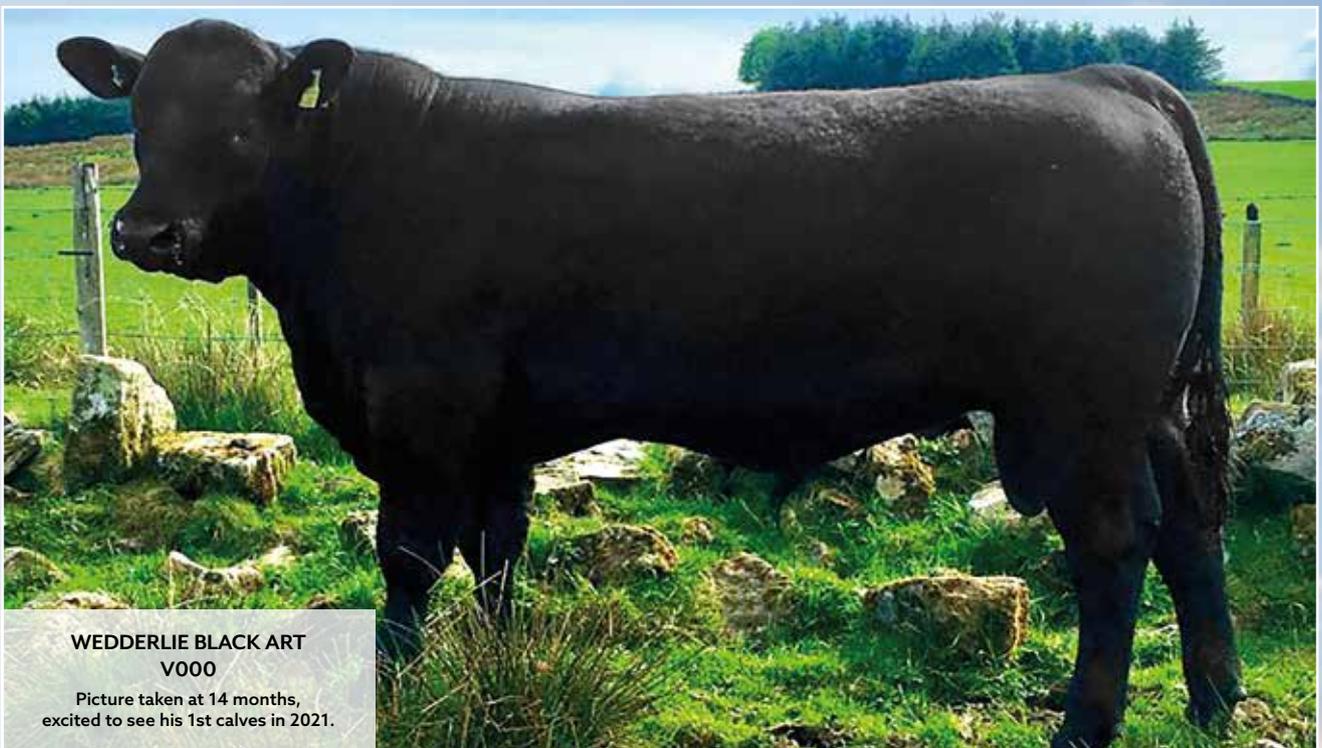
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Tamneymullan Aberdeen-Angus



The Tamneymullan prefix featured high in the rankings of the Northern Ireland Aberdeen-Angus Club's 2020 herd competition, securing three first prize rosettes and the overall calf championship.

Founded in 2003 by Robert Sufferin from Maghera, the herd comprises of 18 cows and followers. "I've been competing successfully in the herd competition for many years, usually featuring in the top three in my category, but this year has been the most memorable," explained Robert, who chalked up the awards for the best medium herd, best heifer calf and futurity heifer.

The heifer calf class winner Tamneymullan Minnie W111, impressed judge John Blackburn (Killaney Herd) and went on to win the overall calf championship. "I'm delighted, especially as there were over 20 herds participating in the competition."

Robert developed his love of Aberdeen-Angus from visiting agricultural shows. "I really admired the quality of the cattle. They were well turned-out and very eye-catching," said Robert, who had a career in the construction industry, but farmed part-time finishing cross-bred beef calves.

The foundations of the Tamneymullan Herd trace back to females purchased privately from the long-established Baronagh

and Gilkey herds. "The Millicent and Joanna cow families have been very prolific, in fact, the champion calf from the Minnie bloodline is a descendant of the Millicent family.

"I had the bull calf champion and the best pair in 2008, which was the first time I entered the Club's herd competition. Those animals also hailed from Victor Wallace's Baronagh bloodlines."

The Tamneymullan Herd operates a spring calving pattern, with females calving down at two-years-old.

"We aim to have the cows calving in March and April. They are grazed throughout the summer and the calves are weaned during October and November," explained son Keith, who assists his father with the day-to-day management of the herd.

"We don't creep feed the calves when they are at grass. They are introduced to concentrates in preparation for weaning, but quality silage forms the bulk of their winter diet."

Bull calves and heifer calves are reared separately and turned out to grass the following spring.

"The Aberdeen-Angus epitomizes ease of management", continued Robert. "The cows are fertile, docile and have great mothering ability and plenty of milk. They are easy calved and it's very seldom that we would have to assist at calving.

"We like traditional-type cows with good conformation and breed character. Longevity is also a bonus – our oldest cow is 12-years-old."

Robert and Keith are very selective when it comes to producing replacement females and breeding bulls. "Anything that doesn't fit the bill is sold for beef. Our pedigree bulls are reared naturally and not pumped with meal."

The father and son team has built up a strong customer base for bulls and females. "We used to exhibit cattle

at local shows. It's a great shop window, but very time consuming," added Robert. "In the past, we've sold bulls to a top of 3,000gns at Dungannon, but the majority of our young bulls are sold privately to repeat customers, a mix of dairy and suckler her owners. There is also a demand for females, and we've recently sold three pedigree heifers to new breeders."

AI bulls that have featured successfully in the breeding programme, include Goulding Jumbo King K436, Baronagh Euro A043, Ranui W Impact 762, Nightingale Proud Jake G405, and the three times All-Ireland champion Rosemead Karona J957. Netherton Matrix T880 has been used on heifers this year.

A bull that really left his stamp on the herd was former stock bull Ladeside Erin Z015, a Tui Eriexis son. "He bred feminine, medium-size cows with great shape and breed character. Semen was collected on-farm for our own use, and we retained the home-bred son Tamneymullan Jackal T676."

Robert and Keith's latest stock bull is Lana Day Dream U532, bought privately from Society President Alan Cheney, of Trillick, County Tyrone. "He is a Nightingale Playfair K527 son, and his first calves were born in spring and are showing great promise."

Although retired, Robert continues to work part-time in construction. He gets great satisfaction from the Tamneymullan herd and is very proud of its achievements. Going forward, Robert and Keith are determined to maintain their strict selection criteria, and stay focused on breeding quality pedigree Aberdeen-Angus bulls and females.

Carrow Herd



FOUNDED FROM CHILDHOOD MEMORIES AND A FONDNESS FOR THE BREED

Childhood memories of an Aberdeen-Angus bull on the family farm prompted Paul McKenna to establish the Carrow Herd.

Founded in 2013, the Carrow Herd hails from females purchased from the Innisfayle prefix owned by NI Aberdeen-Angus Club Secretary Cathy O'Hara from Rasharkin, and John and Lynda Greer's Tildarg Herd at Ballyclare.

"I have fond memories of working with Aberdeen-Angus cattle when I was a child. I inherited the family farm and over the years, drifted away from the traditional Angus breed," explained Paul, who was lured by the heavier carcass continental breeds for his commercial suckler and bull beef enterprises.

After more than thirty years, the self-employed plasterer and part-time farmer decided to re-introduce Aberdeen-Angus cattle to the 50-acre farm at Lavey on the outskirts of Gulladuff in County Londonderry.

The Carrow herd comprises of 12 pedigree breeding females and five commercial cross-bred Angus cows, plus followers. "I favour the more traditional type Aberdeen-Angus cow, with good conformation and a nice head."

"Aberdeen-Angus cattle are bullet proof", Paul adds. "They are hardy and economical to manage on a grass-based system. The cows are fertile, easy calving and have plenty of milk and great mothering ability.

"The eight foundation females I bought were all reared in the County Antrim hills around Rasharkin and Ballyclare. They have adapted well to lowland conditions and have great breed character and a lovely temperament."

Cows in the spring calving herd are daughters of bulls such as Rawburn Duke B156, Marlow Elijah J582, Ladeside Erin J231, Drumbargy Franklin M382 and Thurnton Rocket L282.

"The Aberdeen-Angus is noted for its ease of calving, an essential trait for my enterprise, especially as I have a full-time job. The cows calve without assistance, and the newborn calves are healthy, lively and full of vigour from birth."

"With the Aberdeen-Angus breed being naturally polled, it eliminates the need for de-horning", Paul continues. "The hardiness and robustness of the black Angus has also contributed to a significant reduction in the farm's overhead veterinary costs and cut the amount of time spent completing medicine records."

The 2019 and 2020 calf crop features progeny of Rawburn Duke Winchester R128, Innisfayle Maxi T399 and Innisfayle Mighty N871, with the majority sired by the home-bred bull Carrow Elvis S371 – an October 2016 born son of the 19,000gns Bleack Evermore J231 bred from one of the herd's foundation females Tildarg Eva M106. Paul also has a few cows in-calf to the AI bull Hallington Endeavour G136.

Calves are weaned at seven-months-old, and bulls and heifers are segregated and overwintered on a diet of haylage.

Paul prides himself on being critical, and only keeps the best bulls and females for breeding. Bulls that don't catch his eye are sold for beef, while the heifers are sold as commercial suckler replacements.

"I keep the majority of my pedigree heifers as herd replacements, and bulls are sold privately at between 12 and 18-months of age to dairy and suckler farmers."

Paul McKenna joined the NI Aberdeen-Angus Club four-years-ago, and has participated in its annual herd competition twice. In 2019, he was delighted to win third prize in the heifer calf category with the Innisfayle Mighty N871 daughter Carrow Ester V651 – she went on to sell privately to Cathy O'Hara's Innisfayle Herd.

In 2020, the Carrow Herd was ranked third in the competition's medium herd section.

Paul McKenna is ably assisted on the farm by wife Anne, and their sons Brian, Harry and Michael. Nephew John is also a keen advocate of the breed.

The McKenna family plan to increase the herd to 20 females and are keen to introduce new bloodlines from proven cow families.



Ballykelly Aberdeen-Angus

When it comes to debating the issues of 'Carbon Footprint' and 'Climate Change', Hugh McCollum believes that the beef industry is getting all the blame, but is not really the guilty party.

"We have to get on with it," Mr McCollum states. "As an industry, we must ensure we utilise the resources available to us in the best possible way. And, from a Northern Ireland perspective, this means making best use of grass."

Hugh farms with his son Lowry near Ballykelly in North West Derry. The farm extends to 270 acres, 200 acres of which are owned. It may seem counter-intuitive, but it is the 70 acre cereal enterprise on the farm that drives the father and son's commitment to improved grassland production.

"Growing wheat works at two levels," Hugh explains. "The cereal represents a tremendous source of winter feed when mixed with high quality silage. What's more, it acts as a break crop, allowing us to follow on with a grass re-seed."

"The plan is to establish all new swards in August. This means there will be a decent green cover on the re-seeded fields by September."

"We aim to establish bespoke grazing and silage swards on the farm. Clover is included, as a matter of course, in the grazing mixes."

Up to now, Hugh has prioritised on making better silage, as he strives to improve grassland output and utilisation across the farm. He commits to make six cuts – all bales – annually.

"We opted for a multi-cut silage system four-years-ago. We took our first cut this year on the 13th and 14th April. Thereafter, once we see any stem extension at all, we will go in with the mower," he explained.

"Bales suit the layout of the farm. We have our own mower, tedder and rake, whilst a local contractor does the baling and wrapping for us."

"And the approach is working. We analyse the silage on a regular basis. But, more importantly, we can see for ourselves the beneficial impact which the high-quality forage is having on animal performance during the winter months."

The next stage of the grassland improvement journey on the McCollum farm will be the establishment of a rotational grazing system.

"We have 160 acres in one block," Hugh confirms. "So, laying it out in paddocks and putting in the required pathways and drinker network should not be too difficult a job."

"We operate a rotation grazing system of sorts on parts of the farm at the present time. The benefits this form of system delivers relative to set stocking are obvious."

Hugh is the Chair of the farmer-owned co-operative: Aberdeen-Angus Quality Beef Ltd (AAQB). He currently finishes a mix of 120 Aberdeen-Angus steers and heifers annually, which are bought in as yearlings. All finished animals are supplied to the Foyle Food Group.

"I made the transition from suckler beef because of the costs incurred in keeping doubled muscled cows; very large veterinary bills during the calving season being one of them.

"The Aberdeen-Angus animals coming on to the farm now are almost all dairy-bred. The Foyle scheme requires a constant supply of finished cattle throughout the year. In my case, there would be slight bias in having stock finished during the June/July period.

"This is a time of year when there tends to be a shortfall in the number of eligible cattle available. It also allows me to ensure that stock will make the best use of grazed grass in the run-up to finishing."

Reflecting on the priorities of the AAQB scheme, Hugh stresses the need for finished cattle to kill out at between 280 kilos to 320 kilos with a fat cover of between 3 and 4.

"Fat cover is critical," he explains. "This was the key reason behind the push made to produce better quality silage on the farm. The mix of silage and home-grown wheat is allowing me to get cattle up to a fat class 3 at around 24 months of age.

"Carcase shape is not that big of an issue as most finished animal will kill out with an O grade for conformation. Very rarely, we might get a P."

Looking to the future, Hugh is in the throes of establishing a 24-month calf to beef system on the farm.

"Lowry is now full-time on the farm, having been at college for three years. Calf to beef with Aberdeen-Angus cattle makes sense, provided we get calves of the right quality.

"We are putting up a new calf rearing and have been honing our management skills with Holstein bull calves bought over the last year or so. Nothing is simple in life and this is very much the case where calf rearing is concerned."

At the same time, Hugh and Lowry have been striking up relationships with local dairy farmers, who can supply them with the Aberdeen-Angus calves they will need down the line.

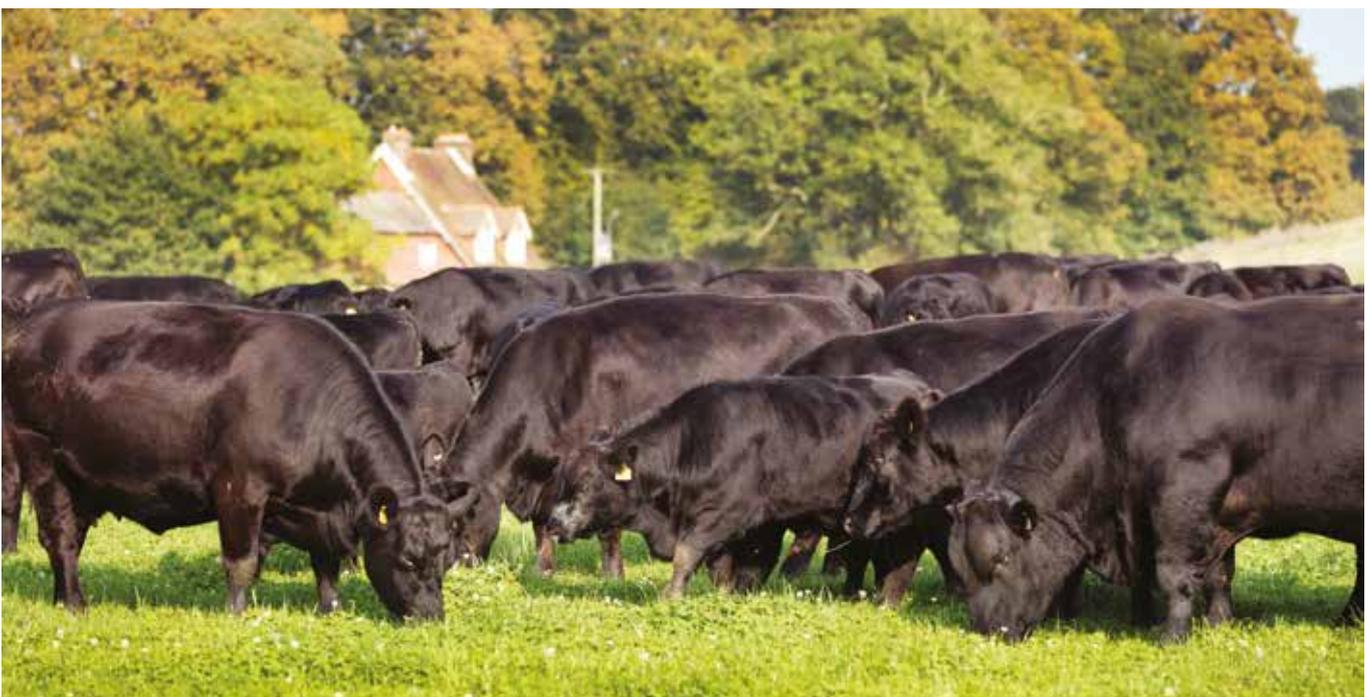
"Taking this approach helps to guarantee the traceability of the calves we are purchasing," Hugh comments.

But mindful of the ever-growing need for beef farmers to improve the overall efficiency of their businesses, Hugh is quick to point out that producers like himself must have the opportunity to access calves with the top genetic potential.

"Demand for quality assured Aberdeen-Angus beef remains strong. But this must be accompanied with a strong commitment on the part of commercial dairy farmers to use pedigree Angus bulls with strong performance figures and/or proven AI sires.

"Otherwise, the opportunity for beef farmers to make a margin further down the line becomes extremely difficult."

"Dairy calf to beef has a sustainable future", Hugh concludes. "But it will only work on the basis of farmers making best use of grass and having access to calves with the required genetic potential. The message coming out of all this for pedigree Aberdeen-Angus breeders is pretty obvious."





2020 Sales - A Year of Change

We look back over 2020 with those who have stood at the rostrum in what can be described as an 'unprecedented year'.

**SCOTT DONALDSON, JOINT MANAGING DIRECTOR,
HARRISON & HETHERINGTON,**

"As a company we have worked around the pandemic and have embraced new digital technologies.

"Online sales were on the agenda before COVID-19 struck in March 2020. However, faced with no alternatives, we had to accelerate the development of this process. The first online timed auction sale of Pedigree Aberdeen Angus cattle took place on the 8th May, and despite one or two teething problems with the system, the sale went exceptionally well with a lot of interest from all over the UK.

"EBV's played a big part as prospective purchasers looked for facts and figures to determine their ideal bull, however the quality of the images, both still and video, proved absolutely crucial to the sale's success.

"With regard to the Autumn sales, they were severely affected by the uncertainty around restrictions and there was no doubt that many customers had bought and sold bulls at home because of this. This resulted in a rather lacklustre trade all round.

"Getting around the COVID-19 guidelines has been a difficult journey, but all breeds have benefited from the live online bidding facility. At H&H this system has been in use for a number of years, but it has certainly come into its own over the lock-down period.

"In these uncertain times, more and more customers are viewing bulls at home and then bidding online from their own sofas rather than travelling to sales. The quality of the live feed has been dramatically improved and the coverage is now in real-time. This I think is a tremendous step forward as it gives online purchasers the feel of a live in person sale, which adds more buzz in the virtual sale ring.



“In general, the sales this year have shown that confidence remains high in all aspects of the cattle trade. For example, finished Aberdeen Angus cattle received £4/Kg deadweight from late summer into autumn, and Angus store cattle continued to command a considerable premium.

“The demand for quality Angus bulls has not slackened, and with the majority of our major retailers now promoting Aberdeen Angus beef, this looks set to continue. We hope it is not too long to wait until we can enjoy the comradery and atmosphere of a busy bull sale ring again, however I fear that it will be late spring until prospects greatly improve.”

JOHN ROBERTS, GROUP DIRECTOR AND AUCTIONEER AT UNITED AUCTIONS

The world of “normal” trading seems to be a distant memory now, but looking back to February 2020 bull sales reminds me of how important a traditional bull sale is to the entire farming community.

The Galbraith Stirling Bull Sales are indeed dates people book off work, pencil in their diaries, and for the younger generation, the usual sick note is produced so that junior can go with dad to the bull sales!

February 2020 was no exception, with a packed ringside of both spectators and buyers, as well as the buzz of

the tic tac area, the Sunday Show saw a record number of prospective buyers view a superb show of bulls. This was reflected on the Monday with a very pleasing average of E5820 for 82 bulls sold. It is so important to have customers attend the sales in person, this creates a tremendous atmosphere within the live auction, which can never be replicated on a digital platform.

It was with a heavy heart that I had to make the difficult decision to cancel the Galbraith Stirling Bull Sales in May. Raymond Kennedy had worked tirelessly, and a record entry of 312 bulls were entered which included 69 Aberdeen-Angus bulls.

United Auctions decided to go for the traditional boots on the ground approach and I tasked my team to market our entry of bulls on a farm-to-farm basis. A traditional catalogue was produced, farmers who were not willing to travel to farms to inspect bulls had the confidence that their chosen bulls could be independently inspected by one of my experienced team. A deal could then be facilitated. This proved a great success with no fewer than 175 bulls being traded this way, which included 57 Aberdeen-Angus bulls.

Although I consider this a very successful one off! It is very apparent that vendors missed the traditional auction with all the benefits of multiple bidders around the ring.

GALBRAITH STIRLING BULL SALES - OCTOBER

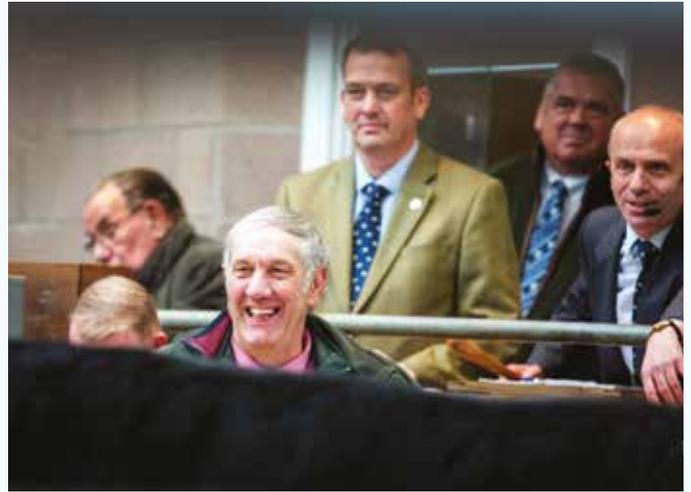
After much head scratching United Auctions provided a selling platform for auctioning cattle through the auction ring. It was fantastic to have an auction for both bulls and females on what was named "Super Saturday".

Due to Covid-19 rules, the Galbraith Stirling Bull Sales were promoted as a nonspectator event. This presented a huge challenge to me and the team to deliver a safe and productive bull sales.

I must thank all consignors for their cooperation in this difficult time. The absence of a Show was replaced by a pre-sale parade with a wider space for inspection of bulls for prospective purchasers. I must admit I was learning as I went along, but feel that we delivered a platform which saw 47 bulls and 80 females find new homes.

2020 has been the most challenging year of my 38-year career in auctioneering, but the traditional values of live auctions have been so apparent to the entire farming community and helped to keep the industry on a sound footing.

We have seen a year on year increase in the number of Aberdeen-Angus Cross store cattle going through our auction rings being sold at enhanced levels to get the Angus premium being paid at slaughter. Given the female potential for breeding, the breed can only go from strength to strength.



CMM AUCTIONS, SKIPTON

The Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society's third annual autumn sale-only of pedigree females at CCM Skipton last November again proved an all-round success, further underpinning the initial thoughts of the Society that there was a clear need for an official breed sale in the area.

The 2020 fixture was dominated by David Isherwood's local Airedale herd in Kildwick with its annual high quality production sale of 39 head, most finding pastures new and selling to a top of 4,200gns.

The female sale at Skipton is growing in popularity year on year and has clearly cemented its place in the Aberdeen-Angus calendar going forward. Make a note in the diary of the 2021 fixture – Wednesday, November 10. Who knows, as well as females, we may well see some bulls this year?

With increasing numbers of Angus breeders in the area, the breed is clearly in the ascendancy. Indeed, there is little doubt that native cattle in general are making a greater impact and holding a stronger influence at CCM Skipton's fortnightly Wednesday store cattle sales, where typically 25% of the entry comprises native breeds, with Aberdeen-Angus-sired cattle making up a good portion of this.

As a direct result, this is attracting a good regular client base of specialist feeders looking to source Angus-sired cattle for finishing and processing for Angus-branded schemes. Anyone interested in bringing more Angus cattle to Skipton is welcome to contact the mart. Full details are at www.ccm-auctions.com

In addition, increasing numbers of young native-sired rearing calves are being sold at weekly Monday sales. Here again, Aberdeen-Angus are very much to the fore.



TREVOR WYLIE, DUNGANNON FARMERS' MART

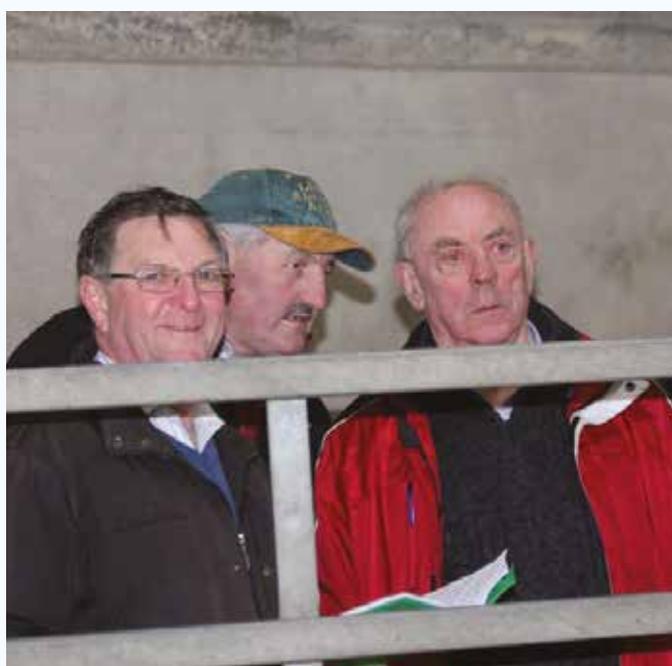
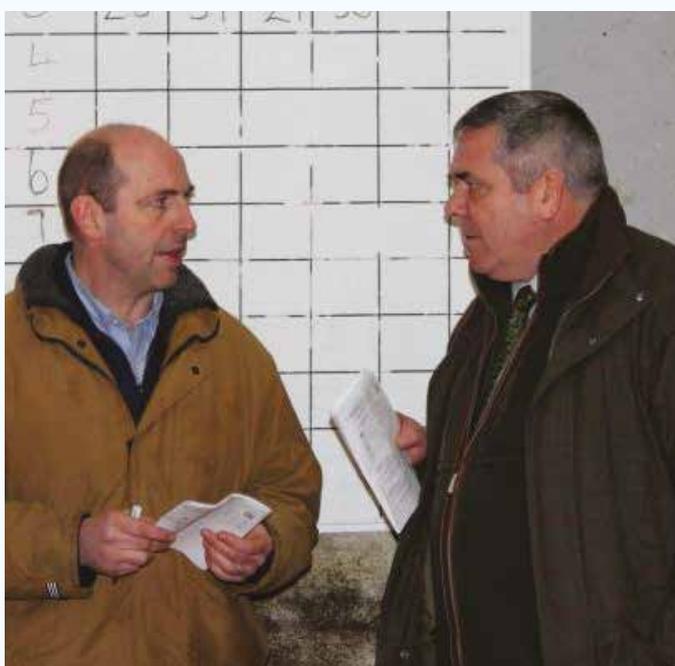
Dungannon Farmers' Mart

What was to be the last "normal" pedigree sale of Aberdeen Angus took place on 11th February with a top price of 5,200 guineas and a 75% clearance. None of us knew what was ahead of us and how difficult a year it was to be. Lockdown stopped all sales and although there were quite a few referrals for farm to farm sales which did help vendors free up space, it limited buyers' choice of bull. The adversity of lockdown for the mart was the initial difficulty.

However, during this period Dungannon Farmers' Mart took the opportunity to adopt online buying, planned some refurbishment and invested in booths to facilitate buyer spaces around the ring. When lockdown was lifted for marts what followed was confusion and uncertainty. Guidelines changed on a weekly basis

leaving both buyers and sellers apprehensive. Running a sale became very different with buyers having to book in, for those selling numbers were limited and of course the whole coming together and social interaction associated with a sale was very restricted. The ambiguity of the whole situation was reflected in the October sale with clearance rate falling to 50% and 3,500 guineas being the top price.

We will all remember 2020 but as we approach the end of it there is hope. We have learned to cope with social distancing and we all have had to adopt technology to progress our businesses, breeders, producers and mart operators alike. We have all learned to adapt and retain what is good and leave what is not. The new year is a new start and all in the industry are building in confidence so we look forward to strong sales of good stock in 2021.



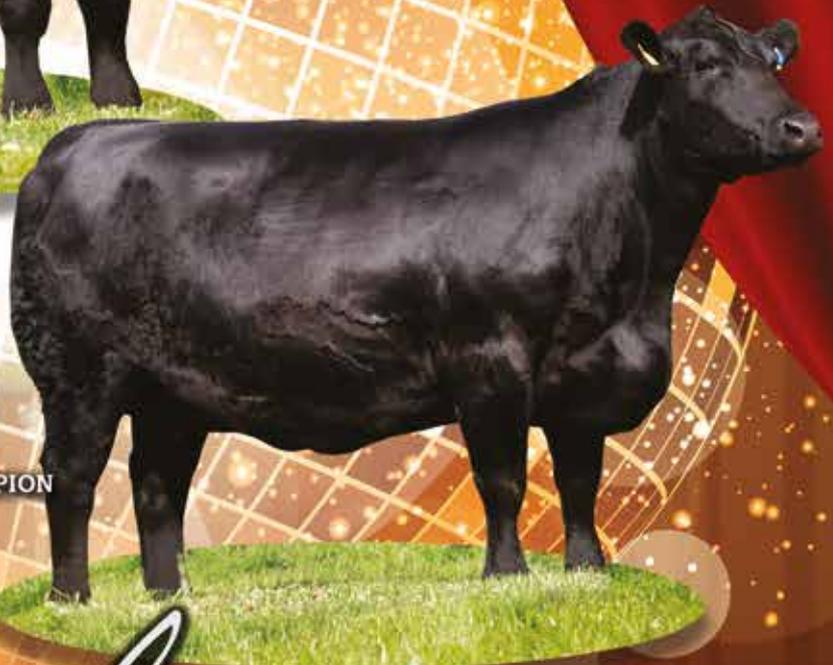
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Top call of 25,000gns at Aberdeen-Angus February Stirling Sale

2020's show and sale season kicked off at United Auctions in Stirling on Sunday 2nd and Monday 3rd February, in what was a strong event for the breed to get the new decade underway. Monday's sale saw 82 bulls sold to a top price of 25,000gns, matching the top call from the same event in 2019. Average was down £67 from last year at £5,820, with a clearance rate on the day of 60%.

The top selling bull at 25,000gns was Gordon Barney U334, from the Trustees of the Gordon Brooke Estate. Gordon Barney U334 is by Rawburn Joe Eric S249 and out of Linton Gilbertines Brandy M607 (ET), who is described as one of the best females in the herd. Barney was first in class at Sunday's show, which was judged expertly by Jim Ford and was sold to Messrs Fraser of the Idvies Herd of Aberdeen-Angus in Forfar, Angus.



Gordon Barney U334

Next best on Monday's sale was WD Allen's Stouphill Marcus Prince U251, a Duncanziemere Jigsaw son out of Stouphill Marsala Pearl. Marcus Prince was second in class to sale-topper Gordon Barney, in what was a strong class on the day and is headed to Northern Ireland-based breeder K McOscar of Cookstown in Co Tyrone for a sum of 17,000gns.



Stouphill Marcus Prince U251

Another five-figure sum was realised for JR Galloway's Cardona Jewel Eric U054, an April 2018-born bull by Nightingale Dunbar and from the excellent Jewel Erica line, which has strong maternal rates and makes up approximately 40% of the Cardona Herd. Jewel Eric was also first in class on Sunday's show and went to G&W Henderson of Culrain Mains in Sutherland for 13,000gns.



Cardona Jewel Eric U054

11,000gns was reached for Blelack Prince Charlie U931 of NF Massie & Sons, described by the breeder as a lump of a calf with excellent pedigree. Prince Charlie is by Tonley Jester Eric and out of Blelack Princess Carina, a two-year-old Hallington Principal heifer. Second in class on Sunday's show, this one was sold to M&S Wilson of Newbank in Dumfriesshire. Neil Wattie's second in class bull Tonley Kasper U512 also sold for 11,000gns, split three-ways between Northumberland-based JHC Campbell & Sons, S&S Medley from North Yorkshire and Alan Lawson & Son from Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. Kasper is a Tonley Jester Eric first son out of Tonley Kay Pride.



Blelack Prince Charlie U931



Tonley Kasper U512

Two followed at 9,000gns on Monday's sale, the first being NF Massie & Sons' third-in-class bull Blelack Prince Cooper U938, by Tonley Jester Eric and out of Blelack Princess Carina. From the same family as the 11,000gns Blelack

Prince Charlie, this one also has the Carcase Bull RHS Champion Blelack Egotist K531 in his pedigree and is on his way to C&E McCombie of Auchincreeve in Aberdeenshire. At the same money was Sunday's junior champion HW Black Barberesco U459 of the Highland Wagyu Herd based in Stirlingshire. Barberesco is by HW Fabulous and out of Balhaldie Black Beryl, and after catching the eye of judge Jim Ford in the showing on Sunday, was purchased by Seafield Pedigrees Ltd in Redditch.



Blelack Prince Cooper U938



HW Barberesco U549

8,500gns was paid for two bulls, the first being WD Allen's overall reserve champion and class winner Stouphill Maximus Pride U238, a Duncanziemere Jigsaw son by Stouphill Marsala Princess. This impressive May 2019-born bull is on its way to WAL Lawson of the Scotsmill Herd from Alford in Aberdeenshire. 8,500gns was also paid for Martin McCornick's McCornick Florida U540 who was fourth in a large class at RHS 2019 and first in class at Sunday's show. Florida is sired by Skaild Dino and out of McCornick Fleur and was sold to Mitchell & Sons Ltd of Douglas, Lanark.



Stouphill Maximus Pride U238



McCornick Florida U540

Logie Defence U836 of AJR Farms Ltd was next best, selling for 8,000gns to Ross-shire-based breeder CW Brooke. Sired by Rawburn Enoch and out of Logie Delia, this one is a full brother to Logie Defiance T774 who was junior champion and reserve overall at Stirling in February 2019.



Logie Defence U836

In the female section of the sale, 15 females sold to an average of £2,307 with a top price of 3,100gns. The top price was paid for the female champion Tonley Eyrie U520, by Tonley Emperor and out of namesake Tonley Eyrie R179.



Tonley Eyrie U520

Results from the showing:



Overall champion

McCornick Pathfinder U465 - Martin McCornick



Overall reserve

Stouphill Maximus Pride U238 - W D Allen



Junior champion

HW Black Barberesco U459
Highland Wagyu



Junior reserve

Blelack Lord Hugo U941
N F Massie



Senior champion

Gretnahouse Black Bomb U999
Alasdair Houston



Senior reserve

Deveron Endurance U609
Hamish Sclater



Female champion

Tonley Eyrie U520
Neil Wattie

Female reserve

Duncanziemere Proud Ilena
U285 - A Clark and Sons

Intermediate champion

McCornick Pathfinder U465
Martin McCornick

Intermediate reserve

Stouphill Maximus Pride
U238 - W D Allen



Best pair of bulls

Blelack



Best group of three

Stouphill



Best group of four bulls

Blelack



Best group of five

Stouphill

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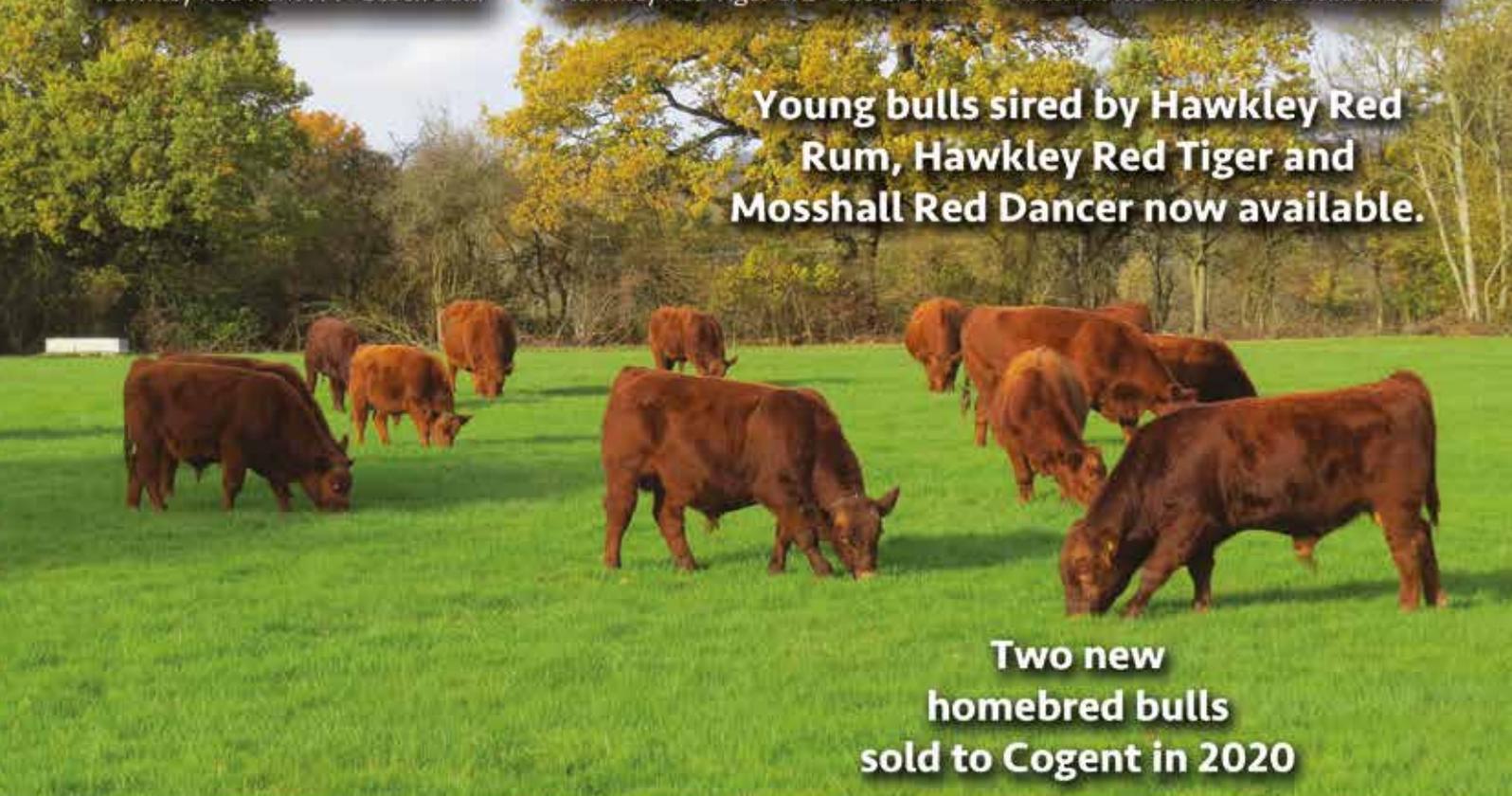


Hawkley Red Tiger 872 - Stock bull.



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Wigtownshire DG8 0DB

Martin: 01671 830 226
07787 393 377

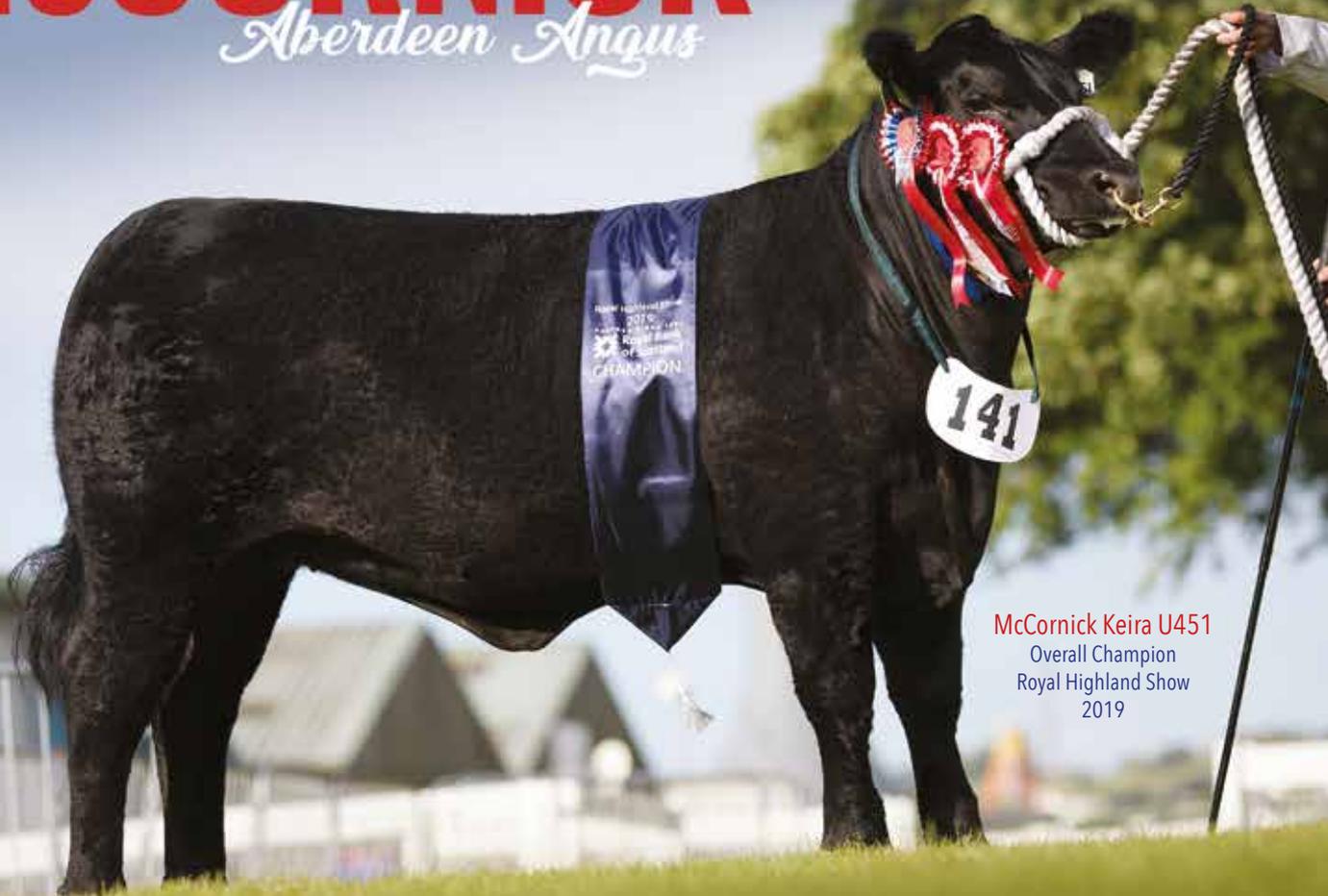
Gemma: 07748 010 302

m.mccornick@btinternet.com

 McCornick Pedigree Livestock

McCORNICK

Aberdeen Angus



McCornick Keira U451
Overall Champion
Royal Highland Show
2019

All sired by Skaili Dino P099



McCornick Pathfinder U465
Overall Champion Stirling February 2020
7,500 gns



McCornick Florida U540
1st prize Stirling February 2020
8,500 gns



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Dungannon Sale Report

DARTREY HERD LEADS DUNGANNON ABERDEEN-ANGUS TRADE AT 2,600GNS

A small entry of Aberdeen-Angus bulls sold to a top of 2,600gns at the native breeds sale with a 57% clearance rate, hosted by Dungannon Farmers' Mart on Tuesday 1st December 2020.

Sale leader was the 21-month-old Dartrey Ebenetze V237 TSI+30 SRI+40, bred by Hylda Mills and Brian Johnston, who run 35 pedigree cows at Scarva, County Down. Bred from the Logie Lustre F473 daughter Dartrey Esme N134, he was sired by the home-bred Dartrey Elliott S467, crowned best stock bull in the NI Aberdeen-Angus Club's 2020 herd competition.

Displaying great presence and conformation, he caught the eye of suckler herd owner Sarah Conn from Magilligan, County Londonderry.

Second highest bid of the day 2,500gns was paid to Richard and Fiona, McKeown, Templepatrick, for the June 2019 Ashvale Monty V134. He was sired by the Nethererton Mr Brazilian E377 son Ashvale Lord Jasper T285 and is out of Ashvale Millie T215. The buyer was Daniel Campbell from Lurgan, County Armagh.

Following close behind at 2,400gns, was the February 2019 Ember Proud Kuga V531 TSI+33 SRI+45, bred by Freddie Davidson, Banbridge. Sired by Cheeklaw Edgar R515, his dam is the Nightingale Dunbar K551 daughter Drumcrow Karla – one of 16 cows in the herd. The buyer was dairy farmer Fred Burrows from Castlecaulfield, County Tyrone, who has been using Aberdeen-Angus stock bulls in his 60-cow herd for over 15 years.

Robin Lamb, and sons Stuart, Ben and Peter from Richhill, County

Armagh, realised 2,200gns for the March 2019 Richhill Electro V281 TSI+35 SRI+48. He was sired by the 40-cow herd's stock bull Weeton King Lear R452, and is bred from the Friarstown Prairie Chief M228 daughter Richhill Ellen Erica R845. The buyer was dairy herd owner Seamus McQuaid from Trillick, County Tyrone.

Females sold to 2,000gns, paid to Kevin McOscar, Cookstown, County Tyrone, for the July 2018 Island Farm Esmeralda U445. Sired by Balmachie Lord Jock R198, she was bred from Cheeklaw Ellon L385. Included in the price was her September born Belack Lord Handsome L739 heifer calf.

Average: Four bulls £2,564



Freddie Davidson, Banbridge, realised 2,400gns for Ember Proud Kuga V531. Included is buyer Fred Burrows, Castlecaulfield



Top price of 2,600gns went to Dartrey Ebenetze V237 exhibited by Brian Johnston, Scarva



Richhill Electro V282 sold at 2,200gns for Robin Lamb, Richhill



Robin Lamb and son Peter, Richhill, pictured at the native breeds sale in Dungannon with their Aberdeen-Angus bull Richhill Electro V282



Top price Aberdeen-Angus bull at the native breeds sale in Dungannon was Dartrey Ebenetze V237 exhibited by Brian Johnston, Scarva



4000gns Airedale Kylie
R406 & calf at foot,
Airedale Kingston W696

Airedale Herd Dominates Annual CCM Skipton Aberdeen-Angus Female Sale

The Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society's third annual autumn sale-only of pedigree females at Skipton Auction Mart was held on Wednesday 11th November 2020, which was dominated by the local Airedale herd of South Craven father and son breeders, David and Josh Isherwood, of Lane Bridge Farm, Kildwick.

Their annual herd reduction sale was responsible for all but two of the total turnout of 39 head, the majority of which found new homes and claimed the two leading prices of 4,200gns and 4,000gns.

The 4,200gns top call fell to their February 2017 born, Airedale Miss Essence T501, by the Carrington Park Time On B7 (AI) (IMP) son, Weeton Lord Horatio M357 (ET), out of Lockerley Legolas G850 sired cow Rawburn Miss Essence J051 (ET). Five months in-calf to Shadwell Evolution T503, she travelled north of the border to Dumfries to join the Abbey herd of Messers Burgess, who took home three in total.

Messers Burgess had travelled down with near neighbour Donald Graham, who runs the Carruthers Angus herd at Corrie, Lockerbie, who didn't make the return journey empty handed, when also adding three from the Airedale offering. Another well-known Scottish breeder, Mark Wattie, who runs the Tonley herd near Alford in Aberdeenshire, was also among the purchasers.

Back at the top end, making 4,000gns was Airedale Kylie R406, a five-year-old daughter of Rawburn Ernst M552, also of Lockerley Legolas G850, out of the Bleblack Duke J262 (ET) daughter, Oak Moor Kylie M157. She sold with her third calf at foot, an August 2020 born Airedale Lord Sinden T542 son, the outfit joined RA Nicholson in Brandesburton in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

The Isherwood's sold other lots at 3,600gns, 3,200gns and 3,000gns, with their 37-strong consignment – just three returned home – achieving an overall selling average of £2,100 per head. Seventeen in-calf heifers themselves averaged £2,563, while nine cow and calf outfits, two with twin calves, averaged £2,158.

David Isherwood explained, "As we have done in the past, the cows offered for sale gave prospective buyers the opportunity to acquire some of our best genetics – healthy cows of good breeding and great temperament."

The Isherwood's, who farm 117 acres of meadow and pasture land alongside the River Aire, established their award-winning Airedale herd in 2013, to give added prestige and stature to the combined farming and butchery operation – son Josh heads-up Isherwood's Butchers in Silsden, founded in 1987 and now the town's last remaining traditional family-run butcher. Aberdeen-Angus meat from the herd continues to be in big demand at the Kirkgate shop.



4,200gns Airedale Miss Essence T501

Dr William and Mrs Margaret Taylor, who run the Crook Hill Aberdeen-Angus herd in Stocksfield, Northumberland, made 2,200gns with their single entry, Crook Hill Miss Bishampton U019, a June 2018, daughter of Ardrossan Admiral A2 (AI) (IMP) and out of Liley Miss Bishampton L007, who is by Nightingale Poundman C183 (ET). Scanned in-calf to Rawburn Makka Pakka R076, she remains in North Yorkshire where she joins the Yearsley herd of husband and wife, Adrian and Penny Johnson, from Brandsby, who were responsible for the 2,600gns top price performer at last year's Skipton breed highlight.

The new 'normal' was very much the case at the Aberdeen-Angus fixture, with a socially-distanced group of buyers in the sale ring and a large amount of bidders and interested parties tuned in on the internet, which produced bids and several sales.

Averages showed an extremely healthy across-the-board increase on the year, with cows and calves levelling at £3,255 (2019 £1,512), in-calf cows £2,562 (2019 £2,021) and heifers £2,310 (2019 £1,176).

Prices

Lot 51 – CROOK HILL MISS BISHAMPTON U019 – 2,200gns

Lot 59 – AIREDALE KIRSI S443 – 2,200gns

Lot 61 – AIREDALE KYLIE R406 – 4,000gns

Lot 63 – AIREDALE EVITA P333 – 3,000gns

Lot 64 – AIREDALE EVANO W697 – 3,000gns

Lot 65 – AIREDALE LADY SANDRA P335 – 2,900gns

Lot 67 – AIREDALE KINANNIE P331 – 3,600gns

Lot 72 – AIREDALE KATE P327 – 2,800gns

Lot 74 – AIREDALE GERTIE T517 – 1,900gns

Lot 75 – AIREDALE KITTIE T518 – 1,800gns

Lot 76 – AIREDALE PRAIRIE T514 – 2,100gns

Lot 77 – AIREDALE ELIZA S424 – 1,400gns

Lot 78 – AIREDALE MINUET BELLE S426 – 1,900gns

Lot 79 – AIREDALE MISS ESSENCE T501 – 4,200gns

Lot 80 – AIREDALE EARLY BIRD S460 – 2,300gns

Lot 81 – AIREDALE PRINCESS CAROLINE S427 – 2,200gns

Lot 82 – AIREDALE KATE S452 (ET) – 2,900gns

Lot 83 – AIREDALE KITT S435 (ET) – 1,900gns

Lot 84 – AIREDALE LADY SANDRA S456 – 2,200gns

Lot 85 – AIREDALE MISS ESSENCE S421 – 2,500gns

Lot 86 – AIREDALE ELLIE S422 – 2,600gns

Lot 87 – AIREDALE ELIZA T502 – 3,200gns

Lot 88 – AIREDALE KITT S442 – 2,200gns

Lot 89 – AIREDALE ROSEBUD T521 (ET) – 3,200gns

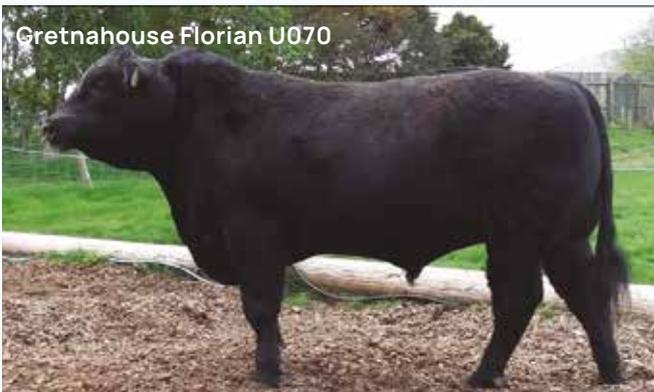
Lot 90 – WEETON MISS ESSENCE R456 – 3,000gns

Tonley Juno Eric U552 Tops H&H Online Timed Auction at £8,000

Tonley Juno Eric U552



Gretnahouse Florian U070



The Annual Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society Spring Sale at Carlisle was held in the form of an Online Timed Auction, commencing on Friday 8th May and reaching its conclusion on Tuesday 12th May. A total of 18 bulls were sold, achieving a pleasing average of £3,944 given the current circumstances.

Topping the sale at £8,000 was Tonley Juno Eric U552, from Neil Wattie's Aberdeenshire-based herd. Juno Eric was sired by Blelack Evor H929 and out of Tonley Julie Erica J604. He has found his new home with Messrs Weir from Stow, Galashields.

Alasdair Houston's Gretnahouse Florian U070 sold for the next best price of £7,000. Sired by 18,000gns Haymount Precursor and out of Gretnahouse Fleur, Florian was purchased by Messrs Gardiner, Lyne of Skene, Aberdeenshire.

Two bulls sold for £5,400, the first of these was Angus Neish's Rodmead Lord Haka U052. Lord Haka was sired by Gretnahouse Blacksmith L500 and out of Blelack Lady Heather L697. He was purchased by Messrs Procter, Grange over Sands, Cumbria.

Roscoe Easy Rider U207 from Midlothian-based Ross Farm Co Ltd, was the other bull to sell for £5,400. Sired by Roscoe Mount Everest S818, he was out of Roscoe Equidora R662, whose first bull calf sold for 5,000gns in this sale last year. The successful bidder on this occasion was Messrs Cheesebrough from Newcastle-Upon-Tyne.

At £5,000 was Messrs Arnott's Haymount Empire U905, sired by Blelack Prince Camelot N193 and out of Haymount Erarla M325, a daughter of 10,000gns Blelack Prince Carl. Empire was purchased by Messrs Smyth from Crocketford, Dumfries.

Well done to all sellers and buyers in these uncertain times, and to H&H for making the online timed sale such a success.



Roscoe Easy Rider U207



Haymount Empire U905

Glenade



Aberdeen-Angus

*Exportable Embryos
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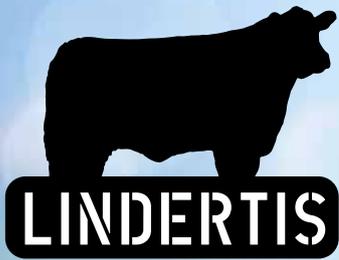
GLENADE
Ellen Erica
W528
*Pictured at
seven-months-old*

ELITE HEALTH STATUS
Accredited free of IBR, BVD, Lepto, Johnes 1, TB4.

GLENADE

PINNER PARK FARM, GEORGE V AVENUE, PINNER, MIDDLEDSEX, HA5 4SU
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Rawburn Jingo Eric T595
Senior Herd Sire

Lindertis Torquil V453
Junior Herd Sire for 2021

Bleack Blackbird J313
Foundation Female

Bleack Lady Heather L692
Foundation Female

Bleack Top Lass R489
Foundation Female



Tom Hopkinson

T: 07793011448 E: tom@anguslimestores.co.uk

design
MacGregor
PHOTOGRAPHY



Crook Hill Mr Bishampton V026

Crook Hill Mr Bishampton V026 Tops Carlisle Aberdeen-Angus Sale

A small but quality offering of Aberdeen-Angus bulls saw a high of 3,000gns at H&H, Carlisle Autumn Pedigree Bull Sale on Friday 2nd October 2020, with two bulls finding new homes to average £3,045 with a 50% clearance.

The top price bull on the day was April 2019 born bull Crook Hill Mr Bishampton V026 from Dr William & Margaret Taylor. Mr Bishampton is out of homebred cow Crook Hill Miss Bishampton T014 and by the famous Australian sire Te Mania Berkley B1 (AI) (IMP).

Following closely behind was Christopher D Timm, with his April 2019 born bull Wensleydale Jedi Eric V130 which sold for 2,800gns. Jedi Eric is out of homebred cow Wensleydale Janet Erica S046 and by

Netherallan Peter Pershore E052 (ET) son, Bleack Ensign L796 (ET).

It was a very different place to the normal sale days, with strict protocols in place to keep people distanced at

two meters. A quiet sale ring with only buyers in attendance saw through the lots of bulls in quite a surreal environment, but given everything that is going on, it was a welcome return to the live sale ring for pedigree cattle.



Wensleydale Jedi Eric V130

A Top Price of 10,000gns at the October Stirling Aberdeen-Angus Sale



The autumn sale of Aberdeen-Angus bulls and females took place on Saturday 17th October 2020, where the Aberdeen-Angus sold to a top price of 10,000gns. The sale saw a 66% clearance rate and reached with 40 bulls sold through the sale ring, selling to an average of £5,051, which is £455 up on the October 2019 sale.

United Auctions held the October fixture of the world-famous bull sales under strict COVID-19 restrictions, which included the cancellation of the pre-sale show, and a requirement for buyers to sit at least two metres apart in the sale ring, and for everyone to wear facemasks at all times.

Leading the trade at 10,000gns was Ettrick Batman V227 from Firm of G Gray. The April 2019 born bull is a son out of homebred cow Ettrick Bella N122 and by Linton Gilbertines President S021, who was Champion at the October bull sale 2017 and was jointly purchased for 17,000gns with Keirsbeath Aberdeen-Angus. Batman was purchased by A M & C Ewen, Meikle Toux, Cornhill, Banff.

The next highest price in the ring was Foxhill Dominator V185 (ET) from Mr & Mrs M Alford who sold to A J & W M Norrie, Wrae Farm, Turriff for 9,000gns. Dominator is a March 2019 born bull from the Foxhill herd and is by the famous Gretnahouse

Blacksmith L500 and out of Weeton Diamond Mist N383 who was purchased at the 2015 Weeton sale for 7,500gns.

Following closely behind was Mr Johnathan & Mrs Lisa Doyle, with Drumhill Exeter V105 (ET) who was purchased by M Sheahan, Luddenmore, Ireland for 8,500gns. Exeter is a 2019 January born bull by homebred bull Drumhill Lord Hatfield R532 and out of homebred cow Drumhill Evora P101.

Selling for 7,500gns was Ballindalloch Mr Peanut V561 from Ballindalloch Home Farms who was purchased by A Grant, Middlefield, Forres. Mr Peanut is a March 2019 born bull out of homebred cow Ballindalloch Miss Primrose R467 and by Wedderlie Timaru M595 (ET) who was purchased privately from Wedderlie in 2017.

Stephick Ezra V561 (ET) from Stephanie Dick sells for 6,800gns to J King, South Hill of Drips, Thorntonhall, Glasgow. Ezra is a January 2019 born bull which is by the 14,000gns Weeton Diamond Mine P444 and out of Weeton Evora P439 (ET) who was purchased for 4,200gns at the 2015 Weeton reduction sale. Ezra was Junior Male Champion at the Stars of the Future calf show as well as Junior Male Champion at the Black Beauty Bonanza in 2019.

Following closely behind was Foxhill Dictator V186 (ET) who is a full brother to the 9,000gns Foxhill Dominator V185 (ET). Dictator sold for 6,400gns to Liam Muir, Upper Onston, Stenness, Orkney. The full brothers have a combination of blood lines from North America and the UK.

Selling for 6,200gns was Roscoe Big Man V716 from Ross Farm, Big Man was purchased by Messers Ewing, Dumbretton Farm, Annan, Dumfries. Big Man is sired by Netherton Kentucky L596 and out of Schivas Beautiful Maid P255 who was purchased for 3,500gns in 2018 at the Schivas dispersal.

Five lots made 5,500gns. The first, selling to Easter Tulloch Farms near Laurencekirk, was December 2018 born Tonley Lord Hoffman U588 (ET), by Blelack Duke J262 (ET) from the Wattie family at Mains of Tonley.

The McCombies at Auchincrieve, Rothiemay, also made 5,500gns when they sold Auchincrieve Jekyll Eric V454 to Jim Innes, Dunscoft, Huntly. He is a March 2019 born son of Blelack Lord Hermes S765.

The Massie family from Blelack also made 5,500gns selling Blelack Impeccable V961 to Gellan Farms, Coul, Aboyne. He is an April 2019 born son of Weeton Evolution R447.

The last lot at 5,500gns, sold to Messers Sinclair in Orkney was Logan Bar Emperor V231 from Dunblane breeder Murray Lyle. He is an 18-month-old son of Wedderlie Kenyon N863.

In the female section, Gordon Duchess U236, an in-calf heifer from the Trustees of the Late Gordon Brooke sold for 4,000gns. Duchess is by Balmachie Jack Eric R206 and in-calf to Rawburn Java Eric T567. She sold to John McWibbin in Co Down, Northern Ireland.

The sale also included the dispersal of the Weeton herd of Lancashire breeder John Loftus and a major reduction of the Brewis family's Eastfield herd based near Kelso.

The Weeton dispersal topped at 11,000gns for a three-year-old in-calf cow Weeton Laura T509 (ET) who is by Bleack Duke J262 and out of Haughton Laura L026. Weeton Laura T509 (ET) and her May born bull calf – Weeton Landlord W120 sold to Richard & Carol Rettie, Craigend Farm, Methven, Perth.

The Eastfield herd reduction sale topped 5,200gns for seven-year-old cow Eastfield Jenny N500 by Rawburn Edge J983 and her March born heifer calf Eastfield Jenny W457 which is by Linton Gilbertines Elgin T149. The pair sold to the McCornick family for their McCornick herd in Dumfries.



Eastfield Jenny N500
Eastfield Jenny W457

Averages:

Bulls: 40 sold – average £5,051

Females: 4 sold – average £2,572.50

1 cow & calf: – average £4,000

Weeton:

Cows & calves: 10 sold
average £4,137

Cows: 6 sold – average £4,112.50

Heifers: 7 sold – average £3,285

Heifer calves: 6 sold
average £2,940

Bull calves: 2 sold – average £1,680

Young bulls: 5 sold – average £2,478

Eastfield:

Cows & calves: 16 sold
average £3,878.44

Cows: 2 sold – average £2,677.50

In-calf heifers: 2 sold
average £4,095

Maiden heifers: 9 sold
average £2,788.33



Weeton Landlord W120



Weeton Laura T509 (ET)



Foxhill Dominator



Foxhill Dictator



Stephick Ezra



Ettrick Batman V227



Roscoe Big Man



Drumhill Exeter



Ballindalloch Mr Peanut

OLD GLENORT ANGUS



UK9 041700 0924-6

Old Glenort Ethan S246

Sire: The Moss Quebec K027

Dam: Old Glenort Edwina J245



UK 521115 703898

Blelack Dakota U898

Sire: Netherallan Peter Pershore E052

Dam: Oakchurch Darlene E020



UK9 041700 1128-7 (Picture taken at 7 months)

Old Glenort Earl W287

Sire: Old Glenort Ethan S246

Dam: Old Glenort Edwina T692

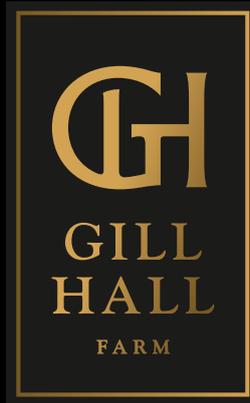


UK9 041700 1119-5 (Picture taken at 7 months)

Old Glenort Elf W195

Sire: Bruno of Spittal Shore

Dam: Old Glenort Edwina T747



James Porter
028 9260 7333

james@gillhallestate.co.uk
www.gillhallestate.co.uk



UK9 041700 0576-1

Old Glenort Kim K761

Sire: Netherton Fleur's Legacy F390
Dam: Netherton Kim C276



UK9 042012 0624-2

Old Glenort Jewel Erica T242

Sire: Houghton Levi P105
Dam: Cardona Juwiot Erica E350



UK9 041700 1071-6 (Picture taken at 16 months)

Old Glenort Pepsi V716

Sire: Carlhurlie Gentilex S124
Dam: Old Glenort Poppy R117



UK9 041700 0866-4

Old Glenort Evon R664

Sire: The Moss Quebec K027
Dam: Cardona Evon J642

Top call of 4,200gns at the 2020 Thainstone Spring Show and Sale



The annual Spring Show and Sale at Thainstone Agricultural Centre took place on 26th February 2020, with 10 out of 16 Aberdeen-Angus bulls selling to an average of £3,108 on what was a reasonable day of trade up north.

Topping the sale at 4,200gns was Wrae Birthday Bollinger U361 of AJ & WM Norrie of Wrae Farm in Turriff. This one is by Haymount Wivesso and out of Wrae Bonny Babs, and was purchased by A & C Watson of Stonehaven. Next best at 3,800gns in the sale ring, was Tynet Phoenix U040 of H Thomson from Tynet Farm in Buckie, by Warrenho Dalmigavie out of Fearn Abbey Poppy. Phoenix was purchased by Gellan Farms of Coull, Aboyne.

Birkenbower Flynn U518, a Casino Buffon son out of Coreen Flavia, sold to Miller of Ackergill from G & R Miller of Huntly for 3,500gns in the next best price from the ring on the day. Following at 3,200gns was Foggie Enzo U225 of Karl Scott's Foggie Herd in Turriff. Enxo is out of Culrain Evelyn by Blelack Kanny Lad and is headed for Orkney with JS & HM Ham.

Reaching a price of 2,900gns was Blelack Box Set U944 of Messrs Neil Massie's Blelack Herd in Aboyne. Box Set is a Tonley Jester Eric son out of Blelack Beautiful Lady and was purchased by A & C Watson of Stonehaven. Two then followed at 2,500gns, first being Neil Wattie's Tonley Everest U481. This one is by Blelack Evermore out of Tonley Equidora and was purchased by J Watson of Fraserburgh on the day. At the same money was Logie Bonanza U794 of AJR Farms in Aberdeenshire. Bonanza is a son of Rawburn Enoch out of Logie Brunette and was purchased by Oosterhof & Co of Corsekelly Farm in Fraserburgh.

2,100gns was then paid for two bulls, the first, Neil Massie's Morven Edison U023, sired by Fordel Proud Foremarke and out of Morven Edwina. Edison was purchased by JB McIntosh of Goval Farm in Aberdeen. Following at the same money was Tynet Frank Thetank U049 (ET) of H Thomson in Buckie. This one is a Gretnahouse Blackpot son by Raethorn Frances and was sold to Forge Fish F in Huntly.

The show results from the event were as follows:

Champion
LOGIE BONANZA U794 - AJR FARMS

Reserve Champion
FOGGIE ESPEN U232 - KARL SCOTT

Class 8 - Aberdeen-Angus born on or after 5th February 2018 and before 17th April 2018

1st - LOGIE BONANZA U794
AJR FARMS

2nd - ORBLISTON RIGSBY U165
FIRM OF A M SHEPHERD

3rd - FOGGIE ENZO U225 -
KARL SCOTT

4th - BIRKENBOWER FLYNN U518
MESSRS G & R MILLER

Class 9 - Aberdeen-Angus Bulls born on or after 17th April 2018

1st - FOGGIE ESPEN U232
KARL SCOTT

2nd - TONLEY ELGLOSS U534
NEIL A WATTIE ESQ

3rd - WRAE BIRTHDAY BOLLINGER U361
ALEXANDER J NORRIE

4th - BLELACK BOX SET U944
MESSRS N F MASSIE & SONS





Royal Ulster Premier Beef & Lamb Championships 2020

At the recent Royal Ulster Agriculture Society Beef & Lamb Championships, Aberdeen-Angus were on a high with the Native Championship going to Mr Richard Law from Ballinamallard. This fantastic animal also received the title of Champion Aberdeen-Angus earlier in the day. Richard Law is pictured alongside Richard Primrose, Bank of Ireland. On the night, Stephen Millar from Millar Meats in Irvinestown purchased this fantastic animal for £2,700.

The Reserve Champion Aberdeen-Angus at the 2020 Royal Ulster Premier Beef & Lamb Championships was awarded to D & A McCrea from Strabane. Pictured is Alan McCrea receiving his award from Richard Primrose, Bank of Ireland. This animal was purchased by Omagh Meats for £2,200.

In the Ulster Housewife's section, the Reserve Ulster Housewife's Champion was an Aberdeen-Angus sired heifer exhibited by Jack Smyth from Newtownstewart. Jack Smyth is pictured alongside Richard Primrose, BOI Agri Manager. On the night, this superb animal was purchased by Stephen Millar from Millar Meats, Irvinestown for £2,400.



Reserve Champion AA



Reserve Housewife's Champion

THE NORBRECK HERD MATRIARCH

FERNHILL PAMMY M823

Sire: Netherallan Peter Pershore E052

Dam: Netherton Pam C231



MacG
Sep '19

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We have for sale AI straws for Wildfell Perseus T099 and Fordel Black Moonshine R095.

We have young bulls for sale.



Wildfell Perseus, home bred junior stock bull

Our stock bulls are:

Wildfell Perseus T099
Fordel Proud Fanfare R180
Fordel Black Moonshine R095
Wildfell Eric R006



Oakchurch Dynamite, senior stock bull

Oakchurch Dynamite R222

Recent AI sires are:

Te Mania Berkley B1(AI)(IMP)
Tuwharetoa Regent D145 (AI)(IMP)
Quaker Hill Blindside SGR (AI)(IMP)

United Auctions September Female Sale

Our CEO, Barrie Turner went to the United Auctions, Stirling centre on Saturday 12th of September to the sale of pedigree females, it was a very different place to the normal sale days with strict protocols in place to keep people distanced at two meters with facemasks being worn at all times. A quiet sale ring with approved registered buyers only in attendance saw through the nine lots in quite a surreal environment but at least it was a return to the live sale ring for pedigree cattle.

Two consignees had lots entered, four females from the Threeburnford herd of Aberdeen-Angus from Angus and Patricia Glennie due to calve in November/December and five cow and calf units from the Scotsmill Aberdeen-Angus herd from Willie Lawson.

Threeburnford Bella R616, a five-year-old cow by Skail Elvis N856 went to a top price of 1320 guineas.

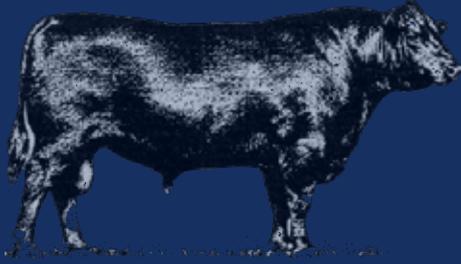
Two cow and calf units went to a joint top price for Scotsmill Maggie Princess P415 and Scotsmill Pink Peony R564 of 2400 guineas both six-year-old cows both sired by Belhaven Rhetorical H065 (ET) with strong bull calves at foot.

Barrie Tuner warned vendors and buyers that they should be prepared for a very different bull sale in October but as above stated we are back in the sale ring with live sales. The UA staff were policing the social distancing measures very strongly as if they are compromised this could lead to the marts having to have further sanctions to their activities which will affect the functionality of the whole agricultural economy.

BOOK YOUR SPACE NOW!

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For further information about club activities, please contact: -

Chairman: Colin Montgomery – 07885 515172

Secretary: Shona Andrew – 07912 783719



Shadwell Black Broughton K485

THE ABERDEEN-ANGUS CHAMPION OF THE DECADE!

Back in April 2020, The Scottish Farmer published the Aberdeen-Angus Champions of the Decade, giving readers the chance to vote for their chosen Champion from the last 10 years.

The votes were counted and the three Champions with the most votes were put forward to the Society's selected judge, Alasdair Houston, from Gretnahouse.

Alasdair chose the 2015 Champion – SHADWELL BLACK BROUGHTON K485 from Messers F J Fraser & Son, Idvies.

Alasdair provided some reasons for his Champion:

"The final three animals forward for the Champion of the Decade are all fine animals. That said, I have no hesitation in awarding the accolade to the Senior Bull who is an outstanding specimen in any breed. He displays great presence, outlook and character. Despite being in full show condition, he is clean through the brisket, powerful and masculine without being coarse. He has a well-set shoulder, setting off a good spring of rib, a long level meaty top line and a balanced underline, with good body volume for forage conversion without being wasteful. His tail head is well set into a round and well-muscled hind end and full flank. I like his strong flat bone and his stance on well angled, and robust pastern and hock. The debate about optimum size is a perennial debate at shows in all breeds and this is undoubtedly a large frame size bull. As a show specimen he is hard to fault and is in my view a worthy winner."

During Shadwell Black Broughton K485 show outings for Idvies he achieved:

- Male Champion, Overall Supreme & Interbreed Champion at the Kirriemuir Show 2014
- Male Champion, Overall Supreme Champion & Interbreed Champion at the Royal Highland Show 2015

- Male Champion & Overall Supreme at the Aberdeen Angus Summer National Show – Kelso 2015
- Also voted Angus Breeder Champion of Europe

Shadwell Black Broughton K485 bred the following breed champions:

- A Stirling October Bull Sale Senior & Reserve Overall Champion

- A Stirling February Bull Sale Reserve Senior Champion
- A Stirling May Bull Sales Supreme Champion

Along with many other prize-winning stock, Broughton was a well admired bull during the World Angus Forum 2017 leaving some super maternal females.

Thank you to The Scottish Farmer for organising a great competition which was enjoyed by many.

STRATHGLASS

ABERDEEN - ANGUS

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Strathglass Denzel S653



Strathglass Jackson Eric V831

The farm is situated in Strathglass, below the hills of Glen Affric, Beauly. It is permanent grassland, the cattle live outside all year round and are wintered on silage.



Strathglass Erica T674 and Strathglass Erica W931
Picture taken 30/05/20



Strathglass Erica T674 and Strathglass Erica W931
Picture taken 02/10/20

For further info please contact **Sheena Thomson 07801353819** | **Murray Harper 07842122063**
strathglassfarms@btinternet.com | Strathglass Farms, Mid Crochail, Strathglass by Beauly, IV4 7NE

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After 5 seasons we are offering Jetset for sale. He has been the most influential sire we have had at Easton Greys.

PROGENY SOLD IN 2020 INCLUDE:

- Easton Greys Fran U861 to the Foxley Wood herd.
- Easton Greys Leo V938 to the Nuthatch herd. (photographed right as a calf)



The Moss Echo Holly J851 one of our top breeding cow's several daughters retained.



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Breeding Success

Off Farm Sales

Thank you to all of our
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Introducing our new Herd Sire:
Weeton Lord Ross V521
(Gretna House Blacksmith L500
: Retties Lady Ruth P281)



Warrenho Dalmore V818
One from our exciting crop of
bulls for sale Spring 2021

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Sale To Be Held
In 2021*



Warrenho Frank V793
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Borderway Agri-Expo 2021

FRIDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2021

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THE HOME OF THE ABERDEEN-ANGUS WINTER NATIONAL SHOW



Female Champion 2019 Retties Lady Rose U033



Male Champion 2019 Duncanziemere Sportsman V307

Judge: Mathew Stoker from the Easton Grey Aberdeen-Angus Herd.

Entry forms will be available later on in the year by contacting Amy: amy@aberdeen-angus.co.uk

Classes may be amalgamated or split according to entries.

BULLS:

CLASS 1 YEARLING BULL

CLASS 1A – Born 1st January to 31st July 2020

CLASS 1B – Born 1st August to 31st December 2020

CLASS 2 BULL CALF

CLASS 2A – Born 1st January to 28th February 2021

CLASS 2B – Born 1st March to 31st March 2021

CLASS 2C – Born 1st April onwards 2021

FEMALES:

CLASS 3 HEIFER

Heifer born 1st January to 31st December 2019 with first natural calf at foot Calf to be born in 2021 and within 26 months of the date of birth of the dam

CLASS 4 HEIFER

CLASS 4A – Born 1st January to 31st July 2020

CLASS 4B – Born 1st August to 31st December 2020

CLASS 5 HEIFER CALF

CLASS 5A – Born 1st January to 28th February 2021

CLASS 5B – Born 1st March to 31st March 2021

CLASS 5C – Born 1st April onwards 2021

PAIRS:

CLASS 6 PAIR OF CALVES

One male and one female already shown in classes 2 & 5

*If less than 4 entries forward in any class prize money will be halved

TROPHIES:

GOLDOVERA S43 MEMORIAL: Calf Champion – classes 2 & 5

ARDGARTH TROPHY: Champion bull calf – class 2

EYNSHAM: Female Champion – classes 3, 4, & 5

WYCH CROSS: Best pair – class 6

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St Fort Pipe Major. Supreme Champion at AA society show & Sale – Carlisle. Oct 2018. Sire: Wedderlie Fantastic N820; Dam: St Fort Primula Mary F557

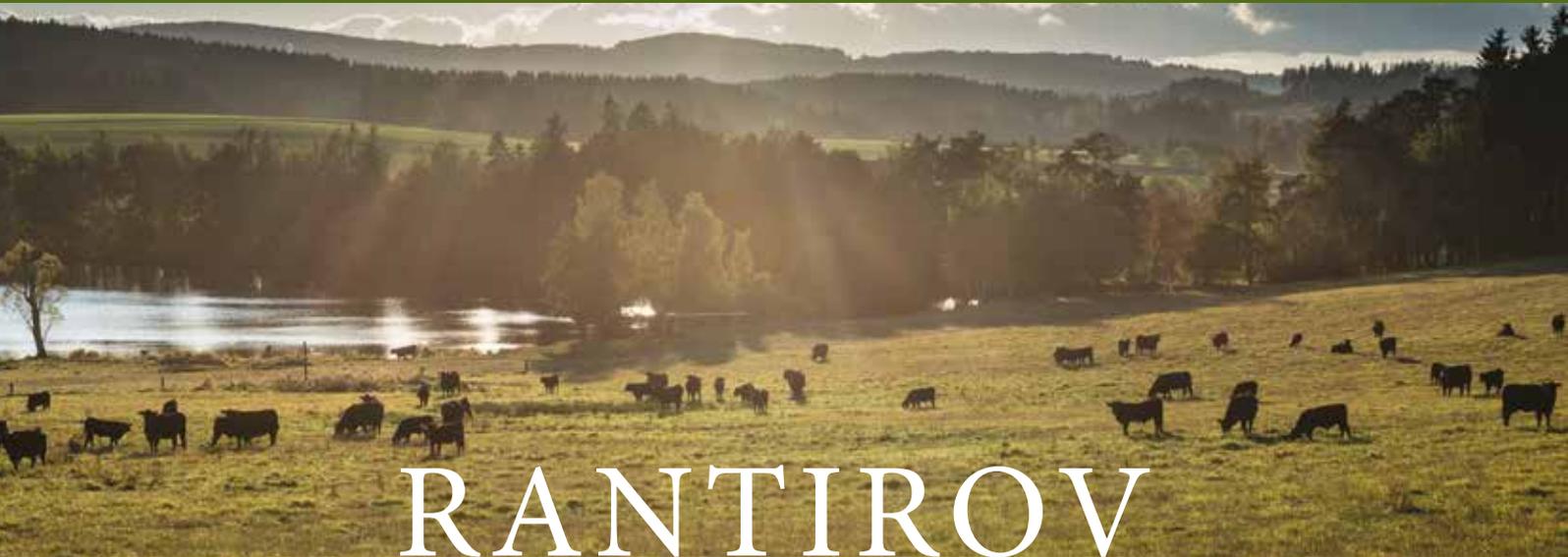


Dunlouse Einstein S625 at 13 months old. Sire: Generic of Cavan. Dam: Dunlouse Emma. Semen for sale – please contact A. Mylius or UK Sire Services

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Ireland Sales Reports

FIRST ABERDEEN-ANGUS BULL SALE OF 2020 TOPS AT €4,000

The first of the spring bull sales for 2020 in the Republic of Ireland took place at Carrick-On-Shannon, Co. Leitrim in early February. The sale attracted a large entry of 78 Aberdeen-Angus bulls, with Aberdeen-Angus heifers also included at the February sale for the first time in 2020 too. The sale also coincided with the arrival of Storm Ciara, but the inclement weather conditions didn't seem to deter customers with a clearance rate of just over 60% recorded in the sales ring, which was on par with last year and up from 50% in 2018.

The sale leader, Drumcarbin Richie, exhibited by Shane McKiernan, Lacken Lower, Ballinagh, Cavan, Co Cavan sold for €4,000. This November 2018 born bull carried a five star index for both terminal and replacement traits, and was awarded the reserve Aberdeen-Angus championship in the pre-sale

show. This one is sired by Netherton Americano M703 and is out of a homebred dam who is sired by Drumcarbin Black Magic N180.

Michael Kiernan, Augharan, Carrigallen, Co Leitrim claimed the second highest price of the day, selling his September 2018 born bull, Gallaway Richard for €3,300 whilst the oldest bull in the sale, the 24-month-old Lecarrow Rocky from Patrick Murphy, Puntabeg, Charlestown, Claremorris, Co Mayo sold for €3,000.

John McEnroe, Liss Oldcastle, Co Meath sold his third prize winner, Liss Mars U807 for €2,700. This 22-month-old bull is sired by Mogeely Lord Harrow M191 and is out of Liss Mirti P496 who is a daughter of The Moss Black Angus M150.

The day's supreme Aberdeen-Angus championship was awarded by show judge, Albert DeCogan of the Mogeely Aberdeen-Angus herd in Co Cork to Pat and Finbarr Cahill, Shankill

Lower, Cavan, Co Cavan with Shankill Manix U163. This five star terminal index bull was born in November 2018 and failed to reach his reserve in the sales ring and was unsold. The trophy for the Aberdeen-Angus championship, which dates back to the 1930's, was presented to Pat and Finbarr Cahill by Irish Aberdeen-Angus President, Mack Crowe, who was performing one of his last official presidential duties ahead of the end of his term as President later that same month.



Mack Crowe, President of the Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association presenting the supreme Aberdeen-Angus championship trophy to Pat & Finbarr Cahill

MARCH SALE HITS €3,250 AT CARRICK-ON-SHANNON

The second of five scheduled Spring sales at Carrick-On-Shannon, Co Leitrim recorded a 75% clearance rate in early March, with just a handful of bulls remaining unsold at the close of business. The very satisfactory clearance was on par with last year, with the average price jumping up by almost €100 in the last 12 months.

The sale leader came in the form of the FOUR star bull, Carrowboy Super, who was exhibited by Alan Gibbons, Coggle, Strokestown, Co Roscommon and sold for the day's top call of €3,250. This 13-month-old bull was also tapped out as reserve supreme Aberdeen-Angus champion under show judge Tom Mullaney.

The day's supreme Aberdeen-Angus championship was awarded to local exhibitors Joe and Cathal McCormack, Tulsk, Castlerea, Co Roscommon with their 18-month-old bull, Steil Rebel 381 who sold for the day's second highest price of €3,000. This one is out of an Ayno Rossiter Eric B125 cow and carried a calving ease figure of just 0.8% as well as a five star replacement breeding index.

Gabriel Glynn, Simonstown, Coole, Mullingar, Co Westmeath sold Simonstown R Vadcar for €2,800. This 22-month-old bull is out of Simonstown Vine L522 and carried a five star terminal index too.

Also trading at €2,800 was Drumkielvey Money Bags U194 from Ernest Bohan, Drumkielvey, Mohill, Co Leitrim. This one took second prize in the pre-sale show and is sired by

the popular AI bull, Westellen Diego M734 and is out of a daughter of the three time All-Ireland Aberdeen-Angus Champion, Rosemead Karona J957. The Drumkielvey Aberdeen-Angus herd also sold the five star bull, Drumkielvey Maxi Burger U187 for €2,400.

The reigning supreme male champion from last October's National Aberdeen-Angus Calf Show, Clooncarne Rossiter from Tom Mulligan and family, Currycramp, Dromod, Co Leitrim sold for €2,650. This double five star index bull is sired by Westellen Diego M734 and boasts Bova Lord Blackwood H175, Lawsons Ford Bagatelle Z094 and Gigginstown Rolls Royce in his back pedigree. The Mulligan Family also sold another five star bull, Clooncarne Rivaldo for €2,400.



TOMRILAND ABERDEEN-ANGUS HERD WINS NATIONAL EUROSTAR COMPETITION



Louis Byrne, Annamoe, Bray, Co. Wicklow has been named as the winner of the FBD Eurostar €200 Pedigree Herd Competition, with his Tomriland Aberdeen-Angus Herd. The annual awards were presented by FBD in conjunction with ICBF at the ICBF & Sheep Ireland Genetics Conference, which took place at the Heritage Hotel, Co. Laois in January 2020.

A total of five awards were handed out on the night, all recognising genetic excellence in their respective fields and honoured recipients from pedigree and commercial beef herds, dairy herds and the ovine sectors. The pedigree beef competition was open to all pedigree beef herds in the country with the Tomriland Aberdeen-Angus herd seeing off tremendous competition to come out in pole position.

The Tomriland Aberdeen-Angus herd was founded in 1990 and is run by Louis, wife Chrissie, son Louis John (who operates the Castledarragh Aberdeen-Angus herd) and daughter Josephine, and their spouses Ann and Dermot and extended family of grandchildren. In addition to the FBD Eurostar €200 title, the herd has won several other major pedigree awards over recent years, including the 2017 Leinster Provincial Trophy and the 2018 Connaught/Leinster junior heifer calf championship.

The Tomriland herd was reduced significantly in Autumn 2019 with a reduction sale of heifers taking place at Carnew mart with a top price of €4,100 for an in-calf heifer being achieved on that occasion.

Louis also received the 2018 President's Medal from the Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association in recognition of his services to the breed and the Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association wish to congratulate Louis and all of his family on their latest national award.

ABERDEEN-ANGUS BULLS SELL TO €3,100 AT KILKENNY DESPITE CORONAVIRUS FEARS



The first of three scheduled sales to be held at Kilkenny went ahead as planned in mid-March, although the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the day's business from the outset. Mart management operated a strict admission policy on the day, with only buyers and sellers allowed access to the mart site, with no children permitted at all. The pre-sale judging was also cancelled in light of coronavirus concerns and mart staff enforced strict social distancing measures throughout the day's sale. As a result of all of this, the crowd was virtually non-existent, with even some of the exhibitors opting to stay away from the venue too. Few sales have ever been faced with such a myriad of complications and it was heartening to see the Aberdeen-Angus trade hold up so well, with a summary of the highest prices outlined below:

€3,100 to Kevin & Monica Diffley for Clooncolligan Rocky

€2,800 to Shane McKiernan for Drumcarbin Ronaldo

€2,700 to Frank & Margaret McKiernan for Drumcrow Remus

€2,700 to Nigel Peavoy for Coolrain Roger

€2,550 to John Farrell for Dillon Rufes

€2,550 to John Farrell for Dillon Rico

In total, 25 Aberdeen-Angus bulls (60% of the bulls offered) found new homes on the day, with the average price settling at €2,300.

FIRST ONLINE ABERDEEN-ANGUS SALE TOPS AT €3,200 TWICE

The Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association held its first ever online sale of pedigree Aberdeen-Angus bulls on the last Friday in April, with 44 bulls catalogued from all four provinces, including a small but select entry of bulls from Northern Ireland.

Denis Barrett Auctioneers conducted the sale with over 100 individual bidders registering in advance of the sale and a total of 300 people watching the sale unfold online. Of the 44 bulls catalogued, 13 bulls (or 30% of the total entry) sold privately off farm in advance of the sale, but that still left plenty of quality bulls to go under the hammer on the sale day itself, with a top call of €3,200 hit on two separate occasions.

The first bull to reach €3,200 came in the form the 20-month-old Drumcrow Proud Display U737 from Frank and Margaret McKiernan, Drumcrow, Corlismore, Co Cavan, who was knocked down at €3,200 to pedigree breeders Victor and Stephen Wallace of the Baronagh Aberdeen-Angus herd in Derry, Northern Ireland. This bull carried a four star replacement index and is bred from the Princess Zola cow family, with a calving figure of just 0.9% for beef cows.

The second bull to sell for €3,200 was Liss Mandrin V847 from John and Sean McEnroe, Liss, Oldcastle, Co Meath. This one was the reserve junior male champion at last year's Tullamore Show and is sired by herd stock sire Mogeely Lord Harrow M191 and is out of a cow from the well-known Miylo cow line at Liss. This bull was sold to pedigree breeder John Lynch of the Portauns Aberdeen-Angus herd in Co Limerick.

The McEnroe family went on to sell another three bulls during the course

of the online sale, with Liss Manly V862 selling for €3,000, Liss Dulbo V853 trading at €2,800 and Liss Mint V854 being knocked down at €2,100. The Liss Aberdeen-Angus herd sold four of their five entries on the day (to a very healthy average of €2,775) as well as jointly sharing in the day's top price too.

Rounding out the principal prices were Amanda Bogan and Conor Craig, Coolarty, Edgeworthstown, Co Longford who sold their 14-month-old bull, Millbawn Luigi V253 for €2,850. This bull boasted a five star terminal and five star replacement index with his dam, Millbawn Laura R218 winning many breed championships as a calf in 2016. Purchaser here was Brendan Plunkett from Kells in Co Meath.

Overall, the sale produced an average of €2,860 which was exceeded all expectations, especially in light of the fact that this was the first major online sale undertaken by any breed society since the COVID-19 pandemic hit earlier in the year. The Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association has always endeavoured to stay at the forefront of all the technological advancements of the day and it is hoped that the online sale went some way towards alleviating the disruption that COVID-19 has wrecked on the usual spring sale calendar.



Joint top priced bull, Drumcrow Proud Display U737



Joint top priced bull, Liss Mandrin V847



INAUGURAL ALL-STAR PEDIGREE BREEDER AWARDS

John McEnroe and family of the Liss Aberdeen-Angus herd, Oldcastle, Co Meath secured the Aberdeen-Angus prize at the recent All-Star Pedigree Breeder Awards hosted by the Pedigree Breeders' Association of Ireland (PBAI) in Portlaoise in February 2020.

This prize was claimed on the back of securing the All-Ireland Aberdeen-Angus championship last summer and is the latest in a long line of showing accolades for the Liss prefix. Their 2019 All-Ireland triumph, with stock bull Mogeely Dreamer T534 marked the fourth time the Liss Aberdeen-Angus herd has lifted the prestigious national Aberdeen-Angus trophy - with their previous win coming 21-years-ago.

The Liss Aberdeen-Angus herd was founded in the 1950's by John's late father, Bartle with the purchase of the pedigree Aberdeen-Angus

heifer, Diana of Lakeview and the herd has grown to 100 pedigree cows and followers presently.

Notable homebred animals who have achieved considerable show success over the years include Mirlo of Liss who won the All-Ireland Aberdeen-Angus championship for two years in succession and her daughter, Liss Miylo who very nearly emulated her dam's achievements, taking the reserve All-Ireland Aberdeen-Angus title. Liss Miylo G863 also comes from this same family line and won the ICBF performance award in more recent years.

John is also the President of the Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association and has judged extensively across Ireland and the UK and has officiated over the judging of some of the breed's most notable events such as the Royal Highland Show and the Carlisle bull sales.

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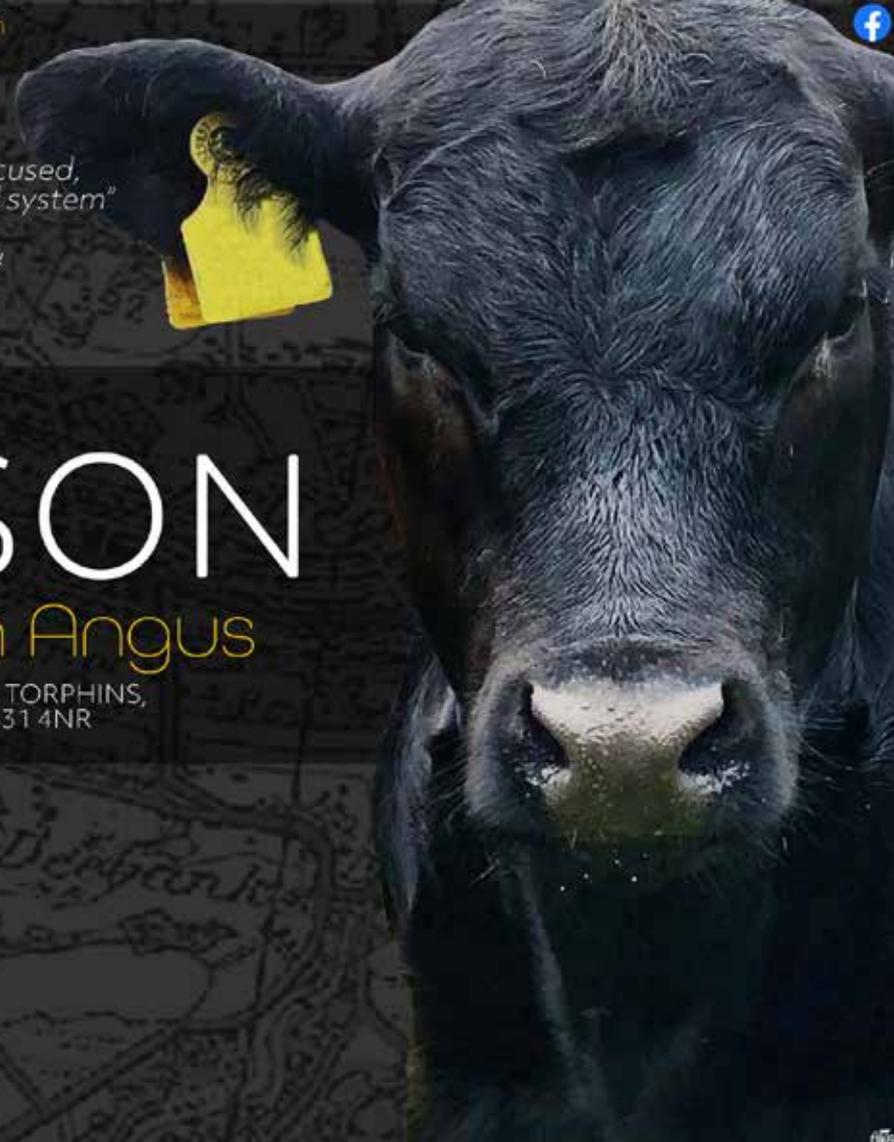
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MORPHEUS KODIAK

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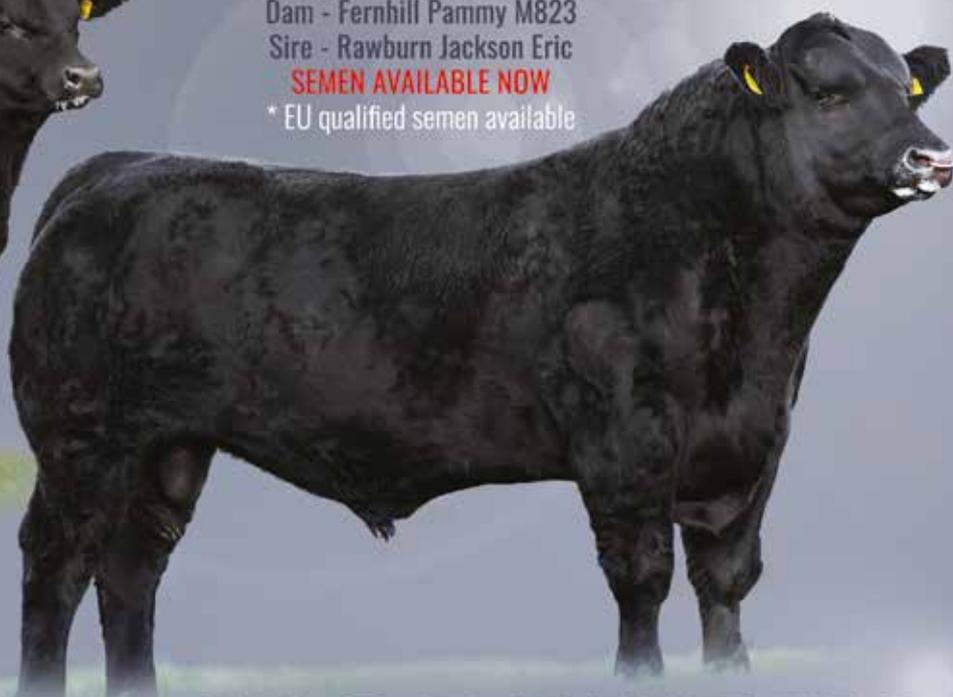
CHEERBROOK PROFIT V138

Dam - Fernhill Pammy M823

Sire - Rawburn Jackson Eric

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Male champion leads Dungannon Aberdeen-Angus entry at 5,200gns at February Show & Sale

There was a buoyant trade for quality Aberdeen-Angus bulls at the society's February Dungannon show and sale.

Prices soared to a top of 5,200gns, and following an 80% clearance auctioneer Trevor Wylie reported that 12 lots changed hands to average £3,167 – an increase of £122 on this time last year.

Breed society chief executive Barrie Turner, and newly elected president Alan Cheney from Trillick, County Tyrone, welcomed the steady trade.

"Today's sale reflects the growing demand for Aberdeen-Angus cattle. The brand is continuing to gain momentum, and is currently enjoying a strong position on the national and global markets.

"Aberdeen-Angus beef is recognised for its quality, taste and texture. The easy calving and early maturing Aberdeen-Angus ticks the boxes for both farmers and processors, as its economical to finish and produces lower carcass weights.

"Farmers are aiming to produce the best beef they can, and the Aberdeen-Angus delivers quality, and the fits

the market requirements of the processor, retailer and consumer."

Hitting the headlines in both the show and sale rings was the June 2018 Richhill Rusty U164 TSI+34 SRI+40 bred by Robin Lamb and sons from Richhill. Sired by the herd's 6,500gns stock bull Keirsbeath Kingsland R537, he is out of the home-bred SAV Brave 8320 daughter Richhill Rosanna N403 – one of 40 cows in the County Armagh herd. The Rosanna family has featured consistently over the years in the best cow family category of the NI Aberdeen Angus Club's annual herd competition.

This much-admired bull caught the eye of judge Barry Smith from the 25-cow Lawsons Ford Herd at Cootehill, County Cavan, to take the male championship ribbons. "This bull really caught my eye. He has superb ring presence, a great Angus head, tremendous breed character and conformation, and correct feet and legs. Attracting a top bid of 5,200gns he sold to James Thompson, Culmore, County Londonderry.

Second highest price of the day 3,700gns, was paid to Nigel, Gail, Sarah and Sam Matchett from Portadown, for the fifth placed Birches Lord Harrison U614 TSI+34

SRI+46. Born in May 2018, he was sired by stock bull Cheeklaw Emlyn P480 – All Ireland Champion in 2017, and is bred from the successful show cow Mogeely Lady Hilda H967. Ranked in the breed's top 20% for eye muscle area +4.9, this one was snapped up by Michael O'Brien from Poyntzpass.

Two lots came under the hammer at 3,200gns. First to sell was the third placed Old Glenort Eric U344 TSI+31 SRI+39 bred by James Porter, Gill Hall Estate, Dromore, County Down. A son of herd sire Carlhurlie Gentilex S124, his dam is the Moss Quebec K027 daughter Old Glenort Ella S471. Buyer was A Wilson from Armagh.

Francis McConvey from Ardglass, County Down, paid out 3,200gns to secure the June 2018 Kiltariff Dorian U111 exhibited by Kenneth Bready from Rathfriland. Sired by the home-bred Netherton Americano M703 son Kiltariff Deacon S875, he is bred from Kiltariff Demelza S842. This second prize winner boasts high ranking Breedplan figures TSI+50, SRI+58, milk +13, and eye muscle area +7.2.

Following close behind at 3,100gns was the second prize winning Coltrim Edmundo U003 TSI+29 SRI+46 bred by Neville and Ivan Forsythe, Moneymore. Born in October 2018, he was sired by Wedderlie Ergo M574, and is out of the Oakchurch Duster M109 daughter Coltrim Evana S605. Ranked in the top 10% for calving ease +3.7, he sold to dairy farmers Andrew and Liz Addison, Upper Ballinderry, Lisburn.

Judge Barry Smith awarded reserve male championship to the May 2018 Sess Eagle U923 TSI+26 SRI+36 bred by Margaret Buchanan from Augher. Sired by Bunlahy John G, his dam is the Netherton Mr Brazilian E377 daughter Sess Elf P856.

"This is another stylish bull. He is well made, has great spring of rib and good bone," added the judge. This one came under the hammer of Trevor Wylie at 3,000gns, selling to Linton Selfridge from Maghera.

Also selling at 3,000gns was the fourth placed Coolermoney Lord Hublo U876 TSI+31 SRI+51 bred by Adrian Parke, and son Graeme, from Strabane. This July 2018 entry was sired by Rawburn Boss Hogg N630, and is out of a home-bred dam by Steil Hero 202. Ranked in the top 5% for milk +21, he sold to John McGovern from Newtownbutler.

Claiming the female championship was the June 2018 Relaghan Noel daughter Home Farm Lady Helena U286 bred by Fintan Keown, Belleek. Taking the reserve award was the July 2018 Balmachie Lord Jock R198 daughter Island Farm Esmeralda U445 bred by Kevin McOscar, Cookstown.

A draft entry of females from David Whan's Slievicroob Herd at Dromara, peaked at 1,400gns, realised by the April 2018 Glen Cowie Evie U472. She was sired by Bleack Evolution R454 and is bred from Balgay Egyptian Queen P285. Buyers were Messrs Rea from Aughnalcoy.





Birches tops Dungannon Aberdeen-Angus trade at 3,500gns and 3,200gns at October Sale

Pedigree Aberdeen-Angus bulls sold to a top of 3,500gns and 3,200gns at the breed society's autumn sale, hosted by Dungannon Farmers Mart.

Securing the day's top prices were the Matchett family, Nigel, Gail, Sarah and Sam, from Portadown, County Armagh, who sold three bulls from their noted Birches prefix to average £3,080 each.

Sale leader at 3,500gns was the twenty-one-month-old Birches Lord Jock V732 TSI+27 SRI+38. He was sired by the herd's former stock bull Cheeklaw Emllyn P480 – reserve Balmoral champion and All-Ireland Aberdeen-Angus champion in 2017; and is the second calf from Birches Lady Julie P586 – dam of the 2019 Balmoral Show champion.

This much-admired bull was snapped up by online bidders Donogh and Jane McCarthy, owners of the 25-cow Lemonfield Herd based in Limerick. "We've been searching over the summer months for a new senior stock bull to replace our previous herd sire Carrigroe Magic," explained Donogh.

"Birches Lord Jock V732 certainly fits the bill. He oozes breed quality and has an attractive pedigree. We researched his ancestry prior to the sale, and had our hearts set on buying him."

Selling at 3,200gns was the eighteen-month-old Birches Lord Jake V776 TSI+23 SRI+33. He was sired by Fordel Minnesota Prime P753, and bred from the Carrigroe Fred daughter Birches Lady Jane S113 – one of 20 cows in the Birches Herd.

This bull's great grandam won numerous prizes in her show career, including Ulster Champion and 2011 reserve All-Ireland champion. The Lady Jane bloodline has been crowned best cow family in the NI Aberdeen-Angus Club's herd competition for four consecutive years.

Ranked in the breed's top 10% for calving ease +4.0, and boasting +12 for milk, he came under the hammer of auctioneer Trevor Wylie, selling to Messrs Dickson from Crossgar, County Down.

Jonathan and Lisa Doyle, Cookstown, County Tyrone, realised 2,600gns for the eighteen-month-old Drumhill Jailbreak Eric V245 ET TSI+36 SRI+42. He is by 13,000gns



Bleack Prince Consort A286, and bred from Bleack Jubilee Erica H960. This bull is ranked in the top 5% for milk +19, and top 10% for eye muscle area +5.5, and sold to D King from Newcastle, County Down.

Following close behind at 2,500gns was Waterloo Endgame V241 consigned by C and K Marshall from Ahoghill, County Antrim. This sixteen-month-old entry was sired by Bleack Duke J262, and is out of the home-bred Netherallan Peter Pershore E052 daughter Waterloo Elouise N327. Buyer was R Watson, Augher, County Tyrone.

Females peaked at 3,100gns, paid to Norah Scott, and son Timothy, Newtownards, County Down, for the eight-year-old cow Drumawhey Rose M365. She is by Old Glenort Knockmore J153, and bred from Drumawhey Ribena D906. Included in the deal was her January born Weeton Exocett P426 bull calf Drumawhey Randal W754. This cow and calf outfit sold to Michael McConville, Newry, County Down.

In-calf heifers topped at 2,400gns, paid to Neville and Ivan Forsythe, Money more, for the June 2019 born Coltrim Evana V165. Sired by home-bred stock bull Coltrim Pon Dereplay T756, her dam is Coltrim Evana S653 – one of 36 cows in the herd. Due in May 2021, this heifer is in-calf to Coltrim Black Bando T874. Buyer was commercial suckler herd owner David Cairns who has established the Sperrinview Aberdeen-Angus Herd for his eight-month-old grandson Tommy Cairns.

Averages: 9 bulls £2,485; 3 in-calf heifers £2,013; 1 maiden heifer £1,575; 1 cow and calf £3,255.





Retties Lazy River U026 (ET)

Retties Lazy River U026 (ET) Tops Stirling May Bull Sales at 9000gns

Due to the lockdown and restrictions in place with the Covid-19 pandemic, United Auctions' Stirling Bull Sales in May were conducted via direct marketing instead of a live sale at Stirling Agricultural Centre.

An online catalogue was produced which included all the relevant sire information and EBV's with the addition of a photograph and description of each bull. The trusted sales team at United Auctions – including Raymond Kennedy, John Roberts, David Brown, Ross Fotheringham, Murray Rainnie and Andrew Weir – spoke directly with prospective buyers to convey the value of each bull by describing their style, locomotion and definition and to ensure they met their particular requirements.

LOTS AND PRICES:

Leading the catalogued entry was the outstanding Aberdeen-Angus bull Retties Lazy River U026 (ET) from Richard & Carol Rettie, selling for 9000gns to join Karl Scott's Foggie pedigree herd at his base at South Brownhill, Turriff. This bull was a son of the renowned Rawburn Elysium and out of Wall Lady Ruth E397, making him a full brother to Retties Lady Ruth N228 who was breed champion RHS 2016.

Following on in the Aberdeen-Angus catalogue at 7200gns was McCornick Panther U464 from Martin McCornick, Boreland, Newton Stewart. This son of the homebred herd sire McCornick Evade sold to DA Blair & Son, Little Inch, Wormit.

Another from the Retties' team, Retties Duke U024 (ET) sold for 7000gns. This son of Bleblack Duke J262 sold to join the Tulloes herd of pedigree Aberdeen-Angus owned by David S Raeburn, Burnside of Tulloes, Forfar.

OTHER LEADING PRICES:



6,000gns - Logie Definition U820



7,200gns - McCornick Panther U464



5,500gns - Retties Rockstar V051



5,400gns - Saville Edward U159



6,000gns - Kilmaluag Life O'Riley U250 (ET)



7,000gns - Retties Duke U024 (ET)



YDP Chairman's Report

Well, it goes without saying what an unprecedented year we have had at the YDP. I'm not going to ramble on about this too much, as most will agree 2020 was the year we would rather forget.

My team and the YDP committee have tried and tried to put things together and every time hitting a brick wall.

Onwards and upwards into a new 2021! We have our workshops all ready and COVID-secure, and will be so happy to welcome you all, old and new members alike, to any workshop you might be able to attend.

Keep an eye out for more up and coming events and competitions and some extremely good one off, not to be missed prizes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr William McLaren Snr for the generous donation to the YDP from proceeds of 'a very personal view on two centuries of change'. I would also like to thank my team for sticking together through this last year. I understand how hard it has been and your commitment to the programme and young people is a credit to you all. On a personal note, I would just like to pay tribute to Andrew Shufflebotham for his dedication and commitment to the YDP, and for the help and support he gave me when I first stepped in as Chairman. He will be sorely missed.

Will Chrystal
Chairman





YDP National Co-Ordinator's Report

All activities were put on hold for 2020 due to COVID-19. Leaving you all with no workshops or events. Luckily, our young members got creative and hosted the YDP Instagram page through the summer, autumn and winter. Hopefully we can keep this going, as long as young members or even guest editors come forward to keep the fun and information going. If you would like to host a week then please contact the YDP Co-Ordinators.

2020 was also going to be our year for selecting and preparing our World Angus Forum Teams, but as this event has also been postponed, we will start up the process again once we get the green light from Australia Angus WAF organisers.

To make up for the loss of activities, we have devised two new competitions: Cattle and Land Management (CALM) Competition for the intermediates and seniors. For the Juniors, Marketing and Publicity (MAP) to design a publicity leaflet, with great prizes for successful candidates. Full details are within this Review.

We really hope that we will be able to start our workshops again in 2021, so all dates and venues are in here for you to make notes of. Just keep an eye on the Bi-Weekly notices, just in case things have to change. So, if you have not already done so, please sign on by completing the

YDP Registration Form, post or email back to us and your Regional Co-Ordinator will be in touch.

We are looking forward to an exciting summer with workshops, Senior Members Weekends, YDP Final and WAF selection events. We will have a packed year and there will be something for everyone. Take care, stay safe and see you all very soon.

Best Wishes,

Tina Russell

YDP National Co-Ordinator



A Wonderful Weekend at our 2020 YDP Senior Conference

Every year, the senior participants from our Youth Development Programme get together for our Senior Conference, which features an array of informative guest speakers and sessions from in and around the breed, helping them build their knowledge and experience as they look towards their future careers in the industry.

This year's three-day event took place in the Banbury area of Oxfordshire in England, kicking off with a visit on the Friday to Dawn Meats at Dunbia, Cardington and Bedford. Huge thanks must go to Sarah Haire and Mark Allen, and all at Dawn Meats, for sponsoring the Senior Conference once again, and providing such great insight into their operations in what was an extremely valuable and informative visit.



On the Saturday, our participants headed to Paul and Kirsty Westaway's Melview Farm in Dymock, Gloucestershire. We received a great tour of the farm and detailed insight into the Melview operation that Paul and Kirsty run from their home in Dymock – a big thank you to them for being such welcome hosts and for providing an excellent lunch which went down a treat. The Saturday at Melview featured a number of guest speakers covering a series of topics:

- Alex Brown and Emma Steel from AHDB provided some great insight on genetics and EBVs
- Grassland consultant Marc Jones hosted a workshop on rotational grazing
- Clive Davies educated the participants on suckler cow condition scoring

- Paul Westaway provided a detailed and informative presentation on adding value to his farm



After a great day at Melview, the team retired to the hotel in Banbury where Rob Havard provided an excellent presentation on holistic organic Aberdeen-Angus herd on which he uses a mobile grazing system. Rob's presentation was highly insightful, and it was great to learn about his interested and calculated approach.

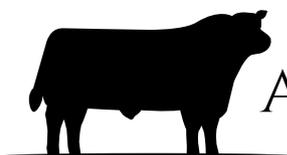
Sunday morning came around and the team headed to the Glympton Herd for a management discussion followed by some stock judging of pedigree heifers and males for slaughter. A big thank you to master stock judges Alex McLaren and Terry Ives along with herd managers Trevor and Vanessa Kirk – another great day for the participants with a lot learned.

All-in-all, the 17 youngsters who attended the weekend were incredibly inspiring with their engagement and enthusiasm for all the workshops and presentations. The guest speakers and contributors commented on how impressed they were with the calibre of all participants, thoroughly enjoying the experience throughout.

Participant Katie Meston had the following to say about the event:

"The Senior Conference has given me the opportunity to visit some amazing herds in Melview and Glympton, and meet people that I might never have otherwise been able to meet, opening new windows and potential opportunities, whilst boosting my confidence at the same time. It's opened my eyes to upcoming new technology, trends and opportunities, not only within the Society, but the industry as a whole. For anyone debating whether to attend, I would say, not only do you get to expand your knowledge and talk to like-minded people, you get to have some great fun with laughter all along the way, making new lifelong friends."

Congratulations and well done to all involved – we look forward to next year's event already!



THE
ABERDEEN-ANGUS
 CATTLE SOCIETY

Youth Development Programme REGISTRATION FORM



Date of Application:

Candidate details: Please print clearly:

Surname: First Name:

Address:

..... Post Code:

Telephone: Email:

Date of Birth:

Gender: Male Female Registered Disabled tick if appropriate

Candidate Signature

Please complete this form and return to:

Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society, Pedigree House, 6 King's Place, Perth PH2 8AD

Email: ydp@aberdeen-angus.co.uk

YDP Workshop Dates for 2021



Monday 1st February:

Launch of CALM and MAP Competitions

Friday 19th – Sunday 21st February:

YDP Senior Conference based around the Borders (TBC)

Thursday 1st April:

Closing date for CALM and MAP Competitions

Saturday 10th April:

Shadwell Herd, High House Farm, Back Lane, Kettlebaston, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP7 7QB

Saturday 24th April:

The Denning Family, Temple Herd, Temple Farm, Chedzoy, Bridgewater, Somerset, TA7 8QR

Saturday 1st May:

Will and Sophie Chrystal, Wingate Grange Herd, Wingate Grange Farm, Wingate, Co Durham, TS28 5LX

Saturday 8th May:

Paul and Kirsty Westaway, Melview Herd, Gamage Hall Farm, Dymock, GL18 2AE

Saturday 15th May:

Jan Boomaars, Vexour Herd, Chiddingstone, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 7BB

Saturday 22nd May:

Owen Tunney, Morpheus Herd, Manor Farm, Cuddington Lane, Cuddington, Cheshire, CW8 2TE

Saturday 29th May:

Hamish Slater, Deveron Herd, Denhead Farms, Dunlugas, Turriff, Aberdeenshire, AB53 4NR, Scotland

Saturday 29th May:

John Blackburn, Killaney Herd, Clogher, Co. Tyrone, Northern Ireland, BT76 0XB

Sunday 30th May:

Andrew Hodge, Rulesmains Herd, Rulesmains, Duns, Berwickshire, TD11 3SY

Saturday 26th June:

John McEnroe, Liss Herd, Oldcastle, Co Meath, Rep of Ireland

Sunday 27th June:

Allan Rennie, Mosston Muir Herd, New House, Mosston Muir Farm, Guthrie, By Forfar, Angus, DD8 2TX, Scotland

Wednesday 21st July:

The Munster Club, Fermoy Mart, Fermoy, Co Cork, Southern Ireland

Saturday 31st July:

Mack Crowe, Broomstreet Herd, Mohill, Co. Leitrim, Rep of Ireland

Friday 24th – Sunday 26th September:

YDP Final, hosted by the Dick Family at Westerton Farm, Farm Road, Cowie, Stirling, FK7 7BJ

Friday 19th – Sunday 21st November:

Autumn Senior Conference (TBC)



How 2020 Has Been For Me?

Previous YPD finalists Bryan and James tell us how the past 12 months have gone, and how they're using the skillsets from the YPD programme

BRYAN O'HALLORAN

2020 where does one start? After two lockdowns bringing the country to a standstill, I guess I am one of the lucky ones to say my 2020 did not stray too far from the normal.

As regards work, everything stayed pretty much the same and I worked right through the pandemic behind closed doors for Greengold Farm Advisors, as we were deemed as an essential service. Here we provide a wide range of services for all categories of farmers, which involves Financial Planning, Basic Payment Scheme applications, Environmental Schemes, Grant applications and lecturing in a nearby Agricultural College to the up-and-coming young farmers.

One of the biggest disappointments of 2020 for me personally, was the cancellation of the agricultural shows. I had two good quality ET calves on the ground and was looking forward to putting my skills learned at the YDP workshops to use. On the other hand, this gave me a considerable amount of time to research how best to put the travel bursary that I received as part of the winner's prize in the YDP senior section.

I'd really like to visit other countries and learn from their cattle breeding processes. On my travels, I would also be in search of some new exciting outcross bloodlines to introduce into my herd, in an attempt to bring my herd to the next level. I would also love to become involved in helping out and delivering workshops within the YDP to young cattle enthusiasts, to impart some of the knowledge I have gained throughout this hugely beneficial programme. The young people who participate in regional workshops, get the chance to attend educational and insightful conferences, and future leader programmes, learning skills that can be utilised in their future careers in the agricultural industry and potentially travel the world. I couldn't recommend it highly enough.

JAMES MORRISON

When I won the Junior Section of the Youth Development Programme in September 2019, I could never have imagined life could change so drastically within the next 12 months.

Unknown to me, The Northern Ireland Aberdeen-Angus Calf Show held in November 2019 was to be the last time I got to wear the white coat and take up the halter.

During the winter months of 2019, my usual farm routine took place. Monday to Friday consisted of school, rugby

training and home to the daily evening chores of feeding and cleaning out the cattle. Saturdays were spent playing a match somewhere in the Province in the morning, and the afternoons and evening spent restoring and repairing fences and drains for the forth coming spring.

January came and the usual task of selecting potential show beasts for the year ahead began. We normally show several calves and yearling heifers at the local and provincial shows. My spare time in January and February was spent breaking and preparing cattle for these shows. Little did we know what was round the corner for the entire show season.

When the country went into lockdown in late March, initially it had no effect on the day-to-day running of our suckler to beef farm. The only thing that changed was my daily farming hours increased from a few hours in the evening to a full 10 to 12 hour shift most days.

At the beginning of lockdown, we were still hoping for our summer shows to go ahead. With the news that the RUAS Balmoral Show had been pushed back to August, there was still some hope of showing in 2020 however as cases of COVID-19 rose our hopes dwindled. Although disappointed, we knew it was the safest thing to do and continue to look forward to seeing all our show friends on the circuit again next year.

In addition to missing the shows, the cancellation of the YDP Workshops was yet another disappointment for me in 2020, as the Workshops had become an annual highlight for me. Over the six years which I have attended these YDP events, I have gained so much knowledge, understanding and confidence within the breed.

When the Youth Development Programme launched the Instagram Takeover in mid-August, I was keen to participate. As there had been no workshops or final this year, I thought this was a brilliant way for keep participants connected and a great forum for further learning as we saw how fellow young breeders spent their weeks in lockdown.

I personally have used lockdown as a learning curve. On reflection, I can see what value the show season has when it comes to advertising your stock and promoting your herd. Thanks to social media, I have experimented with different means of advertising in a fun and light-hearted manner.

2020 will be a year never to be forgotten. It has highlighted to the wider community the invaluable work of the farmer.



YDP Cattle And Land Management Competiton 2021

- WHO CAN ENTER?** Intermediate (14-18 yrs) and Senior YDP (19-24 yrs) participants.
Age as of 1st Jan 2021.
- WHEN?** 1st Feb 2021 – 1st April 2021
- WHAT?** A competition designed to develop and show case your Farming and Livestock Management skills
- HOW?** You will be given information of your study farm and from this you will need to develop your farming business to include the Aberdeen-Angus. You will be informed of the acreage of arable and grassland, land class, altitude, buildings and the farm will be owner occupied. The enterprise will need run on a profitable basis. All information in CALM Entry Pack.
To apply for your CALM entry pack email ypd@aberdeen-angus.co.uk before the 10th Feb 2021
- WHY?** Intermediate's and Senior's prizes will be divided.
- | | |
|-----|---------------------|
| 1st | £500 travel bursary |
| 2nd | £250 Travel bursary |
| 3rd | £100 Travel bursary |
- Plus, Embryos and Semen from recognized herds.
Finalist will also be invited to present the business models to members of the industry.

This is an amazing opportunity to show case your skills within the beef farming community.

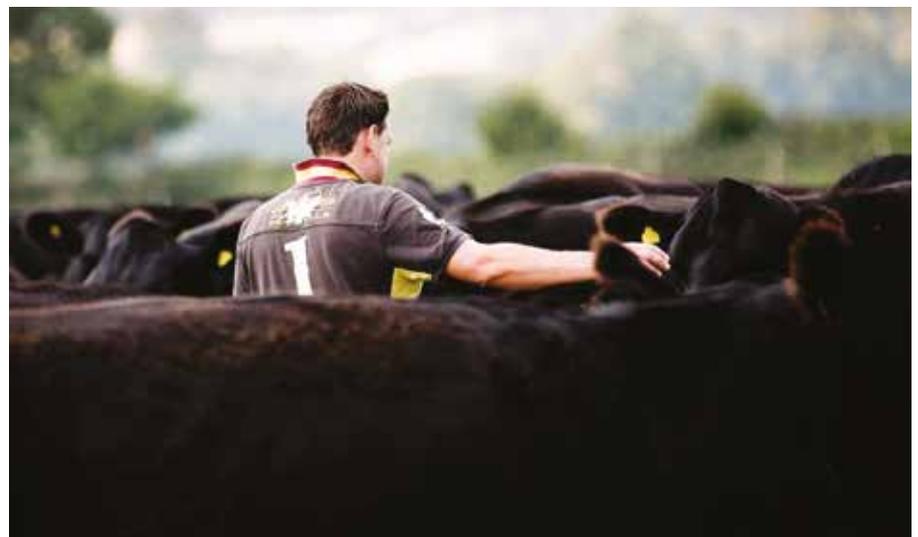




YDP Marketing And Promotion (MAP) Competition 2021

- WHO CAN ENTER?** Juniors (8-13yrs) YDP participants
- WHEN?** 1st Feb 2021 -1st April 2021
- WHAT?** A competition to design a brochure to help promote a herd of cattle or farm.
- HOW?** Using a piece of A4 paper you are to design a brochure/leaflet to use at Shows and Sales to publicise a herd or farm which incorporates Aberdeen-Angus cattle.
- WHY?**
- 1st £100 and a YDP Goody Bag
 - 2nd £50 and a YDP Goody Bag
 - 3rd £25 and a YDP Goody Bag
- Finalists will receive 100 printed copies of their designs.

Have some fun during the winter months and put your design and creative talents to good use and look forward to using your designs at future events



Host Farms - Scotland



STEPHANIE DICK

ydpscotland@aberdeen-angus.co.uk

"I think it is safe to say that 2020 is a year we all want to forget, but definitely will not! I have really missed the workshops not going ahead this year and getting to see all the enthusiastic members getting involved, learning and making new friends! However, in a year of doom and gloom, YDP members have done a great job of brightening the months up. They have done a fabulous job in taking over the Instagram page every week, I've certainly been watching the stories every day and I think they have been inspiring. I even enjoyed having a go at it myself!

"Although the workshops did not go ahead this year, they have all just been pushed back till 2021 and we still have a great line up of host farms for everyone to attend. A huge thank you to them for bearing with us through these times. My fingers are crossed that next year we will be able to resume and normal and I can't wait to see everyone again getting involved. If you are a new or old member looking to attend a workshop in Scotland please don't hesitate to get in touch."

29TH MAY - Hamish Slater, Deveron Herd, Denhead Farms, Dunlugas, Turriff, Aberdeenshire, AB53 4NR, Scotland

Margaret and I are delighted to be asked to host a workshop for the AA Youth Development Programme.

The YDP is a great success story and a brilliant innovation. The AA Society should be congratulated on its vision, to invest time and resources to support the young.

It has always been our aim to encourage young people and over the years, we have had numerous youngsters helping us show our calves at the Winter Calf Shows. The enthusiasm displayed by everyone who we have had the privilege to work with has been astounding. Some of these youngsters were not from farming. It was amazing to see their confidence grow, when they had been in the ring and came out with a ticket (particularly a red one). You see firstly relief that things have gone so well, then a massive ear-to-ear smile! Clearly the young are the future of our great breed and we can be confident the breed is in good hands.

Many of these people have dreams of being farmers, but with so much money required to start a farm, it is probably an unlikely option for most. Pedigree cattle or sheep can be a great way to get started, with shrewd buying, anyone can acquire stock at modest money and with clever sire selection can improve them and over time a huge asset can be built-up.

We are really looking forward to our workshop and would encourage anyone interested to come along.

30TH MAY - Andrew Hodge, Rulesmains Herd, Rulesmains, Duns, Berwickshire, TD11 3SY

The Rulesmains herd of pedigree Aberdeen-Angus cattle is a family run partnership established by Andrew Hodge in October 2007, following the dispersal of the farm's herds of Holsteins and Ayrshires. Andrew is assisted by daughter Emma and his wife Jill. The farming operation is a mixed unit consisting of arable and cattle. The whole system extends to 1,500 acres, 1,000 of which is owned and 500 contract farmed locally. There are 1,200 acres in arable production and 200 acres rotational grazing with the remainder in permanent grass. The grazing supports 100 pedigrees and 50 commercial females and followers. The herd produce and sell 25 pedigree bulls annually, most to commercial herds, but also a few for Stirling. Our focus is on producing bulls for the commercial market, with emphasis on correctness, feet, legs, length, width and character. The herd's cow families are of a consistent functional type, that can wean a calf that is 50% of its mother's weight, resulting in a store beast with good growth rates which will finish quickly and efficiently. Both Andrew and Emma are very supportive of using the showing to promote their stock locally and to benchmark with other herds, having had considerable success both locally and further afield, with both males and females.

This is the first YDP training day to be held at Rulesmains, and we are really looking forward to hosting the day and supporting the YDP. Rulesmains has some modern facilities, and there is room to host a number of young

people to learn about preparation of stock for shows and sales. We are also well placed to demonstrate and transfer other skills required, such as managing a large herd of females, selection of stock bulls and identifying stock that will breed the types that we are after.

27TH JUNE - Allan Rennie, Mosston Muir Herd, New House, Mosston Muir Farm, Guthrie, By Forfar, Angus DD8 2TX, Scotland

The Mosston Muir herd is run by the Rennie family and based near Forfar. They were established in 1991 and run a 24-cow herd, that will be rising to around 34 head with incoming heifers. They love to show and have done it with great success over the years. Alongside the Aberdeen-Angus herd, they also have a family butcher business in Forfar, Rennie's Quality Butchers.

This is far from the first time that the family have opened up Mosston Muir to the YDP, having hosted a fair few workshops over the years, and are looking forward to the 2021 workshop very much. The family are always very welcoming towards the youngsters, appreciate being involved with this great programme and all have their fingers crossed that we get to go ahead next year.

Host Farms – Northern England and Wales



JESS MUSK

ydpenlandwalesnorth@aberdeen-angus.co.uk

“2020 has been a challenging year. At the beginning of the year, the YDP team met in Manchester and planned the year, looking forward to workshops, meeting new competitors and organising the YDP final and Senior Conference. But none of this was to be – COVID-19 put a stop to it all.

We will continue to plan for 2021 in the same way as 2020 and want to bring some positive vibes to the Youth Development Programme. We have encouraged youngsters to take part in Virtual Stockjudging, photo competitions and feature on Instagram, which has been a tremendous success and a great way to all keep in touch.

I think a lot of members will agree that this year has been tough on us all in a number of ways, but especially the youth socially. We hope we can encourage all to come along and support the Youth Development Programme events. We look forward to seeing you all again!”

10TH APRIL - Shadwell Herd, High House Farm, Back Lane, Kettlebaston, Ipswich, Suffolk IP7 7QB

“I’ve been involved with the YDP for 10 years, being a trainer and hosted at least six days at Shadwell also providing cattle for two finals. For me, it’s great to see the enthusiasm from the youngsters to have a go at everything they’re asked to do from washing, clipping, dressing and how to parade the animal, plus, their willingness to help each other out. Great friendships are made from these days.

It’s important to be able to pass on these skills to those that want to learn. In my experience everyone has a different way of doing things, but we all aim to get the same results, so these YDP days are great at gaining a bit of knowledge and adding it to what you already know. Stock people in my mind have always been reluctant to pass on tricks of the trade as its these snippets of knowledge that make them stand out year-after-year. We’ve had some great stockmen at our events and they are certainly more willing to let out a few tricks and tips to youngsters that want to learn on the YDP days than any other time. Flipping the day around to the benefits of hosting a day, we have had up-to 26 youngsters working on at least a dozen or more cattle, although they are halter trained, those animals never forget, and they are so quiet after a YDP day. A few hours of pampering with 20 people is worth so much in my time if I had to break these animals myself.”

Robert Clarke, Head Stockman

1ST MAY - Will and Sophie Chrystal, Wingate Grange Herd, Wingate Grange Farm, Wingate, Co Durham TS28 5LX

Wingate Grange Herd of Aberdeen-Angus was established in 2014 when five cows were purchased with calves at foot and in calf again. The herd was increased quickly purchasing cows and heifers with pedigrees to support growth and performance. All of the old farm buildings were demolished in 2016 to make way for a new shed, with a superb handling system, that could house 130 cows plus followers. We were vet approved for an isolation shed to ensure high health was maintained throughout the herd, for any animals bought in or out at shows. We work on an AI programme covering all of the cattle in the herd, aiming for Spring and Autumn calving batches on a ‘chalk and walk system’. This system allows the cattle to have a natural heat which can be detected by an AI technician on a daily basis for a 12-week period. This way we can get top class genetics into our herd, thus producing quality calves with a great growing ability on minimal input. With top class pedigrees and figures to match. The herd currently stands at 110 breeding females plus followers, with bulls and heifers selling direct from farm and sales. We aim within the next year to set-up a beef box scheme. This will enable us to sell fantastic quality grass fed beef direct from farm to fork. Our AI system works to ensure the best performance bulls are used to support this scheme. We look forward to shows getting back up and running, to continue to aim for our

herds high success already achieved at shows throughout the country over the last six years.

22ND MAY - Owen Tunney, Morpheus Herd, Manor Farm, Cuddington Lane, Cuddington, Cheshire, CW8 2TE

In 2018, I purchased an Australian Lowline heifer with calf at foot for my daughter Sophie. The Lowlines have an interesting history and can trace back to the original Angus cattle imported to Australia from the UK. We now have three females and calves in the herd which have been great for the kids to get used to grooming and handling due to their small size and placid (if stubborn!) nature. We look forward to showing them and the rest of the herd to our visitors for the YDP event in 2021.



Host Farms – Southern England And Wales



RUTH PERRY

ydpenglandwalesouth@aberdeen-angus.co.uk

2020 has definitely been a year of cancelled events and more of an online presence! I was really sad that we couldn't host our planned workshops, which were being held at fabulous venues with top class trainers, but I am glad that we have managed to secure the same venues for next year and I would like to say a huge thank you to our 2021 hosts! We hope that you have all been enjoying our YDP Instagram takeover. I have been interested in getting an insight into how other young people farm around the country. If you are interested in attending any of the South East workshops next year, then please contact me.

24TH APRIL - The Denning Family, Temple Herd, Temple Farm, Chedzoy, Bridgewater, Somerset, TA7 8QR

The Temple herd was created in 2006 when we gave up dairy farming and decided to go over to breeding pedigree Aberdeen-Angus. We'd previously had a small herd of pedigree Charolais that we had run alongside the dairy cows – however much as we loved them and still do, they proved not to be easiest cattle to keep on our farm. Definitely the Angus have proved to a breed much easier to manage and suit our farm better. We wanted something that was easy calving, robust, low input, fertile, had longevity and above all, docile with good legs and feet and locomotion. Our first heifers were bought privately from the Kingston Herd near Taunton and still have descendants in the herd today. A great part of our bull market is to dairy breeders, though we are proud that a number of our bulls have gone to pedigree herds where it's always a great pleasure to see the offspring coming along. We had always dabbled in showing and both Andrew and I loved our days off showing, especially on the few times we could do it together. We'd both done it in Young Farmer days and had previously shown the Charolais, so to progress to showing the Angus was a natural progression which really kicked off when our daughter Jess turned 18 and started in the YDP, developing a great love of it too. We've had great times showing all over the country; a fabulous opportunity to

meet many breeders we may not of had the opportunity to meet. We've literally been from Cornwall to the Highlands, and all of our four children have been involved at some point to greater or a lesser extent, though the youngest Grace has got to be the most enthusiastic and determined. She absolutely adores every aspect of breeding and showing.

Sadly, Andrew was taken from us at the end of 2019 and I am so glad he had the opportunity and pleasure of showing at the Highland, something we'd always dreamt of and we managed to do it as a family, whilst at the same time attending the Scottish part of the World Forum.

We always regarded one of our greatest herd purchases to be Rawburn Rosebud H860 in October 2010. She was a phenomenal heifer who has brought our herd so many successes and gave us many championships, and who has left us many descendants we are very proud to own. We currently have a fabulous granddaughter of hers who may, God willing, be seen out and about next year. Our last herd sire has also left a huge mark on the herd. Temple Northern Prince was home bred and sire of many champions, including the Winter Calf Show Champion 2017. He was a difficult act to follow and it was a difficult decision when it was time to part with him, but this last summer was his time to go and he has been replaced with the much admired Jerusalem Gallileo, the most docile bull you could wish for. We have high hopes for the

future with him. I really admired his sire and had tried to buy him from Bryan, but sadly it wasn't to be, hence when the opportunity to acquire Gallileo came up it was an easy decision.

To pick a highlight of our time with Aberdeen-Angus cattle is difficult – a very proud moment for the whole family was winning the Calf Champion at Winter Nationals 2017 with Temple Jupiter Eric, a totally home-bred bull who was sired by Temple Northern Prince and out of Temple Jasmine Erica. He won the best Group of three home-bred animals at the Three Counties World Forum, along with several class winners and it's certainly been a great honour to be winners of the Warren Trophy twice the second time being 2019. It's very sad to have to carry Andrew's legacy forward alone, but carry it forward we will thanks to the enthusiasm and help of all the children, for which I am very grateful. If there are any members who would like to visit Temple Farm, you'll be most welcome – we always love taking visitor round to see the cattle.

We look forward to welcoming the YDP to Temple Farm in Somerset in April 2021.



8TH MAY - Paul and Kirsty Westaway, Melview Herd, Gamage Hall Farm, Dymock

The Westaway family are really looking forward to hosting the Wales & Borders YDP day in early May 2021. Paul and Kirsty Westaway, and their daughters Ellie and Georgie, have hosted over 10 YDP events at Gamage Hall Farm, in Dymock, Gloucestershire, and are passionate supporters of Young Farmers and Angus YDP in general. Paul and Kirsty established the Melview Angus herd in 2006 with the purchase of eight females from the Tegsnose herd of Nigel Hammill, and the Bibury Court herd, which included females descended from the renowned Nightingale herd. Over the next few years, an extensive ET Programme brought in genetics from both Canada and the USA resulting in some very popular cow families.

The late Willie Robertson was a huge influence and help to Paul and Kirsty in the early days at Melview, bulls such as Nightingale Qbec H420 and Nightingale Red Piper H446 were purchased from Willie and his daughter Angela, and both became international AI sires with progeny in many countries. Other home-bred bulls such as Melview Goliath G009, Melview Gareth K053 and Melview Granville L076 have also been used heavily in international AI.

However, the biggest influence at Melview started with a chance meeting at Stirling Bull Sales with James Playfair-Hannay of Tofts Angus. Since that meeting, James has become a mentor and great friend to Paul and Kirsty with many amazing cows from Tofts moving to Melview, with two in particular, Tofts Prona D680 who became a serial show winner in the early 2010s, including winning the Burke Trophy in 2013 and Tofts Polly Perkins L777, an amazing cow that clinched Female Champion at the 2019 National Show. Tofts and Melview own several cows in partnership today and run their breeding programmes in an aligned and forward-thinking way.

Today the Westaway's farm over 200 acres either side of the M50 in Gloucestershire. Alongside the



Angus herd, Paul and Kirsty have developed the Melview Murray Grey herd, which has also done well with many bulls sold, and notable show successes in 2019. Over 70 Angus and Murray Grey females will calve in 2021 and the plan is to expand in 2022 to calve 100 females a year. Paul and Kirsty are passionate about herd health and are proud members of the BioBest Hi-Health Scheme. They work closely with James Hipperson MRCVS from Belmont Vets who looks after the herd on a day-to-day basis, and Peter May MRCVS who does the ET & IVF work at Melview. Both James and Peter are key members of the team at Melview alongside Paul and Kirsty's families. Chrissie Long who does all the marketing, photography and web work for Melview, is also a key member of the team, in Paul's words, "She is simply the best".

As well as extensive show success, Paul was voted Beef Farmer of the Year in 2013 at the British Farming Awards, and is also proud of three new bulls that were purchased by Cogent/ST Genetics, and have all come back into full service with great calving ease and calf quality. Melview Get it On S207, Melview Gregor T271 and Melview Grand Timing T285 all continue to put the Melview Herd, and UK Angus Genetics, on the international stage and are some of the most interesting bulls in the world today. Paul and Kirsty look forward to seeing as many young people as possible, and their parents and friends at the YDP event at Melview in May 2021.

15TH MAY - Jan Boomaars, Vexour Herd, Chiddingstone, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 7BB

Vexour farm is set in the Kent countryside, in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, close to the National Trust Village of Chiddingstone. Our farm at Vexour is home to the Vexour Charolais, Aberdeen-Angus and Hereford herds of pedigree cattle and our flocks of Texel and Charollais pedigree sheep.

The herds and flocks aim to produce pedigree livestock for the commercial sector. The arable part of the farm concentrates on producing cereals for the food chain.

Our farming roots go back to Holland, where our family has been farming since 1680 (we are the eighth generation). Farming is in our blood, and we want to contribute and participate in creating a strong, balanced farming industry. We farm 1,500 acres at Vexour, with a focus on animal welfare and commitment to environmental conservation.

Our herd of Aberdeen-Angus has been developed based on a deep pool of pedigree lines. We focus on breeding easy fleshing, well framed animals with good locomotion. All our cows have to have excellent milking capabilities with compact udders. Currently we use as our senior stock bull Retties Lone Ranger and Vexour Jesse James V141 as our junior stock bull (Jesse James is just tremendous, really special, one to watch!).

We are very excited about the future of the Aberdeen-Angus breed and the role it can play in modern commercial farming given it's unique and balanced breeding characteristics.

Visitors are always welcome.

www.vexour.com

Host Farms - Ireland



NIALL LYNCH

ydpireland@aberdeen-angus.co.uk

2020 for us has been a year of ups and downs within the farming industry. It was really disappointing when we came to the decision back in the spring to cancel the YDP programme for 2020, but in light of everything that has happened, this was the correct decision. 2020 for us was going to be a really exciting year and as we in the process of selecting our Irish and British teams to represent the breed at the World Angus Forum in 2021, we were also hoping to add some more exciting events to the YDP calendar, which included a second senior conference which was due to take place in November.

We all put in a lot of hard work to make the YDP successful and fun for all our participants, and I believe a major factor to the success and increased number of participants is having regional coordinators. I for one think that the youngest that take part in the YDP find it easier to communicate to a coordinator if they know that they are from a similar area as themselves.

2021 is going to be a very exciting year for us and I want to take this opportunity to thank all my host farmers and clubs for agreeing to host workshops again in 2021. I would also like to wish all competitors the very best of luck for the coming year and I hope to see as many of you as possible at workshops and the finals over the next 12 months.

Let's make 2021 the best year for the YDP yet and give us a reason to forget about all the downs of 2020.

29TH MAY - John Blackburn, Killarney Herd, Clogher, Co. Tyrone. Northern Ireland

The Northern Ireland YDP workshop was held at the farm of John and Sandra Blackburn in August 2019. John was a beef and sheep grader for nearly 20 years in various Northern Ireland meat plants. Sandra has worked off the farm as an Admin Manager and always there for, "John's beck and call." They have a family of four: Ruth, Libby, Tom and Roslyn who have all flew the nest! Ruth lives a few miles from Killaney, Libby in New Zealand, Tom in Scotland and Roslyn in Belfast.

Both John and Sandra are keen Northern Ireland Aberdeen-Angus Club members, with John being past Chairman for two years and committee member for several years, and Sandra, Club Treasurer for five years. John is currently Junior Vice President of the Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association and has served on Council for several terms. John has judged many local shows and sales both north and south of the country, and has judged Herd Competitions for Munster Club, Connaught/Leinster and Northern Ireland.

The Killaney herd is based in the Clogher Valley, County Tyrone and was established by John's father, Gerry Blackburn in 1950 and is one of the oldest herds in continuous existence in Northern Ireland. Progeny of the second heifer calf, Lady Elizabeth of Killaney registered in 1951 are still in the 20 cow herd. Only selected calves are registered. The breeding philosophy is, "If they are not good enough to breed at home, don't sell to anyone else for breeding."

The Killaney herd has won many prizes in early years in Balmoral Royal Ulster, Royal Dublin Society and local shows both North and South Ireland. Showing is not now practised except to support our local show. Over the years, Gerry established off farm sales of bulls

which John continues to do and has had many repeat customers, (mostly local dairy farmers) spanning the generations.

Recently John, Sandra and Tom have purchased a number of pedigree Red Angus heifers which they intend to breed stock to fill the demand coming from suckler herds. There are also 50 breeding ewes on the farm and a free-range poultry unit rearing chickens for Moy Park Ltd.

At the YDP workshop in August, there was a good turnout of enthusiastic participants. On the day there were two classes for stockjudging practice, and for fun, 'guess what this implement was used for in days gone by', followed by a well-deserved BBQ for everyone.

26TH JUNE - John McEnroe, Liss Herd, Oldcastle, Co Meath, Ireland East

The Liss Herd is probably one of the oldest and most well-known herds in Ireland. The herd consists of approx. 100 pedigree cows and is one of the most successful herds in both the show ring and sales ring.

Originally started by John's father Bartle, the herd has won numerous All Ireland Championships through the years, with the most recent one coming in 2019 with senior stock bull Mogeely Dreamer. They have also had some very high-profile sales throughout the years, even selling a bull to the Popes Papal herd.

The McEnroe family have been key players in the success of the YDP in Ireland, with Liss hosting the Ireland East workshops on many occasions.

John has also had the privilege of being Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association President on two occasions, with his second term commencing in Spring 2020.

The 100-cow herd is run over a holding of approx. 200 acres of high-quality fertile land. It is split between Autumn and Spring calving, approx. 30 cows calving between September and December and 70 between January and April. Bulls are usually sold at around 14 months, mainly to the dairy industry with the top bulls going into pedigree use. Most of the heifers are kept for breeding, with some being sold for export or fattened to beef.

The farm is run as commercially as possible, with no creep feeding of calves until a few weeks before weaning. This has a great input into seeing what genetics are working best for the herd and also as a tool to select females who are not up to standard.

The McEnroe family have a great tradition with the Aberdeen-Angus breed, but also with the YDP itself. John's daughter Niamh attended the very first YDP workshop in Ireland and also was the runner-up in one of the very first YDP finals that was held at the beef expo in Carlisle back in 2008. Sean McEnroe who also runs the farm with his father John, has been a previous winner of both the Junior and Intermediate sections of the YDP and was the runner-up in the senior section in 2019.

John has also taken part in the YDP finals when he was asked to judge the ring craft section at the 2016 finals in Stirling

21ST JULY - The Munster Club, Fermoy Mart, Fermoy, Co Cork. Southern Ireland.

The Munster Aberdeen-Angus Club has provisionally planned a YDP workshop to take place in Fermoy Mart in mid July. Breeders are encouraged to provide halter-trained cattle for the event if possible and all youngsters in the area should endeavour to attend. The workshop promises to be a very worthwhile occasion with ample opportunities for both learning and social interaction and should prove beneficial to young people of all ages. Please note that this event is subject to change (depending on public health advice at the time) and for more details, please contact Munster Aberdeen-Angus Club secretary, Edward Dudley on 0863559210.

The Munster Aberdeen-Angus Club also hosts its own pedigree bull sale in Bandon each Spring along with an annual herds competition, open day and bull and female of the year competition (run in conjunction with local shows in the province) taking place each year too. Please note that new members to the club are always most welcome and please keep an eye on the club's social media pages for all upcoming events for 2021.

31ST JULY - Mack Crowe, Broomstreet Herd, Mohill, Co. Leitrim. Ireland West

Mack Crowe and the Broomstreet Herd will host the west of Ireland YDP workshop for 2021 on Saturday the 31st July.

The Crowe family are no strangers to hosting YDP workshops through the years and also had the privilege of hosting the very first workshop at Broomstreet back nearly 20-years-ago, with the trainer on the day being the late George Cormack, who was known throughout the world as being one of the finest stockmen of his generation.

Mack has been one of the main players in the growth of the Aberdeen-Angus breed in Ireland over the past 30 years and has had the privilege of holding the presidency of the Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association on two occasions, the most recent one ending in spring 2020. He was also key to the success of the 2019 YDP finals that were held in his native Leitrim.

The Broomstreet herd consists of both black and red females, and has been successful down through the years at both show and sale levels and has had many show champions and top prices.

Along with the herd of Aberdeen-Angus, Mack runs the very successful Crowes sawmills which is based across the road from the farm and deals in high quality timber products from fencing, decking and garden furniture.

The Broomstreet workshop is one of the highlights of the year due to its high number of participants, who are mainly in the junior and intermediate sections. This is a very fun day as it's the first experience of a workshop for most of the participants.



National Co-Ordinator: Tina Russell

Email: ydp@aberdeen-angus.co.uk

Attending the YDP Workshops is the first step towards selection for the World Forum 2022. Teams of four to represent the UK and Ireland, made up of Senior participants.



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design
MacGregor
PHOTOGRAPHY

2020 Photo Gallery



Will & Sophie Chrystal Wingate Grange AA - "Our year summed up in one photo, lots of hard work with the cattle, lockdown on the farm and most importantly a new addition to the workforce."

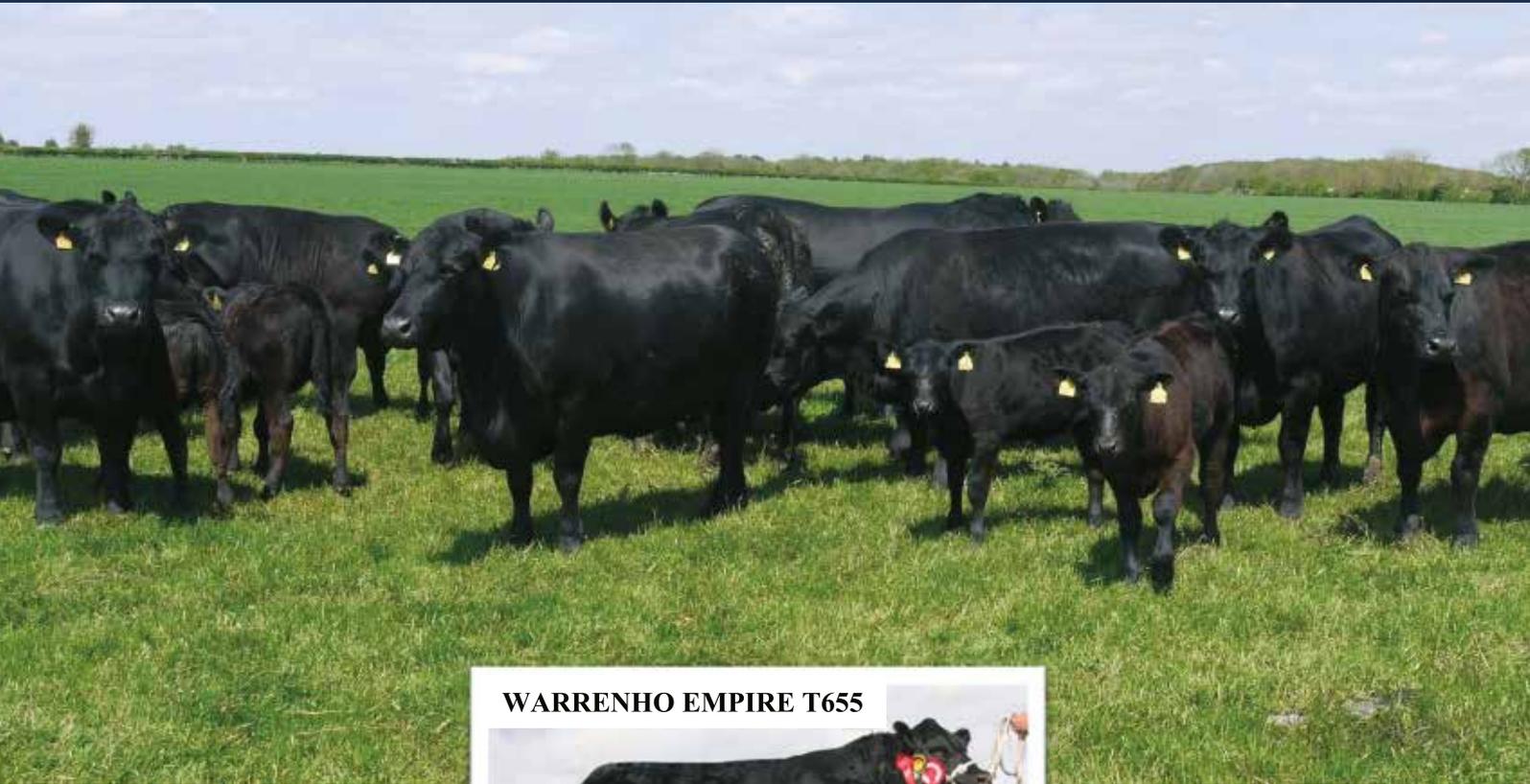
Graeme Fraser Idvies AA - "Start of lockdown when the schools were closed little did we know how long lasting Covid would be and the affect is has on many although we are lucky to be in the countryside."

2020 Photo Gallery



ESTABLISHED 1903

AYNHO
ABERDEEN-ANGUS



WARRENHO EMPIRE T655



Sire

*Warrenho Dalmigavie
G237*

Dam

*Eastfield Ethelda
Y279*

Young bulls and females usually available



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Email ihmclaren@theaynhoherd.co.uk

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Recipes from Ballindalloch



Recipe writer Mrs Clare Macpherson-Grant Russell is the great, great granddaughter of Sir George Macpherson-Grant of Ballindalloch Castle. The Ballindalloch Aberdeen-Angus herd began in 1860 and is now the oldest herd of Aberdeen-Angus Cattle in the world still in existence.

Today Aberdeen-Angus is one of the most recognisable and popular beef breeds in the whole world. Aberdeen-Angus beef is celebrated for being tender, succulent, luxurious and with elegant, subtle flavours. Aberdeen-Angus beef comes from grass-fed cattle and is recognised throughout the world and instantly connected with exceptional eating quality.

Mrs Clare Macpherson-Grant Russell has written three recipe books called I Love Food, from which we have selected some of her delicious Aberdeen-Angus recipes.

FILLET OF ABERDEEN-ANGUS STROGANOFF

(Serves 4)

INGREDIENTS

1½ lbs (700g) fillet Aberdeen-Angus beef
1 onion, peeled and finely sliced
2 oz (50g) unsalted butter
8 oz (200g) mushrooms, finely sliced (wild or porcini)
3 tablespoons brandy or whisky (optional)
1 teaspoon French mustard
3 tablespoons crème fraîche
3 fl oz (100ml) double cream
1 tablespoon tarragon, finely chopped & paprika to taste
Parsley for decoration

METHOD

Cut fillet into thin strips ½" (1cm) thick and 2" (5cms) long and sprinkle with paprika. Heat half of butter in heavy based frying pan, add onion and fry gently until soft and golden. Remove with a slotted spoon and set aside. Increase heat and quickly fry meat in batches, set aside and keep warm. Add brandy, set alight and let bubble to reduce. Place all ingredients in pan. Lower heat and stir in mustard, crème fraîche and cream. Heat through and stir in tarragon. Season and serve with rice or noodles. Garnish with parsley.



BALLINDALLOCH BEEF TOURNEDOS WITH A WHISKY CREAM SAUCE

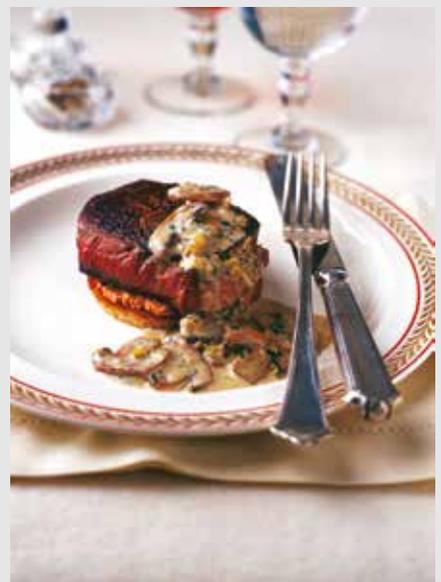
(Serves 2)

INGREDIENTS

2 Aberdeen-Angus fillet steaks about 1" (2.5cm) thick
2 rounds of fried bread
2 oz (50g) butter
1 finely chopped onion
4 oz (100g) sliced mushrooms
¼ pt (150ml) cream
1 tablespoon whisky
2 teaspoons chopped parsley
2 oz (50g) pâté

METHOD

Melt butter in pan and cook steaks until done as desired. Remove from pan and keep warm. Fry onion and mushrooms in pan with butter. Add whisky, cream, chopped parsley and seasoning. Simmer for few minutes. Spread fried bread round with pâté. Place beef on round and serve whisky sauce separately.



BALLINDALLOCH MINCE WITH A CRUNCHY TOPPING

(Serves 4)

INGREDIENTS

1 lb (450g) minced Aberdeen-Angus beef
1 onion, chopped
2 tablespoons oil
Worcestershire and tomato sauces to taste
1 tablespoon plain flour
½ pt (300ml) beef stock

FOR THE TOPPING:

4 oz (100g) butter (softened)
6 oz (150g) white breadcrumbs
2 oz (50g) grated parmesan cheese

FOR THE CHEESE SAUCE:

1 oz (25g) butter (softened)
1 oz (25g) flour
½ pt (300ml) milk
2 oz (50g) grated strong cheese
1 egg yolk
Mix all ingredients together

METHOD

Gently fry onion in oil. Sprinkle with flour and allow to colour. Add mince and cook over gentle heat for 5-10 minutes. Add stock, sauces and seasoning to taste. Simmer stirring occasionally for 20 minutes. Meanwhile make cheese sauce. Place butter and flour and milk in pan whisk madly till thick. Add egg yolk and cheese. Pour mince into fireproof dish. Cool a little. Cover with cheese sauce. Make topping. Cut butter into small pieces, rub into breadcrumbs, add grated parmesan cheese and sprinkle on top. Place in hot oven 350°F/180°C/Gas 4 for 15 minutes.

ABERDEEN-ANGUS MINCE COBBLER

(Serves 4)

INGREDIENTS

1½ lb (675g) Aberdeen-Angus mince
1 onion finely chopped
2 tablespoon oil
Worcestershire and tomato sauces to taste
1 tablespoon plain flour
¾ pt (400ml) beef stock.

FOR THE COBBLER:

6 oz (125 g) self-raising flour
Pinch salt
1 tablespoon thyme and rosemary
4 oz (100 g) Chilled butter in small pieces
4 oz (100g) grated cheddar cheese
Juice of 1 lemon
1 egg lightly beaten for glaze

METHOD

Heat oil in large pan. Add onions. Sprinkle with flour and allow to colour. Add mince and cook over gentle heat for 5-10 minutes. Add stock, sauces and seasoning to taste. Simmer stirring occasionally for 20 minutes. Meanwhile make cobblers.

Tip flour, baking powder, salt, and herbs into large bowl. Add butter and rub in. Add cheddar cheese. Make a well, add lemon juice and 4 tablespoons of water. Gently mix together to make crumbly dough. Roll out onto floured surface to ¾" thick. Cut into 4-6 rounds using a 3" (7cm) cutter. Put mince into deep gratin dish and arrange cobbler around it. Brush with beaten egg. Place in oven and cook at 350°F/180°C/Gas 4 for 20 minutes till golden brown.

FILLET OF ABERDEEN-ANGUS PIE

(Serves 4)

INGREDIENTS

1½ lb (675g) fillet of Aberdeen-Angus beef or good stewing steak
1 onion peeled and finely sliced
2 oz (50g) unsalted butter
8 oz (225g) mushrooms, finely sliced (wild or porcini)
3 tablespoons brandy or whisky (optional)
1 teaspoon French mustard
3 tablespoons crème fraîche
3 fl oz (85ml) double cream
1 tablespoon tarragon finely chopped
Paprika to taste
Parsley for decoration

FOR THE PASTRY:

4 oz (100g) butter
6 oz (175g) plain flour
1 egg beaten + 1 egg to wash pastry

METHOD

Cut fillet into small chunks. Heat half of butter in heavy based frying pan, add onion and fry gently until soft and golden. Remove with a slotted spoon and set aside. Increase heat and quickly fry meat in batches, set aside and keep warm. Place all ingredients in pan. Lower heat and stir in mustard, crème fraîche and cream. Then place in round pie dish, roll out pastry and cover. Place in oven at 350°F/180°C/Gas 4 for 20-30 minutes. Serve with creamy mashed potatoes.

FOR THE PASTRY:

Rub flour and butter till looks like breadcrumbs. Add beaten egg and mix in (it will be sticky) place in fridge for 10 minutes. Roll out and place on pie dish.

Nostalgia – A Look Back in Time

RAs we are all aware Aberdeen-Angus has worldwide fame all stemming from a hornless black breed of cattle that were known as Humlies and Doddies in the North East of Scotland in the counties of Aberdeen and Angus.

Sufficient premium driven by the eating quality 200 years ago was enough for the drovers to walk cattle from the North of Scotland to London where the aristocracy had not really made it until they had a Barron of Aberdeen Angus beef on the table to feed and entertain!

From these very humble beginnings the breed has blossomed into the number one globally recognised beef brand.

Some landmark years in the breed's global development are below and are essentially quite staggering to comprehend!

Taking on the World

1858	Australia
1863	New Zealand – New Zealand Land Company
1873	USA – George Grant – 4 Bulls to Kansas
1876	Canada – Ontario experimental Farm – Professor Brown who was Aberdonian by birth
1878	USA-First breeding cattle. 1200 head imported in the next five years.
1885	Argentina with the Argentine association celebrating 100 years in 2020
1883	The American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders Association incorporated
1905	Canadian Aberdeen-Angus Association formed

USA - Chicago International Livestock Exposition Founded. Aberdeen- Angus dominate steers and carcass classes

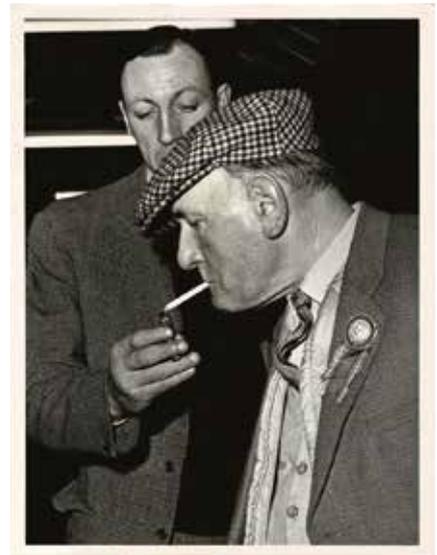
Here are a few memories of our relationships with people and places around the world who all share the passion for Aberdeen-Angus breed and brand. A look back in time to the days when “political correctness” was not even invented!



Photo taken at Smithfield Show in 1981 The bull is the Lidde Hill stock bull, Ballyshannon Justin 3rd, and he is being admired by Miss Great Britain



The theme carried on at the Royal show stand when the royal was in its heyday in 1982. The two men are Peter White, then office manager at Pedigree House, and George Cormack, of the Ashley herd, who was chairman of the Publicity Committee and founder of the Aberdeen-Angus Beef Scheme at the time.



Perth Aberdeen-Angus show in 1966 where a marathon judging session is halted for a few moments while judge Mr James Scofield, who was a leading exporter of bulls to Argentina at the time gets a light for his cigarette from Ring Steward and auctioneer Roley Fraser.



Not always cattle for sale at Perth in 1966 this little beauty was put up for sale don't know what it made but the same car today was sold at auction in the USA for \$145,600 Dollars or £109,516! I wonder what it made in 1966?



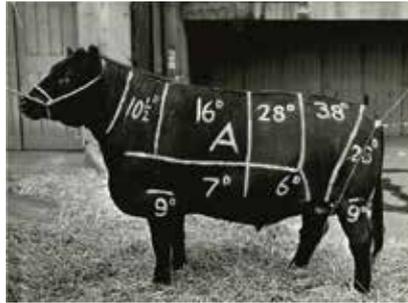
Three banners we could use today but perhaps the one in the foreground may cause a stir!



Mrs Elina Boyle pictured here at the Highland show in 1968 putting Aberdeen-Angus Steaks into the mouths of the visitors. The environmental health may have something to say if we tried this today! The principle is very good as tasting is a great way of showing confidence in the product and people remember something that is free! Elina worked at the Hartree Hotel, Biggar, for Major Sandy Dunlop, owner of the Hartree Aberdeen-Angus herd, who helped organise the Aberdeen-Angus steak bar at the Highland for the Society.



A fantastic display of Aberdeen-Angus beef in 1981 at the Royal Show. The signs in this picture say it all and to coin a phrase, its as good today as its always been! Take note of the fat cover - far more acceptable but essential for taste and flavour



The above was in our archive from Smithfield show in 1956 and was a demonstration of the price of different primal cuts from a beef animal. The price of each in pennies per pound, for those of us that don't remember, 2.2 pounds equals 1 kilo and 12 pennies or 12d is now 5 pence!



Open days and field walks feature heavily in our archive and here are some photographs from some of the historic ones



Some rather inclement weather after all the preparation at the Hampton Lucy herd in 1958 in Warwickshire which were the property of Mr Henry Standing and Mr Cecil Evans. Visitors are receiving some commentary on the Evabox family which can be seen in the background.



Bedell Field day from 1964 a busy ring side and a truck full of well covered Aberdeen-Angus beef as a further feature of the demonstration day. Aberdeen-Angus has always been linked to beef and quality beef throughout the ages. Spotted in the crowd is former breed Secretary Hugh Neilson who left the Society to become general Manager of Select Livestock Marketing. We must not lose sight that quality of beef is what the breed is all about!



Field days did not always go to plan but as always the resourcefulness of the passengers' agricultural backgrounds came to the fore with a solution!



A well assembled and attentive crowd at an open day at Little Daugh, Huntly. This was the first open day held by the Society on a commercial beef farm. A new event organised by Eddie Gillanders and the then Secretary Hugh Nielson. It was a two-farm event. It started at Chapelton, Leslie, Inch, in the morning, where Bob Adam gave a demonstration on the points of an Aberdeen-Angus bull, and then everyone jumped in their cars and drove the 15 miles or so to Little Daugh.



A selection of the large attendance at the field day at Sir William Rootes, Stype Herd in September 1957. Dr Thomas McLaren Former fieldsman of the Aberdeen Angus Society and real breed enthusiast is seen demonstrating on a group of pure-bred females. Prior to his retirement Dr McLaren was Director of Education in Moray



It doesn't always go to plan when you have a party of American visitors as Elena of Bankhead appeared to take a shy turn when the party paid a visit to Mr George McLarens Bankhead of Kinloch farm at Meigle near Perth in 1974. I guess the British visitors were on the double decker!



1984 saw a party of German Beef farmers visit Classlochie to view the Aberdeen-Angus herd and based on the numbers in Germany now of Aberdeen-Angus cattle and their suitability for the terrain I guess it would be a successful one.



As still happens today, Bruce Anderson came over from Melbourne Australia to gain experience of beef cattle breeds in the UK and is seen here assisting as herdsman with Mr Wynn R. Colville, Isla Bank, Couper Angus. at the annual Autumn Show and Sale at Perth Auction Market in 1958.



Dr Harlan Ritchie from Michigan State University in the USA is welcomed at Singleton by pioneer Red Angus Breeder Mr L. T Singleton Weewalla, Scone. Mr Singleton was president of the Angus Society for Australia for two terms.



Mr and Mrs Ian Parsons of Karaka Stud New Zealand eyeing the entries at the Show and sale in Perth (Centre Couple) Ian Parsons was President of the New Zealand Angus Society at the time of his visit.



Delegates at the 1973 World Angus Forum in America, far left Willie McLaren and far right Ben Couatts Breed Secretary at the time both Kilted.



World Angus Secretariat meeting in Ireland, 2007



Judging at Perth Bull sales in 1960 Raul Bancalari of Argentina



Alistair Rettie herdsman of Messrs Osmond who won the herdsman's cup the Candacraig cup in 1956. Not all hard work at the sales for the herdsmen here is Alistair doing the "Pinky Hold of the 56'er". Behind Alistair is Sandy Watt who was registrar with the Society from 1919 until his retirement in the late 60s.



The winning group of three bulls at Perth in 1946 with herdsmen (L-R) Gavin Ogg, John Lange, Bert .Rugg



John Graham (centre) with the first Angus cattle to arrive from Canada. A right family affair spanning nearly 100 years of livestock showing and fitting!



The famed family name is carried on by Richard, Alistair's son and his wife Carol Rettie, who break and livery for several Aberdeen-Angus herds and their own herd "Retties" - the legacy lives on!



The Champion group of five bulls by Mariner of Tangier at the Perth bull sales in 1979, bred by W. Thomson and Sons, Beath herd, Kelty, Kinross.



Mr Albert Rettie manager of the Gaidrew herd who won the Candacraig cup at Perth Auction Market in 1951 Alberts son is Alistair Rettie featured below.

Moving in a New Direction

As a Society, we are hungry for more market share, to continue to reach out to our three target audiences – farmers, meat trade and retailers, and the consumer. This means we need to adapt the content we produce in our PR and marketing, and working with each sector to ensure Aberdeen-Angus, The Breed and The Brand, stay at the top.

Working with our PR agency, Pinstone, we're creating a long-term PR and marketing strategy, with an overarching vision for all of our communications:

From this, we have three target audiences to whom we have individual key messages to portray.

Our communications aim is to raise the profile of The Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society and its goals:

- Britain's best high-quality beef that you can rely on for great eating quality, every time
- Belief in this native British breed, with a growing market share to match
- Improving animal health and genetics sustainably
- The go-to specialists for all things cattle/beef related

FARMING – BOTH SOCIETY MEMBERS AND THE WIDER INDUSTRY:

- Aberdeen-Angus is the breed of choice if you want to produce the best beef you possibly can
- Farming Aberdeen-Angus cattle is a sustainable, efficient and profitable choice
- Aberdeen-Angus are the go-to genetics for the dairy industry as they have the most robust market
- DNA tracing ensuring the gold standard of meat traceability
- DNA profiling through the Society ensures an accurate, assured and qualitative herd book
- Genetic profiling ensures the pedigree genetics pool for future generations, thus improving the quality of the breed as a whole, as well as safeguarding positive traits
- Genetic improvement alongside traditional methods (e.g. herd selection and nutrition) will ensure better performing cattle
- Genetic improvement will further improve the profitability of the breed
- New extended 'barcode' DNA test with the addition of genomics, will provide greater clarity for breed with extreme reliability and robust database, and enhanced EBVs
- The breed's size, demeanour, early maturing nature and marketable weight ensures they suit today's retail market requirements
- Aberdeen-Angus are a relatively easy-care herd, easily managed and sustained with traditional grazing methods
- The breed already signifies 'premium', which, as a Society in this current climate, is a must-have commodity. As market share grows and with it supply demands, The Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society will ensure quality is never substituted for quantity
- Aberdeen-Angus is a suitable breed to weather an economic storm, offering profitability within a suckler beef enterprise

MEAT PROCESSING AND FOOD SERVICE:

- Aberdeen-Angus, well-marbled beef is tasty, succulent and tender, and is very forgiving when you cook it – beef you can rely on
- 'Standard Steak' driving higher margins and spend
- Aberdeen-Angus, a known brand you can trust and your customer's trust
- Aberdeen-Angus produce more steak and smaller joints in a carcass – ideal for today's market demands
- Retail supply chain - quality meat is ensured with every Aberdeen-Angus purchase
- Red meat is the profit driver of the shopping basket
- Industry leading DNA and genomics in place – beef you can rely on to protect own brand label reputation
- Premium offer driving basket spend per customer over the standard beef

CONSUMER:

- Tasty and delicious meat every time
- The best steak to cook at home
- The most sustainable beef you can eat
- Recognisable, iconic brand which can be trusted
- Ensuring the consumers pick the best of British every time
- Buying local mitigates foreign imports and takes environmental factors into account
- Clear DNA tracing will enable consumers to cut through the complicated beef supply chain with an assured mark of provenance
- Assured animal welfare through DNA traceback and genetic profiling

By creating editorial, social media posts and wider marketing material tailored to each industry, ticking off these core aims and messages, we can strive with the one message:



Partnering with Pinstone

To keep with the trend of new directions, May 2020 saw a new relationship develop with PR and marketing communications agency, Pinstone.

Based in Herefordshire, the team of 20 have a sound knowledge of the agricultural industry, all having some link to farming – whether it be through degrees, a passion for rural life, or living on a farm.

The team truly live and breathe farming and this paired with their communications expertise is why their specialism and passion has led to their impressive client list spanning the breadth of the agricultural industry!

As a Society, we felt we needed fresh ideas to support how we promote and market the breed, the brand and our members. So when we decided to look for an agency to

support this direction, it was very important we found a PR team with an agricultural specialism. Following some in-depth meetings where they presented their ideas and expertise, we believe we have found this in Pinstone.

We're well underway with our new marketing and communications strategy, with fantastic editorial content being created to showcase you, the members, to the wider industry. I'm thrilled to be able to utilise the expertise we now have at our disposal and feel very confident that the Pinstone team will bring our vision for the Aberdeen-Angus breed and brand to fruition.

Barrie Turner
CEO



Hannah Lloyd

hannah@pinstone.co.uk



Becky Callaghan

r.callaghan@pinstone.co.uk



Jen Liggins

jen@pinstone.co.uk

WILLIE ROBERTSON

One of the leading breeders of Aberdeen-Angus in the UK, William (Willie) Robertson, owner of the Nightingale herd at Bishampton, Pershore, Worcestershire, has died at the age of 88 following a short illness.

Mr Robertson was widely recognised for his deep practical knowledge and understanding of the principles of cattle breeding which, with his late wife, Rita, and daughters, Angela and Catriona, he put in to practice in building-up the Nightingale herd in to one of the most successful herds in the breed.

He is credited with the shrewd selection of foundation females for the herd from Canada in 1974 at a time when the breed was struggling to shake-off the legacy of the smaller compact Aberdeen-Angus of the 1950s and 1960s to breed a larger-framed, quicker-growing animal more in tune with modern commercial demand.

The four foundation females from the Black Browe, Rivercrest and Corvallis herds in Alberta, followed by a series of influential Canadian-bred sires, quickly catapulted the Nightingale herd in to the top echelons of the Aberdeen-Angus breed, where it has remained for the past 45 years.

A visit to Canada in the spring of 1974, completely changed his perceptions of cattle breeding and he came home convinced that Canada had the answer to the breed's problems in the UK.

"It was obvious that larger-framed cattle were required and when the opportunity to import from Canada came along, I gladly took it," he said.

But it wasn't size at any cost and the clear emphasis was on breeding efficient cattle with good feed conversion, easy fleshing, low maintenance costs and the ability to achieve superior performance on grass and conserved fodder.

He took the view early on that to make real genetic progress, you have to narrow down breeding objectives to two or three characteristics and go all out to improve them, even

if sacrifices have to be made to achieve that goal.

"You will never get there trying to breed the complete animal," he said. "We achieved a larger frame and then concentrated on improving muscling."

It is recognised that Mr Robertson made a better job than most in his stock selections from Canada and this is reflected in the number of influential Nightingale-bred stock bulls which found their way into leading pedigree and commercial herds throughout the country.

By 2004, 26 females and 18 bulls had been imported from Canada, as well as embryos and semen. Nightingale bulls soon earned a well-deserved reputation for improving the EBVs of cattle in herds where they were used and a stream of regular buyers, both beef and dairy herds, were regularly beating a path to Nightingale to buy stock bulls, unpushed at 12-15 months of age.

Very few bulls have been sold at auction over the years and cows in the herd have proved prolific breeders with many going on to breed until the age of 15.

A notable achievement was replacing 25 Charolais bulls in one large-scale suckler herd with 25 Nightingale Aberdeen-Angus bulls while another regular customer bought 10 bulls in five years.

When cattle from the herd make a rare appearance in the sale or show ring, they can be counted on to make an impact. In the early days, bulls figured in the championship line-up at the Perth Bull Sales and sold for up to 12,500gns. A championship was won at the Royal Show and Nightingale-bred cattle carried off championships at the Royal Highland and Royal Dublin shows.

The influence of Nightingale cattle has permeated throughout the breed with Newhouse, Kinermony, Blelack, Newcairnie, Penguin, Skail, Wedderlie, Tofts, Cardona and the late Queen Mother's Castle of Mey herd among the leading herds which have used Nightingale sires as stock bulls over the years.

Three ET sons of Ankonian Elixir 100, Netherallan Peter Pershore

E052 (at Blelack and Shadwell), Netherallan Paul Pershore E053 (at Arms) and Nightingale Poundman C183 (at Nightingale) - the first from Nightingale Pride of Pershore E052 and the other two from her full sister, Nightingale Pride of Pershore S44, have made a particularly strong impact in more recent years.

Semen has also been exported all over the world, particularly to Brazil and Australia and, in a role reversal, a daughter of a Nightingale bull, BCC Miss Hottie 31Z, was a champion in Alberta in 2013.

The herd has been weight recorded since 1975 and all calves are scanned for muscle depth, backfat and rump fat for Breedplan recording.

Mr Robertson's immense contribution to the Aberdeen-Angus breed was recognised last year when he was presented with the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society's President's award for outstanding service to the breed.

Born on the family farm at Rannoch in West Perthshire, Mr Robertson farmed with his father and brother at Garrique, near Stirling, where he dabbled (his own description) in Aberdeen-Angus. He got himself in to the export trade in its hey-day with the late exporter, Moubray Alexander, and spent six months in Argentina in 1966-67 working with the Waldman family's renowned Los Montes herd helping to look after 3,000 cows, all served by AI.

After his father died and the family partnership was split-up, Mr Robertson decided to look for something more amenable than the high-lying farm of Garrique which eventually led him to the 200-acre all-grass Nightingale Farm right in the heart of the 'Garden of England' in the idyllic Vale of Evesham.

The herd is now run by Angela while Catriona and her husband, Alex Sutherland, have their own Abberton herd nearby. Mr Robertson was pre-deceased in 2012 by his wife, Rita, who was a keen judge of cattle and played a large part in the management of the herd and development of the breeding programme.



JOHN GILMOUR MASTER BUTCHER AND BUSINESSMAN

John Gilmour was a charismatic family man who demonstrated astute business acumen throughout his working life. He had an incredible ability to connect with people at all levels in life and was always interested in them and their stories.

First and foremost, John was a 'Panner', as natives of the East Lothian town are known, and he retained his affection and love of his hometown, Prestonpans, all his life. John would talk of a wonderful childhood raised by his mother Sarah Galloway and his father William Gilmour. His father and uncle John had set up a butchery business in 1946 after returning from war-time service with the RAF.

John attended Prestonpans Primary School before moving on to Preston Lodge High School. He was academically gifted and received numerous Merits, especially in history and maths, during his time at school. Despite his undoubted academic potential, he left school at fifteen to join the family business.

He quickly learned the skills and became a Master Butcher. Importantly he also proved to be a very able buyer of cattle for the family business. Initially this was at John Swan's, the auctioneers at Gorgie Market in Edinburgh. After that business closed down in 2002, he would make a weekly trip to the market at Newton St Boswells where he bought some of the finest cattle produced in the UK.

Robert Neill of Jedburgh paid tribute to John's devotion to promoting the merits of Scotch Beef, saying he would often bring potential customers onto the farm to see the animals in their natural environment. He was always proud to play a part in championing beef produced in this country. This saw him take part in demonstrations at the Highland Show as well as special 'Beef' nights at some of the premier restaurants in Scotland.

Apart from buying cattle at the market, which was the prime purpose of the weekly trip down to the Borders, he enjoyed spending time with farmers, other buyers and those who worked in the mart, many of whom he counted as dear friends.

While these buying trips were integral to the business, John also expanded the butchery business by building up a successful company of catering butchers supplying high quality meat to some of the finest restaurants and hotels throughout the UK.

While building his extensive knowledge of the red meat industry and ensuring he had created a strong company, John still found time to create a secondary business when he started the Belhaven Aberdeen-Angus herd. Helped by noted exhibitors, Richard and Carol Rettie, Dollar, this herd had tremendous success in the show ring culminating one year in winning the prestigious Best in Breed Female at the Highland Show. Success was also achieved at Stirling Bull sales where he sold numerous high-priced bulls, topping out at 16,000 guineas. One of the main reasons for John's success was that he built his cattle around Canadian and American genetics from some of the most progressive herds thus giving scale and muscle to the traditional Aberdeen-Angus.

A keen footballer in his youth, his love of football started at primary school where he played alongside his childhood friend Alfie Conn who was later to play for both the Old Firm teams. John was a Rangers season ticket holder, and he would admit that he enjoyed the highs and lows that came with supporting the Ibrox side. He also had a life-long passion for horse racing. This enthusiasm for racing and his talent for spotting a winner saw him politely asked by one bookie to make alternative betting arrangements.

Through his time playing football and rugby at Preston Lodge, he met his wife, Teena Clark. It was a happy meeting as they celebrated 40 years of marriage last year. As a young man, John had played off a handicap of two in East Lothian and more recently he and Teena had enjoyed many a day on the local golf courses.

John is survived by his wife Teena, his daughter Rebecca and sons Daniel and Simon; his grandson Samuel and a new granddaughter Charlotte born on 26th March 2020.

DIETZ KAGELMANN



Long-standing Chairman Mr. Dietz Kagelmann, succumbed to his severe cancer and died on 30th March 2020. Our condolences go above all to his wife Marion and his two sons Renz and Marian.

Born in 1951, Dietz Kagelmann took over the farm in 1968 and converted it into a 35 ha organic grassland farm with 25 Angus herdbook cows, which he ran together with his family as a sideline. Dietz used the wealth of experience gained from his full-time work for the city of Wolfsburg and the city administration of Halberstadt for the benefit of our Association.

On 28th June, Dietz was elected, as a newcomer so to speak, Chairman of the BDAH at the Angustage in Hesse. He meticulously worked out a new Association statute and put the non-profit status of the Association in the foreground.

Only one year later a new management had to be appointed for work economic reasons. With Dr. Sabine Schmidt, Dietz succeeded in finding the ideal candidate. Due to the positive and trustworthy cooperation of both individuals, the Association developed steadily in terms of profitability, marketing and membership.

Dietz placed the community of Angus owners and the promotion of Angus cattle at the forefront of his work and many new contacts were made at home and abroad during the EuroTier participations in 2014, 2016 and 2018.

With the second Angus-Jungrinder-Bundesschau in Berlin 2016, he continued the work of his predecessor Johannes Hibbeln to present Angus cattle to urban consumers and thus provide insights into the animal and environmentally friendly husbandry of Angus cattle. In addition to the anniversary celebrations for the 60th anniversary of the BDAH in 2015, the large Angus Bundesschau

on 4th and 5th May 2018 in Laasdorf was certainly a highlight of his time on the Board. A lot of international visitors came to see the state of German Angus breeding.

This was preceded by many journeys, to Poland, Austria, Estonia, the World Angus Forum in Scotland and most recently to Ireland, which Dietz unfortunately was unable to attend himself. International connections and cooperation were very important to Dietz, as Angus cattle has become an absolute export hit in German beef cattle breeding. In the spirit of this European cooperation, he participated for the first time officially as a representative of the BDAH at the European Angus Forum in Estonia and founded the European Aberdeen-Angus Secretariat together with nine other states, with the aim of making Angus cattle, which have been bred in Germany for decades out of economic and climatic necessity, internationally known and recognized. He took over the presidency of the European Aberdeen-Angus Secretariat, combined with the organisation of the European Angus Forum in Germany for the year 2020 - a huge task that had to be shouldered jointly and which he also faced-up to during his illness phase. The cancellation of the European Angus Forum due to the COVID-19 Pandemic was certainly a bitter disappointment for Dietz.

Finally, his thoughts turned to the premium meat marketing of Angus cattle, as he wanted to make provisions for the case of an export slump.

The Federal Association of German Angus Owners owes Dietz Kagelmann a great and sincere debt of gratitude. Dietz Kagelmann was characterised by his determination, his skillful analysis, his assertiveness, but also his humanity and warmth in dealing with people.

Our thoughts are with his family, his wife Marion and their two children in the difficult hours of mourning for the painful loss of a loved one, a friend and our highly esteemed Chairman Dietz Kagelmann.

Manfred Winhart

On behalf of the Executive Board, our Managing Director Dr. Sabine Schmidt and the entire Advisory Board of the Bundesverband der Deutschen Angushalter e. V.

JAMES SMITH



James (Jim) Smith, from a well-known family of Scottish stockmen, has died in Canada.

The Scots emigre died suddenly at his home in Claremont, Ontario, Canada, at the end of August.

Jim, who was 81 when he passed, was the much-loved husband of Margaret of 60 years and a loving father to Roy (Dalene), Gwen, Shirley Ann (Greg Redshaw), plus grandfather to Dawn, Brittany, David, Mitchell and Ryan.

He is survived by his brother, Roy, and is predeceased by siblings Aileen, David (formerly a doyen of Angus breed stockmen) and Norman. He will also be lovingly remembered by a range of nieces and nephews and extended family.

Farming was his passion and his hobby. He was well known in the farming community on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean and will be missed by all who knew him. Jim and Margaret made frequent trips back to Scotland, always timed around the February, or October Stirling Bull Sales.

The family emigrated to Canada in 1969, when he took a position as farm manager for a Toronto businessman and building up two herds of Herefords for different farms. In latter years, he had been hired to start an Aberdeen-Angus herd. He won many prizes for both Herefords and Aberdeen-Angus.

A private family service was held and Low and Low Funeral Home, Uxbridge, Ontario, at the end of August. Interment of his ashes was held at Claremont Union Cemetery, on 19th September, with the remainder of his ashes to be scattered in Scotland as per his wishes.

Courtesy of The Scottish Farmer

SANDY FORDYCE



Sandy Senior (right) who passed away and his son, also Sandy, on the left.

The Aberdeenshire farmer who bred the animal which became the model for the life-size bronze sculpture of the Aberdeen-Angus bull which stands on the outskirts of Alford has died.

Until his retirement a few-years-ago, Sandy Fordyce (91) farmed at Bridgefoot, Kemnay, with his son, also Sandy, and hit the headlines at the Perth Bull Sales in February 2000, when, with the Aberdeen-Angus breed in ascent, his bull, Jeremy Eric of Bridgefoot, sold for 28,000gns which was the highest price paid for an Aberdeen-Angus for 35 years, since the post-war heyday of the breed in the early 1960s.

Much to the disappointment of the family, the bull failed to make the prize list at the show on the day before the sale, despite having won the bull calf championship at the Black Beauty Bonanza show at Thainstone two months earlier.

But the English judge, the late Norman Thomas from Oxford, didn't rate the bull which he felt, although perfectly formed, lacked the size breeders were looking for in the modern Aberdeen-Angus.

But many other leading breeders had other ideas and after a keen bidding dual between the Galloway family of meat processors, Scotbeef, who own the Cardona herd at Doune, Perthshire, and the Fraser family, owners of the Idvies herd at Forfar, Alistair Fraser emerged as the successful bidder with a bid which stunned the packed ringside.

The bull, whose pedigree boasted some of the best bloodlines in the breed, proved a highly successful sire at Idvies, and became one of the most widely used bulls in the UK and Ireland, and indeed over the world, through semen sales.

He was chosen as the perfect specimen of the Aberdeen-Angus breed for the sculpture which was conceived by local businessman, Robbie Gordon, and the community of Alford, with support from the North East Aberdeen-Angus Club,

to commemorate William McCombie of Tillyfour, Alford, who was one of the great founders of the Aberdeen-Angus breed in the early 1800s.

The sculptor for the bull was Fife-based David Annand, the son of a former banker in Alford, and the sculpture was unveiled in 2001 by HRH The Prince of Wales, who has an Aberdeen-Angus herd at Highgrove, in the presence of HRH The Queen Mother who, as it turned out, was making her last public appearance in Scotland before her death. HRH The Queen Mother was an enthusiastic breeder of Aberdeen-Angus at Castle of Mey and Patron of The Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society for 64 years.

Mr Fordyce and his late brother, Stephen, were for many years renowned finishers of top-quality Aberdeen-Angus cattle for the commercial market, finishing around 600 cattle a year, all of which went to the Portlethen meat plant when it was operated by William Donald. Sandy was a regular winner at fatstock shows and had the unique distinction of winning the championship at the Aberdeen Fatstock Show at Kittybrewster, four years in succession in the 1960s, after which he missed a year to exhibit at the Scottish National Fatstock Show at Perth, where he won the award for the best pen of four cattle, before returning to Kittybrewster to take the championship for another three years in a row.

The pedigree herd was founded in 1995 when Mr Fordyce and his son, Sandy, went to the Perth sales with the intention of buying a Limousin bull for crossing, but were so impressed with an Aberdeen-Angus bull, Ernest 3rd of Ladywell, that they bought him instead and later added pure-bred females to start the pedigree herd.

Mr Fordyce, who had retired to Inverurie, is survived by his wife, Ena, and sons Sandy and Neil, daughter, Gail, and four grandchildren.

Eddie Gillanders

JOHN HENDERSON

His many friends throughout Northern Ireland and beyond were saddened to learn of the passing last March of John Henderson of Ballyheather House, Strabane, Co Tyrone.

John was a larger than life character, with forthright views on most subjects, which he wasn't slow to voice, and was greatly admired for his stoicism following a double lung transplant at Newcastle in 2005, from which he made a remarkable recovery.

He lived life to the full and didn't allow such major surgery to curtail his activities. "I may not be here for a long time, but I'm here for a damn good time," epitomised his undiminished zest for life.

But the operation inevitably left him with low immunity and when cancer struck in August 2019, he spent seven months in hospital before his death on 29th March 2020.

John moved to Ballyheather as a 17-year-old to help his aunt with the family farm, following the death of his uncle, Jack Jamieson, and his interest in pedigree cattle resulted in the establishment of small herds of Aberdeen-Angus and Simmental, as well as a Highland cattle fold.

But Aberdeen-Angus was his first love and although never exceeding about 12 cows, the Ballyheather herd was prominent in the show and sale ring in Northern Ireland for many years and at the Perth Autumn Sales, where he had the distinction of winning no fewer than three female championships as well as a senior bull championship.

His proudest moment came at the Perth sales in October 2002, when the bull, Ballyheather Denmark A726, a son of Killala Micky, won the senior championship and sold for 6000gns, after taking the reserve male championship at the Royal Ulster Show the previous year and championships at the Ballymoney, Limavady, Omagh, Antrim and Enniskillen shows, while Ballyheather Dolly Z682, by Royal Added Value 19D and champion at Balmoral, carried off the female championship and sold for 4200gns.

Earlier, in October 1993, a heifer bought from Gregory Donnelly, Black Barbara of Ardkill, by Castle of Mey Esquire, had also won the female championship and sold for 2600gns.

Later, John bought a descendant of this heifer as a calf at foot with her dam at a Cardona reduction sale. The calf, Cardona Black Barbara E34, by the 2003 Perth reserve supreme champion, Lockerley Eastern Cruz A093, went on as a two-year-old to give John his third female championship at the 2007 autumn sale when she sold for 3200gns.

John had a good eye for cattle and was frequently called upon to judge at shows throughout Ireland. He was also a long-time committee member of the Northern Ireland Aberdeen-Angus Club and a former Chairman.

He enjoyed travelling and was a regular visitor to Scotland, regularly attending the Perth/Stirling Aberdeen-Angus and Oban Highland bull sales, with a particular fondness for the Orkney Isles where he was

a frequent visitor for the Orkney County Show and made many friendships.

John is survived by his wife of 42 years, Liz, and sister, Frances, and her husband, Sam McCollum, also a breeder of Aberdeen-Angus.



ANDREW SHUFFLEBOTHAM (SHUFF)



One of the most popular figures in the Aberdeen-Angus breed, Andrew Shufflebotham (or Shuff as many of you knew him), owner of the Cheerbrook herd at Heathfield Farm, Sandy Lane, Hatherton, Nantwich, Cheshire, has died at the age of 50 after being diagnosed with cancer in May, 2019.

Growing up on the family pig farm near Nantwich, Andrew's real interest was always cattle, being given his first Hereford heifer calf for his 5th Birthday. He spent his youth honing his stock judging skills in the Young Farmers and although never a scholar in the conventional sense, his knowledge in respect of cattle pedigrees was virtually encyclopaedic and he could recite breeding back generations! A year in Australia as a twenty-year-old working on cattle stations - helping to prepare cattle for show and sale broadened his experience.

He and his brother took over the farm in the late 90's but with the decline in the pig industry took the brave decision to diversify. Andrew with the support of his mother, Miranda (a founding member of Ladies in Pigs) chose to merge his love of cattle and food in opening Cheerbrook Farm Shop in October 2000. Marrying Sarah in January 2003 the pair grew the business

into the multi-award-winning farm shop, butchery and bakery it is today, adding a café in 2012 to help showcase the retail business.

When the decision to disperse the family Hereford herd was made in 2006, Andrew took the opportunity to start afresh with Aberdeen Angus, purchasing embryos from leading Canadian herds, admiring the easy fleshing, mobile ranch cattle. Many herd visits around the UK resulted in the addition of select females to expand the herd and the promise to Sarah of never exceeding 30 head was rapidly surpassed and numbers reached nearly 100 at its peak! Despite the sad occasion of the sale he was proud to see the status of the herd confirmed at the dispersal at Stirling in October, 2019, when a six-month-old son of Luther, Cheerbrook Profile, sold for 12,000gns.

Due to the demands of the Farm Shop, he rarely did any showing, but ventured to the National Calf Show on a few occasions taking Heifer Calf Overall Champion with Cheerbrook Erilla R063, by Penguin Henry M503, in 2015, and Reserve Male Calf Champion Cheerbrook Luther T090, by Gretnahouse Blacksmith L500, in 2018.

Andrew took an active part in the activities of the Society, serving on Council for three years and taking a strong interest in the encouragement of the younger generation as chairman of the youth development committee. He had hoped to progress the importance of genomics within the breed, as having such direct contact with the consumer via the farm shop had quickly taught him the importance of good eating quality and consistency. His passion for the Aberdeen Angus breed and brand was obvious.

Never happier than when talking cows, Andrew made many great friends within the Angus Society but special mention must be made of Bob Lane and Owen Tunney who travelled with him to Canada to visit Agribition two years ago and who have been a great support to Sarah who has retained three females and calves as the new Shuffs herd.

Andrew is survived by his wife Sarah, elder son, Harry, from a previous relationship, and younger son Jake (16) and daughter Molly (14) with Sarah.

MICHAEL REYNOLDS



Michael Reynolds was born and lived all his life in Bohey, Drumlish, Co. Leitrim. He was pre-deceased by his parents, from whom was passed on the great love of cattle and the land. From a very young age Michael had a keen interest in the Angus Breed. The "Bohey" Herd was established in the early 1900's and since then has been renowned for producing quality Angus cattle over the years, breeding various bulls that went forward to Al, bulls such as Bohey Judge, Bohey Colossal, Bohey Leo and most famously Bohey Jasper, who sired the most expensive Angus animal ever sold at auction, the €31,000 Lavally Angie

Michael had a great love for Cattle Shows and Exhibitions, always a great sportsman and the taking part was all that mattered, although was never shy in contributing in the post show analysis. Preparing for Shows and Exhibitions was the true joy of Michaels farming, a calf's preparation for the show scene would start within weeks of arriving. Michael invested countless hours ensuring his stock was prizewinning material. Michael would have exhibited at many many shows all over the Country, in the early years having walked cattle to local shows in Cloone, Mohill and Longford.

Long-time member of the Irish Aberdeen Angus Cattle Society and was always a loyal supporter of the Midland & Western Cattle Improvement Society. Michael's most recent success would have been where he claimed 1st prize with Bohey Pascal in 2018 at the Irish Aberdeen Angus Calf Show in Carrick On Shannon.

Michael will be sadly missed by his family, friends neighbours and the huge circle of friends he made in show circles over the years. May he rest in peace.

ALISTAIR RETTIE

It is with sadness that we must report the passing of Alistair Rettie on Sunday, November 29, in Yorkshire, three weeks before his 91st birthday.

Alastair was a very successful stockman with the Gaidrew and Barnoldby Aberdeen-Angus herds in the late 1940s and 1950s and winner of the Candacraig Cup on several occasions at the Perth bull sales for the stockman amassing the highest points for placings in the bull classes.

He was a very popular figure in the Aberdeen-Angus world, particularly with his fellow stockmen, for his great sense of humour and the harmless mischief he used to get up to.

Shortly before his death, he and his great friend and fellow mischief-maker, Sandy Beaton, who trained under him at Barnoldby and later became a successful cattleman with the Fairthwaite and Fairway Charolais herds, enjoyed going through Willie McLaren's recently-produced slide presentation on the changes in the breed over the past 60 years.

As the pair reminisced, his daughter, Marion, who cared for Alastair following the death of his wife, June, three years ago, remarked that she had never heard so much laughter in the household for a long time.

Alastair joined his father at Gaidrew, Kippen, on leaving school in the mid-1940s. Encouraged by his father-in-law, George Barnet, his father had become manager of the Gaidrew herd in 1941 for retired banker, William Donald, and Alastair moved with him in 1951 when he took up a similar position with Barnoldby herd near Grimsby, owned by Osmond and Sons Ltd, the animal health specialists, still at the time owned by Roy Osmond and the Osmond family.

By the judicious selection of stock bulls and expert stockmanship, the father-and-son duo are reputed to have lifted both the Gaidrew and Barnoldby herds from relative mediocrity to become leading herds in the breed.

Under the Rettie's management, the Gaidrew herd won the supreme championship at Perth twice, in 1949 with Benes of Gaidrew and two years later with Prodigy of Gaidrew, which went on to sell for a then record price for the breed of 8500gns, as well as the female championships in both 1949 and 1950.

Their successes at Barnoldby were even more impressive, starting with the heifer championship in 1952, followed by the trophy for the best five bulls by the same sire in 1954, the reserve supreme and junior championships in 1955 with Black Brutus of Barnoldby, which sold for 9000gns, and the supreme and junior championships in 1956 with Black Baron of Barnoldby which sold for 16,000gns, a new record which lasted for a couple of hours until Stype Editor sold for 17,000gns.

Also in 1956, the Barnoldby herd took the reserve junior championship with Matchmaker of Barnoldby, the trophies for the best three bulls by one sire, most points in the bull classes and the heifer championship.

The following year, Pampas of Barnoldby was reserve senior champion and the herd again carried off the awards for the best three bulls by one sire and the most points

A successful Hereford herd was also established at Barnoldby which enjoyed many successes, including a Royal Show championship and a Royal Smithfield Show championship with a heifer which gained a stay of execution after a public outcry that she was "too pretty to die".

The Barnoldby herd was sold in its entirety in 1971 to Willie McLaren to join the Netherton herd and Alastair acquired North Farm in the Vale of Pickering where he specialised in growing high quality hay for the horse racing market and established a small Charolais herd.

Alastair was predeceased by his wife, June, and is survived by three sons, Andrew, who continues to farm at North Farm, Richard who, with his wife, Carol, are well-known in the breed through their livery and cattle fitting activities based at Methven, Perth, as well as their own small Angus herd, Ian, who lives in Texas, daughter, Marion, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

WILLIE MILLER

Akenspeckle figure in the Moray farming community, Willie Miller, who earned his place in the annals of the Aberdeen-Angus breed in the 1960s by breeding the influential sire, Rambler of Newcroft, has died in an Elgin care home at the age of 98.

Born at Craigieburn Farm, Falkirk, he moved to Moray in his teens when his father took over as dairyman at Linkwood Farm, Elgin. He also worked as a dairyman at Linkwood

before branching out on his own grazing sheep on rented land and buying store cattle for local farmers and finished cattle for local butchers, honing his skills in the selection of stock and eventually, in 1962, acquiring the 60 acre farm of Newlands at Birnie, near Elgin.

His entry in to the Aberdeen-Angus world came by chance as a result of his keen eye for stock with potential. He bought two pedigree heifers from local breeder, Peter Civera of Loanhead, Spynie, and was so taken with one of the heifers, Ruby of Loanhead, that he decided to keep her for breeding rather than sending her to the butcher. She cost him all of £50.

Her first calf sold for 210gns at the Inverness bull sale. He then arranged to have her served by Endeavour of Hungerford, stock bull in the commercial beef suckler herd of his friend, John Anderson, of Mayne Farm, Elgin.

The resultant calf was Rambler of Newcroft which went on to win a first prize at the Perth bull sales in February, 1968, and sold for 2200gns in a joint purchase by brothers, Donald McLaren, Classloch, Kinross, and George McLaren, Bankhead of Kinloch, Meikle, for use in their pedigree herds.

Rambler, the highest weight-gain bull in the sale with an impressive average daily liveweight gain of 2.9lb (1.3kg), sired many high-priced bulls in both the Classloch and Bankhead herds, and is recognised as a game-changing bull and the first to sire the larger-framed bulls which the breed required at the time to get away from the smaller, dumpy-type animals which were the vogue in the 1950s and 1960s.

But Rambler was not a "one-shot wonder" from the prolific bargain-priced Ruby. Two full brothers followed, Reuben of Newcroft, selling at Perth the following year for 1200gns for export to Dr Lauro de Macedo, Brazil, and Resplendent of Newcroft, which the McLaren brothers bought privately for 3000gns in a bid to repeat Rambler's success.

Reuben was also the highest for weight-gain at Perth with an average daily liveweight gain of 3lb (1.36kg) and scaling 1258lb (570.6kg), 340lb (154kg) above the breed average at the time.

Mr Miller still only had two cows in his herd but spent some of the proceeds from the sale of Rambler to buy a ten-year old cow at the Thorn dispersal for 150gns and built up to a herd of 27 cows. Although never reaching such dizzy heights

again, the Newcroft herd remained prominent at local shows and sales and Mr Miller a highly respected breeder and mentor to many.

It was not unusual for neighbours to find a 'neep or half a dozen eggs on their doorstep, dropped off by Willie on his way back from the farm to his house in Elgin. But, as his son-in-law, Jim Clark, commented in his eulogy at Willie's funeral, he didn't suffer fools gladly. There were three ways of doing things – the right way, the wrong way and Willie's way!

Farming was his life – particularly his Aberdeen-Angus herd and flock of Dorset Horn sheep – and holidays were never on the agenda – except for the Perth bull sales and the Royal Highland Show!

He continued to run the farm until the age of 86 but had to give up following two hip operations and a stroke in 2006. He was predeceased by his wife, May, and is survived by daughter, Rosemary and son-in-law, Jim, a former police inspector, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



CONTACT THE OFFICE

At the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society, we take communication with our members, stakeholders and trade very seriously. Here at The Society we are committed to providing you with the best advice and assistance that we can. We want to make it as easy as possible for you to deal with us and know where to turn if you need help with any aspect of your business.

The team at Pedigree House are at your service and are here to help you. The expertise within the team can cover most situations and bring them to a resolution.

Please find below a summary of the individual staff roles within the Society so that you can reach the right

department and person first time. We hope that by contacting the right people and department will help us to help you have a good experience when contacting us – every time.

For a quicker response to your enquiry, please try to identify the person that can help you best – either by emailing, phoning and leaving a voicemail if your call cannot be taken at the time.

PLEASE DO NOT USE the info@aberdeen-angus.co.uk email address which is being phased out and is not monitored regularly.

BARRIE TURNER **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Barrie's ultimate responsibility is ensuring that we run a tight ship in terms of legislative, financial matters as well as developing the infrastructure that is required to deliver the needs of the breed and our membership and stakeholders.

Direct Dial: 01738 448345
Mobile: 07597 369580
01738 622477: Option 7

LAURA STEWART - OFFICE MANAGER

Laura has been with the Society for several years and is well versed in the running and governance. Laura has a multi-task role within the Society from managing the office infrastructure and IT, Council and Committee meeting responsibility, communications with presidential team and directors, CAAB scheme enquiries/membership, as well as PA to the CEO.

Direct Dial: 01738 448343
01738 622477: Option 6
Email: laura@aberdeen-angus.co.uk

ANGELA CUMMING - FINANCE

Angela is our Finance Manager and looks after financial matters including reporting to the board for the Society, PCS our subsidiary company and YDP accounts. It is important that you notify us straight away if you have a query with an invoice. To pay by card, please contact Angela or Helena. You can pay by cheque or through internet banking. Please ensure you quote your membership number.

Direct Dial: 01738 448344
01738 622477: Option 5
Email: angela@aberdeen-angus.co.uk

REGISTRATIONS DEPARTMENT

Our team in Registrations are all very well versed in our registration system, the software difficulties sometimes faced and offer help and assistance with the rules governing our breed integrity. There is scarcely a matter that they have not dealt with before. The DNA sampling and reporting system is also dealt with by the registrations team.

CAROLINE FORD also deals with DNA, online registrations and Society sales.

Direct Dial: 01738 448341
01738 622477: Option 3
Email: caroline@aberdeen-angus.co.uk

FIONA FLOOD also deals with DNA, paper and online registrations, new membership enquiries, the sale of back copies of Reviews and archiving.

Direct Dial: 01738 448342
01738 622477: Option 4
Email: fiona@aberdeen-angus.co.uk

KATHRYN BRADSHAW is the Secretary and representative of the Irish Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society. She deals with all enquiries for our members in EIRE.

Direct Dial: +353 71 9632099
Email: irishaberdeenangus@eircom.net

BREEDPLAN AND PEDIGREE CATTLE

SERVICES is our performance recording arm using the globally recognised BREEDPLAN Software. BREEDPLAN offers bull breeders the potential to accelerate genetic progress in their herds, and to provide objective information on stock they sell to commercial breeders. Our team are ready to help you on your way to ensuring you are making the right choices for your business.

BARBARA WEBSTER – BREEDPLAN.

Direct Dial: 01738 448346
01738 622478: Option 3
Email: barbara@breedplan.co.uk

HELENA STEWART – BREEDPLAN also deals with general AACS and PCS accounts queries and card payments.

Direct Dial: 01738 448347
01738 622478: Option 2
Email: helena@breedplan.co.uk

SOCIETY SHOWS & SALES, WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA AND STOCK FOR SALE

Amy Johnstone

Direct Dial: 01738 448348
Email: amy@aberdeen-angus.co.uk

It is important that we are aware of any aspect of our service that is not up to standard.

Please call Barrie Turner, Chief Executive Officer +44 (0) 7597 369580

We will quickly establish the cause of your dissatisfaction and put it right if we can – or honestly explain the reasons if we can't.

Willie McLaren - Netherton



A VERY PERSONAL VIEW ON TWO CENTURIES OF CHANGE

Known to many people across the globe, Willie McLaren has been a part of the Aberdeen-Angus world for more than 80 years; his whole life from the age of six, when he had his Aberdeen-Angus scrapbook taken off him at school and went on strike until he had it returned!

His life both personal and business, has completely revolved around Aberdeen-Angus Cattle and for

many years his contacts around the globe have told him that he needs to document his life in Aberdeen-Angus in some way and preserve the processes and changes, good and bad that have influenced his breeding decisions over such a long period.

He has seen it all – big cattle through to small cattle through to big cattle again, and in this presentation, he maps his journey over the 80 years that he has

been involved. It's a personal documentation of the breeders, bulls and females, that in Willie's eyes have been key to influence the breeding decisions he made when developing and improving the world renowned Netherton Herd.

This is not a history, there are plenty of examples of that, although the lead into the years where he became very involved in Aberdeen-Angus, and the Society is a marvellous reference to the very beginnings of the breed, and is an excellent reference for anyone to use.

Willie also encompassed some help with this in the forms of three well known Aberdeen-Angus veterans, John Elliot Snr (Rawburn), former Breed Secretary Bob Anderson and Eddie Gillanders, former Assistant Breed Secretary and Editor of the Review for some 40 years, whose knowledge and inputs make this a fascinating resource and also, just to make sure the facts are correct!

This presentation is available through the Society and has a price tag of £15, with a generous donation to Willie's favoured charity from each copy sold, the Aberdeen-Angus Youth Development Programme.



The Presentation is held on a black leather and chrome USB stick in a presentation box and signed copies are available!

£15

including a generous donation to the YDP

You can receive yours by ordering through the office by Emailing

barrie@aberdeen-angus.co.uk



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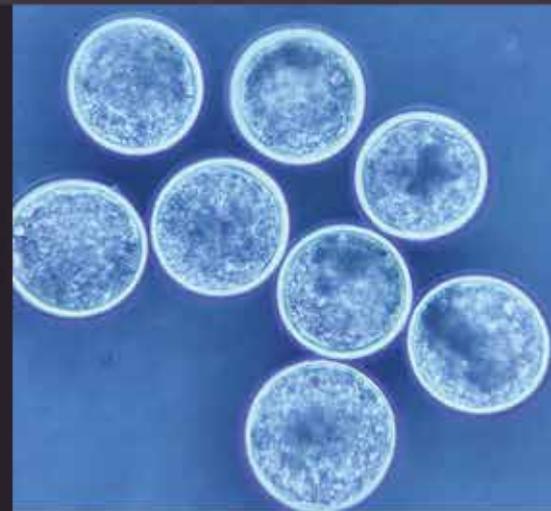
Johnes & Neospora positive animals will produce embryos free of these diseases.

High health status herds can buy a lower status animal, lodge at Tyndale and produce disease free embryos for use at home.

New pricing structure for 2021 is £150/collection and £100/grade 1 embryo frozen.

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Bye - Laws (1st November 2020)

1. Entries for the Herd Book will only be accepted from members of the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society.

2. Entries of stock which belonged to a deceased member will only be accepted from his representatives provided such entries are made prior to 1st January following the date of death.

3. A calf shall only be accepted for entry in the Herd Book if its sire and dam have been entered in the Herd Book, it has been ear-tagged according to current EU identification regulations and a sire verified Deoxy Ribonucleic Acid (DNA) profile of the service sire has been lodged with the Society. Furthermore, from 1st January 2019, all pedigree calves bull calves eligible for entry into the Herd Book must have a DNA sample taken and sent to and received by the Society for sire verification and Myostatin testing before such calves can be registered. From the 1st of July 2020 all first calving heifers entering the herd will be tested from a sample held by the Society, sire verified and Myostatin tested. The method of collection of the said DNA sample will be prescribed by the Council of the Society from time to time. The Society will occasionally request to carry out tests on samples out with the normal protocols of registration and pre-official Society sales. For the avoidance of doubt, upon sale, the title to the DNA sample transfers with the ownership of the animal and permission to test will be sought from the owner. The cost of such tests will be borne by the owner. In the event that permission is not granted, the Society reserves the right to take action to limit any potential negative impact (such as identifying carriers of any genetic defects as defined on the Society's website at www.aberdeen-angus.co.uk) on the Herd Book.

4. Notwithstanding Bye-law 3, imported animals may be entered in the Herd Book provided they are entered in the Herd Book of the country of origin and that there are supplied such certificates and other documents as the Council of the Society may from time to time prescribe (see Guidance Note at end of Bye-law 22). Imported animals entered in the Herd Book will carry the identifying letters IMP and the pedigrees and all relative details, including information on sires of calves imported in utero, will appear at the end of the Herd Book.

5. The breeder of an animal is the owner of the dam at the date of calving or in the case of a calf got by Embryo Transplant, the owner of the recipient cow.

6. All calves must be ear-tagged according to current EU identification regulations by time of intimation and intimated to the Secretary according to the following rules: -

a). To enter calves in the Herd Book, breeders must intimate them within 27 days either on-line or on the appropriate form which should be obtained in advance from the Society (see also para. 6(b)). All relevant certificates (see para. 13) and fees (inc. VAT) MUST accompany registration forms.

Bull calves intimated within 27 days of birth can be registered up to 6 months of age from the date of birth of the calf for the standard fee.

Heifer calves intimated within 27 days of birth can be registered up to 6 months of the date of birth of the calf and will be subject to the standard fee.

A full list of fees and charges is available on the website at www.aberdeen-angus.co.uk.

b.) All cases of dead-born calves or of calves which for any reason are not to be entered in the Herd Book must be intimated to the Secretary on the appropriate form. Such intimations must be made within 27 days of the date of birth. Late registration of calves, for which full details, including ID Number, have been so intimated, may be accepted on payment of the appropriate late entry fee and subject to a DNA profile of the animal along with its sire and dam being lodged with the Society. Later registration of heifer calves which were twinned with a bull and for which full details, including ID number, have been so intimated, will be accepted when she is proven to be in calf on payment of the appropriate late entry fee. c). Registrations, Intimations or Fees which are incomplete or

c). Registrations, Intimations or Fees which are incomplete or incorrect when received, will result in all documents being returned to the breeder with an explanation. They must be completed/corrected and resubmitted within a further fourteen days. Failure to respond will result in the registration/s not being accepted

d). While the foregoing rules are designed to apply primarily to home-bred animals, they will also apply where appropriate to imported animals.

7. An animal shall only be entered in the Herd Book by its breeder, or in the case of an imported animal, by its owner

8. Animals entered in the Herd Book under separate ownership by husbands and wives or other family partnerships may be made under the same Herd Name but for all other purposes, such as group prizes at Shows and Sales, they will be considered as being in separate ownerships.

Animals entered in the Herd Book by the same owner from different holdings can carry the same Herd Name.

9. Animals showing excessive white markings should not be entered in the Herd Book, and if entered, may be removed from the Herd Book on the instructions of the Council of the Society: (for guidance - normally, white markings are acceptable on females only on the underline behind the navel and on males only on underline behind the prepuccial orifice and up to and including the scrotum).

10. (a). Animals showing scurs, whether fixed or moveable, or traces of scurs, will not be accepted for entry in the Herd Book, and if entered unknowingly, may be removed from the Herd Book on the instructions of the Council of the Society.

(b). Animals exhibiting double muscling characteristics (muscular hypertrophy) will not be accepted for entry in the Herd Book, and if entered unknowingly, may be removed from the Herd Book on the instructions of the Council of the Society. (See guidance note at end of Bye Laws) If required, the proof of double muscling shall be a combination of visual appearance (phenotype) and scientific gene testing. Such proof shall be instituted by the Council, who shall appoint a veterinary surgeon and a Council member, who is also a member of the Society's panel of judges, to inspect the animal. If both agree that the animal phenotypically shows double muscling characteristics, the Council shall arrange with the owner of the animal to test for the deleted version of the myostatin gene. If the result of such test is that the animal is homozygous for the gene, the animal shall be considered to be double muscled. Costs of such proof shall be borne by the Society.

Guidance Note re Bye Law 10(b)

Double Muscling Characteristics:

1. Increased development of the hindquarter, accentuated in appearance by a groove between the major muscles and a rounded ham appearance.

2. Thick, open shoulders.

3. An unusually wide, stretched stance with the front and hind legs extended, generally creating a swayback appearance.

4. Lean, trim appearance often with a cylindrical middle and tucked up flank.

5. Fine bone.

6. Short tail.

7. Small testes.

8. Tail set forward on top of rump.

11. Recessive Genetic Defects

Animals identified as being carriers of Class 1 genetic defects as listed on the Society's website at www.aberdeen-angus.co.uk will be ineligible for registration. Any registered animals which are subsequently identified as carriers of such genes will have their carrier status clearly identified on their pedigree certificate. Progeny of such animals will require to have their carrier status determined and identified accordingly.

Class 1 genetic defects:

Arthrogyposis Multiplex (AM) or Curly Calf Syndrome; Dwarfism; Fawn Calf Syndrome; Mannosidosis; Neuropathic Hydrocephalus (NH); Osteopetrosis (marble bone disease); Syndactyl (mule foot);

Any member who knowingly enters false information in relation to an animal's identity, age or other performance related data will be subject to actions as determined in Article 15 and 15(a) of the Articles of Association of The Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society.

Status of Currently Registered Females and Bulls

A. As used herein, the word "currently" in the phrase "currently registered" shall mean that date on which laboratories approved by the Society began to provide a commercial DNA test for the mutation to the membership. With respect to Skeletal Muscle Hypertrophy, that date was 1st January 2012.

B. All currently registered females and bulls with the impacted genetics in their pedigrees shall remain registered. In other words, their registrations will not be revoked, cancelled or suspended.

C. All currently registered females and bulls with the impacted genetics in their pedigrees that are tested and determined to be carriers of the mutation shall remain registered.

II. Resulting Progeny of Carrier Females and Bulls All resulting progeny of currently registered carrier females or carrier bulls may be registered without submitting to testing. Notwithstanding such registration, the

Society shall place or electronically display a notation on each Aberdeen-Angus Pedigree or any other pedigree displayed electronically.

III. Currently Registered Animals Determined to be affected by the Mutation any animals identified as being homozygous for the mutation, shall therefore be considered to be affected by the defect, and are not eligible for registration under Bye-Law 10©.

In the event that a registered animal is discovered to be affected by the defect, its registration shall be considered null and void, and the Certificate of Registration must be returned to the Society for cancellation.

12. A.I. REGULATIONS General (applicable to all regulations)

(a) A Herd Prefix will constitute one ownership.

(b) Any bull from which semen is drawn for A.I. usage must have a Sire Verified DNA profile lodged with the Society.

© From the first of January 2022 any bull from which semen is drawn will be subject to parentage verification confirmed by a DNA profile lodged with the Society

(d) All calves got by A.I. and registered with the Society will be designated "got by A.I." in the Herd Book.

(e) An insemination certificate signed by a qualified inseminator or Veterinary Surgeon must be retained by the breeder and be available for inspection by the Society for a period of two years following the insemination.

(f) Sales of Semen - If an owner of a bull or of semen (where ownership of semen is separate from that of the bull) notifies the Society that the bull is a royalty bull, or the semen is from a royalty bull, as the case may be, then in order to register a calf got by semen from that bull or semen, the appropriate royalty fee must accompany the registration form. If an owner (of bull or semen) does not notify the Society that the bull is a royalty bull it will be assumed that the requirements of this paragraph are dispensed with.

The Society is not accepting any further Royalty sires from the 1st of April 2020 and will cease the semen Royalty collection service for existing Royalty sires on the 1st of November 2025.

(g) Import of Semen Subject to the provisions of the relative preceding paragraphs, progeny got by imported semen may be entered in the Herd Book if the donor bull is or could have been entered in the Herd Book in terms of Bye-Law 4. Providing sole ownership of the semen rights in this country can be verified to the satisfaction of the Society, this will be considered one ownership for the purposes of these A.I. regulations. All imports of semen must be accompanied by a Zootechnical Certificate issued from the keeper of the herd book as approved in the list of accepted associations held by the EU, in the country of origin. A list of these authorities can be found here: -

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02006D0139-20080601&from=EN>

(h) Strict legislation is in place surrounding collection of AI and the subsequent sale and use of the collections. For avoidance of doubt the following three categories are recognised by the society.

a) Unlicensed Premises approval: (On farm collected non export approved)

An unlicensed premises approval is valid for three months only. The animal must undergo a single series of tests in an unlicensed premise. The animal must be licensed within 28 days of sampling. Semen collected from an animal at an unlicensed premise is eligible for GB, excluding Northern Ireland, trade and may be eligible for export to certain countries outside the EU.

b) Domestic Centre approval: (Non-Export Approved)

In order to collect at a domestic centre, the animal will undergo a single series of tests in an unlicensed premise before being authorised to move to a domestic centre. The animal must be licensed within 28 days of sampling. Semen collected from an animal in a Domestic Centre is eligible for GB excluding Northern Ireland trade and may be eligible for export to certain countries outside the EU.

c) EU Centre approval: (Export Approved including Northern Ireland)

The animal will undergo a first series of tests in an unlicensed premise before being moved to centre quarantine. The second series of tests will be carried out in centre quarantine before being authorised to move to the Collection Centre. The animal must have moved to the Centre Quarantine within 28 days of undergoing the first series of tests. Semen collected at an EU Centre is eligible for intra-Union trade, Domestic trade and may be eligible for export to countries outside the EU.

Contravention of the legislation is considered a serious risk to animal health and as such any animal submitted for registration from semen collected from category (a) and (b) above outside the territory of Scotland, England and Wales will not be registered by the Society.

13. Embryo Transplant Regulations Registrations of calves got by Embryo Transplants will be accepted subject to the following conditions:

(a) All other bye-laws regarding Herd Book Registrations must be complied with.

(b) The breeder must inform the Society in writing beforehand of the intention to carry out each specific embryo transplant and return to the Society along with the relevant fees and within the times fixed by the Society duly completed certificates (on forms to be approved by the Society) as to the identity of all animals concerned, the pregnancy testing of the recipient cow and the sire verified DNA profiling of the bull, donor cow and, when requested, a parentage verified DNA profile of the resultant calf/calves within three months of such request. If the Council of the Society is not satisfied with any such certificates, the resultant calf will not be eligible for entry in the Herd Book.

©All imported Embryos must be accompanied by a Zootechnical Certificate issued from the keeper of the herd book as approved in the list of accepted associations held by the EU, in the country of origin referenced above in 12(g)

(d) Calves got by embryo transplant and registered with the Society will be designated "got by ET" in the Herd Book.

14. In cases where the breeder of an animal is not the owner of its sire, it is necessary for the breeder to either:

(a) Comply with para. 11© and, where appropriate, 11(d) or

(b) Obtain a completed Hire or Loan Certificate and forward with registration form.

15. Cloning Any animal which is born as a direct result of cloning technology will not be eligible for entry into the Herd Book. Whilst it is acknowledged that cloned animals are entered into Herd Books of overseas societies, such animals will not be eligible for transfer into the Society's Herd Book. Progeny from such animals whether resulting from natural service, A.I. or E.T. will be eligible for entry into the Herd Book and their pedigree certificate marked accordingly.

16. All animals entered in the Herd Book must be named in accordance with the following rules:

(a) No names likely to prove misleading to the public shall be admitted into the Herd Book.

(b) Breeders, prior to making their first entries in the Herd Book, must apply to Council for the copyright of a Herd Name. A Herd Name copyright is the property of the member only during the period of his membership. The name of each registered animal must be prefixed by the Herd Name of its breeder unless otherwise authorised by Council.

© Each animal belongs to the family of its dam, and must be given an individual name in accordance with the practice of naming for that family. The initial letter of such individual name must be one of the approved initial letters of its family as listed in the Herd Book and must not exceed two words. Where an animal is red in colour, the additional word "Red" must be included at the beginning of the individual name.

(d) All names will include as a suffix a year letter followed by the last three NUMERICS of the animal's official eartag number. No other lineage numbers will be permitted. Year letters indicate the calving seasons which date from January 1st to December 31st.

Year 1st January, 2014, to 31st December, 2015

Year Letter P Year 1st January, 2015, to 31st December, 2015

Year Letter R and so on. (I, O and Q will not be used).

(e) The total number of characters (including spaces) in an animal's name must not exceed forty.

(f) Once an animal has been entered in the Herd Book under a certain name, no change shall be made in that name thereafter.

The Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society is committed to equal and fair treatment of breeders and will enter into the breeding book animals of the same breed line or cross that are eligible for entry under the Society's breed criteria without discrimination on account of their country of origin.

17. All Changes of Ownership of Aberdeen-Angus cattle must be intimated by the purchaser if such cattle are to be subsequently used for pedigree breeding, in accordance with the following rules: - (a). The seller shall comply with the procedures detailed in © below if he is selling Aberdeen-Angus cattle for pedigree breeding purposes at a public or private sale. Where it is not indicated at the time of sale that such cattle are being sold for pedigree breeding purposes, it shall be at the discretion of the seller whether or not he subsequently authorises their use for pedigree breeding by complying with the Change of Ownership procedures detailed in © below.

(b) Non-Members may register Changes of Ownership.

© To register Changes of Ownership of Aberdeen-Angus cattle, the

purchaser shall complete the Certificate of Transfer portion on the reverse side of the Certificate of Pedigree, which he shall obtain from the seller as detailed hereinafter. Such Changes in Ownership shall be countersigned by the immediate preceding owner except where the animal is sold by public auction at a sale for which a catalogue has been published and submitted to the Secretary in which it is clearly indicated that such animal is being sold for pedigree breeding purposes, in which case the catalogue lot number and the name and date of the sale shall be inserted in the place provided for the signature of the seller.

The following procedure shall be adopted: -

(i) A Private Sale. The seller shall hand the Certificate of Pedigree to the purchaser at the time of sale. The purchaser shall complete the Certificate of Transfer portion and send it to the Secretary with the appropriate fee.

(ii) A Public Sale. The seller shall lodge the Certificate of Pedigree with the Auctioneers as a condition of entry for the sale. The Auctioneers will deliver the Certificate to the Society who shall record the Change of Ownership and forward the Certificate to the purchaser, on receipt of the appropriate fee. The term "Public Sale" in (ii) above refers to a sale at a public auction for which a catalogue has been published and submitted to the Secretary.

18. Herd Records shall be kept, containing the following minimum details relating to each animal in the herd:- Name, Herd Book Number, Date of Birth, Name and Herd Book Number of Sire, Name and Herd Book Number of Dam. Details, if applicable, of when and where purchased, of when and to whom sold, or date of death. These records shall be available for inspection at all times by officials of the Society.

19. Council shall have power to instruct a DNA profiling test to be made at any time of any animal entered in the Herd Book and to have the entry in the Herd Book cancelled (it being a condition of acceptance of an entry that the information supplied is accurate) if said test reveals the entry to be inaccurate, in which event the cost of the said test shall be paid by the Member who instructed the Herd Book entry but if the said test confirms the Herd Book entry to be correct, the cost of the said test shall be met by the Society.

20. All fees must be paid with the forms to which they refer. No registrations will be accepted unless all other fees and current membership subscriptions have been paid.

21. The Council shall be at liberty to include reports made to them by any official of the Society or officer of the Department of Agriculture (or appropriate body) in Scotland, England & Wales, Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland among the sources of information as to any suspected failure by a breeder in the observance of any of the Byelaws heretofore.

22. Animals showing excessive white markings or scurs (or traces of scurs) should not be exhibited in the pure-bred section of any Show.

23. If a herd is advertised and sold as a dispersal, the Herd name may not be used thereafter for entries into the Herd Book without permission of the Council.

(Guidance Note re Byelaw 4) The following are the documents currently required to register transfers in the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society Herd Book from an overseas Society.

Breeders are strongly advised to obtain and lodge with the Society all documents before shipment, as the UK Customs authorities require that imported pedigree cattle be registered with this Society, or the animals will be classified for duty purposes on arrival.

(a) A Five Generation Certificate of Pedigree certified as correct by the Society which registered the bull.

(b) A Certificate of Approval for Export from the overseas Society stating that so far as is known the pedigree of the animal is free from, and the animal itself is not a possible carrier of, any genetic defects.

© A DNA profile Certificate

(d) A satisfactory DNA profiled parentage verification. If, for a bona fide reason, this is not possible, the Society with which the animal is registered must supply a certificate of explanation.

Cows and Heifers

As above and, if in calf, service details from the overseas Society, a Certified Four Generation Pedigree Certificate and a sire verified DNA profile certificate for the service sire.

Embryos

(a) A four Generation Certificate of Pedigree of both sire and dam with a Certificate from the overseas Society that it approves of both sire and dam and that their pedigrees are free from any known genetic defects.

(b) A sire verified DNA profile certificate for both sire and dam.

© Certificates from owner of cow if natural service used, or by A.I. technician if A.I. used, certifying dates of service, tattoo ID number of cow,

name and number of bull.

(d) Certificates from ET unit making collection, certifying date of collection, tattoo ID number of cow, number of viable embryos recovered, number of embryos frozen for export and their reference number.

The relevant Society forms and requirements relating to implantation, pregnancy testing and registration will apply.

Where relevant, Bye-law 12 (a) to (d) will apply.

SUPPLEMENTARY REGISTER REGULATIONS

The owner of a female ("the base female") which is not registered in the Herd Book may have the female progeny of such female upgraded to a standard acceptable for registration in the Herd Book subject to the following rules:-

The base female and her daughters and grand-daughters shall be entered in a Supplementary Register and only the great grand-daughters of the base female shall be eligible for registration in the Herd Book.

(ii) The base female may be of no known origin, but if so, must be polled, of an obvious beef type, physically correct in all respects, mainly black - defined as allowing some white, but not excessive white, below the underline and only a small amount of white elsewhere. Alternatively, if certified by its breeder as being by or out of a named registered Aberdeen-Angus, must be polled, of obvious beef type and physically correct in all respects.

(iii) The base female and her daughters and grand-daughters must be approved by a Society-appointed inspector before acceptance into the Supplementary Register and the daughters and grand-daughters must be sired by a bull which is registered in the Herd Book. The great-grand daughters of the base female will likewise require to be approved before registration in the Herd Book and must also be sired by a bull which is registered in the Herd Book. A member aggrieved by the decision of the Society-appointed inspector may appeal against the decision to a Committee of not less than three members of the Society appointed by the Council of the Society. The decision of such committee shall be final and whether or not the appeal is successful, all costs of the appeal shall be paid by the appellant.

(iv) Registration will only be accepted from fully paid-up members of the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society.

(v) Members intending to register females in the Supplementary Register must intimate their intention to the Secretary at least six months before their initial base female is due to calf. Participants will be responsible for all inspectors' fees at cost and an entrance fee will be payable for each female registered. The entrance fee will not be less than that payable to register females in the Herd Book.

Base Female (X)

(vi) Must be 15 months or over at time of inspection and double-tagged with an EU style ID number or tattooed with a number allocated by the Secretary.

1st Generation Female (Y)

(vii) To be ear-tagged according to current EU identification regulations and registered with the appropriate fee within two months of the date of birth. Colour to be breed standard, polled and physically correct. To be inspected between 12 and 18 months of age and prior to mating. Failure to pass inspection will result in de-registration or reverting to stage X.

2nd Generation Female (Z)

(viii) As para. (vii). 3rd Generation Female (Herd Book) (ix) As para. (viii). To be identified in Herd Book with (S) after the individual name.

(x) All male calves from females in the supplementary register must be steered and births intimated within two months of the date of birth.

OFFICIAL SALE RULES

All Aberdeen-Angus animals exposed for sale held under the auspices of the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society, hereinafter called "the Society", shall be sold subject to and in accordance with the following rules:

(1) The consignor must be a member of the Society. All animals must be ear-tagged according to current EU identification regulations. In the case of imported animals, they must have been registered in the Herd Book of the country of origin and entered in the Society's Herd Book.

(2) Should any dispute arise as to the identification in the Society's Herd Book of any animal exposed for sale or as to the pedigree of any such animal, such dispute should be referred to the Council of the Society or such sub-committee as the Council may appoint as arbiters and their decision shall be final.

(3) The Council of the Society may, prior to any sale, nominate and appoint a Panel to inspect the animals forward at the sale, in order to ascertain that

such animals are fit for inclusion in the sale. The members so appointed shall, in consultation with the Auctioneers, be the sole judges as to whether or not the animals may be included in the sale and shall have the power to debar from the sale any animal which they consider is not of a fit standard. No consignor will have any claim for damages in respect of any animal which is rejected under this rule.

N.B. All animals (except in the case of bona fide dispersals) may be subject to pre-sale inspections by the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society in order to establish identity and to provide a minimum standard. Such inspections, however, do not imply any liability or warranty by The Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society for animals sold, such liability remains the responsibility of the vendor. Animals are sold with all patent defects and any subsequent claim is against the vendor and not The Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- (1) All entries are subject to the Society's male and female warranties.
- (2) From Stirling October sale 2020 all cattle entered must be performance recorded through Breedplan.
- (3) From January 2022 it will be a requirement that all entries will be performance recorded bulls through Breedplan for all sales under the auspices of the society.
- (3) Members who enter cattle for Sale in the Catalogue and who do not present their animals will be subject to such fines as determined by the Society's official auctioneers from time to time. Reasonable grounds for withdrawal will, if accepted, eliminate the member from such a fine.
- (4) Animals entered in the Catalogue must be offered for sale through the ring unless rejected by the Stewards or the Society-appointed Panel of Inspectors.
- (4) Prize money will be forfeit on any prize-winning animal which is not sold in the official Pedigree Sale.
- (5) Any Female which has been used as a donor for Ovum Transplant purposes must be declared.
- (6) Any Female which has had a Caesarean operation must be declared.
- (7) Retention of ova must be declared.
- (8) Bull semen retention must be declared.
- (9) The appointed Stewards have been instructed to reject any animal which is not controllable by normal means at any time whilst in the Show and Sale premises. Exhibitors are responsible for their cattle throughout the Show and Sale period of the breed.
- (10) All cattle presented may be subject to inspection for identity, veterinary approval suitable standard, and weighing and measuring by officers appointed by the Society prior to the event at a time to be advertised.
- (11) Any doubt on identity will automatically debar an animal from the show and sale. If the vet considers the animal to be carrying a heritable genetic or phenotypic condition which in his opinion is detrimental to the integrity of the breed then that animal will automatically be debarred from the Show and Sale and the Society will not register any progeny from that animal.
- (12) As from January 2011 cattle entered for all official Society sales centres must come from herds which are BVD accredited, in which case, such animals will require to be BVD vaccinated within twelve months prior to the date of the sale. If the animals entered are not BVD accredited herds then they will require to be tested for BVD antigen and vaccinated against BVD prior to the sale. Furthermore, all cattle entered must come from herds which are annually testing for Johnes disease in a CHACS Approved Health Scheme or from Johnes accredited herds.
- (13) The use of drugs is totally banned, as undernoted: -
 - 1) Preparation for Sale.

Any drug which would affect weight for age, conformation, or growth of hair.
 - 2) Presentation for Sale.

Any drug which would affect soundness or temperament at inspection, judging or Auction Sale. The Society reserves the absolute right to take blood samples from any animal presented at Shows and Sales, and to have the sample independently analysed at a certified laboratory. If any unauthorised drugs have been used, or treatment given without Veterinary certification having been provided, or without a declaration having been made to the Auctioneers, the exhibitor will be reported to the Council of the Breed Society. In any event, the offending entry will be banned from the Show/Sale.
 - (14) Access to parents for DNA profiling (affecting animals not DNA profiled in proof of parentage). The Vendor must provide access to the purchaser to prove the parentage of any sale animal by DNA profiling provided: -
 - 1) that the request is made in writing to the Society Office within one calendar month of the date of the Sale.

- 2) that the tests are carried out at the Purchaser's expense.
- 3) that the sire and dam are alive, and the vendor has access to the parents if they are not in his ownership.
- (15) Animals affected by contagious diseases i.e. warts, mange, ringworm, etc. will not be accepted for sale unless accompanied by a Veterinary Certificate indicating that treatment has been given and the condition is no longer contagious.
- (16)
 - (a) All bulls must have a nose-ring.
 - (b) Certificates of Pedigree must accompany each entry.
- (17) White markings must not be disguised.

CONDITIONS OF SALE

A. SALE

- (1) All animals exposed for sale must be bona fide property of the vendors at the time of the sale and free of all liens, charges and encumbrances.
- (2) The highest bidder shall be declared the purchaser (subject to Rule A.
- (3) The auctioneers reserve the right to refuse any bid without giving a reason for doing so. All cattle will be sold in guineas.
- (3) The vendor has the right to fix a reserve price and to announce such price before, during or at the conclusion of the bidding. The right to bid by or on behalf of the vendor in terms of the current Sale of Goods Act is expressly reserved. The vendor, or his duly authorised representative, must be with the auctioneer at the sale of the catalogued animal to accept or reject the final bid.
- (4) Each animal forward at the sale must be exposed for sale by auction before any private sale shall be permitted or recognised by the Auctioneers.
- (5) Immediately after the sale of an animal the price thereof shall be paid by the purchaser in cash to the Auctioneers. On the price being paid the purchaser shall receive from the Auctioneers a written removal order and shall at his own expense remove the animal within one day of the sale or within such period as may be laid down by the Auctioneers at the commencement of the Sale. No animal shall be removed without the Auctioneers' written removal order and any animal so removed shall be recovered by the Auctioneers summarily without any further warrant.
- (6) In the event of any purchaser not paying for and not removing the animal purchased in compliance with Rule A. (5) hereof the Auctioneers in their sole discretion may, without the consent of the vendor, either
 - (a) sue the purchaser either in their own name or in the name of the vendor for the price and interest thereon at the rate of 2% per annum above current Bank of Scotland Base Rate, and for the keep of, and other expense incurred by them in connection with such animal or
 - (b) re-sell the animal either publicly or privately and on behalf of the vendor recover from the defaulting purchaser the deficiency (if any) attending such re-sale and interest thereon as aforesaid together with the keep and all other expenses. The defaulting purchaser shall have no right to object to the action taken by the auctioneers. In the event of there being any surplus after paying interest, keep and other expenses as aforesaid, such surplus shall be paid to the defaulting purchaser.
- (7) Immediately after the purchase of each animal is declared, the risk of the animal shall pass to the purchaser, but until the price is paid the right of property shall not pass and delivery of the animal may be suspended.
- (8) In the case of animals sold privately within the premises of the auctioneers the risk and the passing of the property thereof shall be governed by the bargain made between the parties and Rule A(7) shall not apply thereto. Animals withdrawn from the auction may be sold by private treaty on the auction premises. Private sales will be held to the vendors' guarantees of fertility and must be put through the Official Auction record by the appointed Auctioneers.
- (9) No undertaking by the Auctioneers or their servants to take charge of any animal after the sale or to forward it to its destination shall be held to impose upon the Auctioneers any legal obligation or invalidate any of these rules.
- (10) No liability whatsoever is undertaken by the Auctioneers for the accuracy or otherwise of the statements appearing in the catalogue or made at the sale. The vendor is responsible for such statements and for any error, omission or misstatement.
- (11) (a) If a bull from which semen has been stored is offered for sale, it must be stated in the catalogue (and if different circumstances have arisen since the catalogue was printed, the correct and up-to-date circumstances must be announced from the Auctioneer's rostrum at time of sale) whether the semen so stored is to pass with the ownership of the bull or whether it is to be retained by the vendor. If it is retained by the vendor, then he must declare if he is reserving the right to sell or gift such semen for pedigree and/or commercial use. If such declaration fails to be

made it will be assumed that any semen retained is for the vendor's own use only and cannot be sold or gifted for pedigree or commercial use.

(b) If a female in calf to a royalty bull is offered for sale, it must be stated in the catalogue (and if different circumstances have arisen since the catalogue was printed, the correct and up-to-date circumstances must be announced from the Auctioneer's rostrum at time of sale) whether the payment of the royalty for the subsequent registration of the unborn calf will be the responsibility of the vendor or the vendee. If such declaration fails to be made it will be assumed that payment of the royalty will be the responsibility of the vendor.

(12) If a female is offered for sale as being in-calf and/or with calf at foot, it is the responsibility of the vendor to ensure that a sire verified DNA profile of the service sire/s is lodged with the Society before the date of sale. If a calf at foot is not registered at time of sale, subject to current herd book registration by laws, the vendor must state if registration is permissible at the expense of the purchaser.

(13) If a female offered for sale through a Society auction has been used as an embryo donor the fact that she has been flushed must be stated in the catalogue along with the number of embryos collected, complete with their sire/sires up to the time of the donor being offered for sale. Within the contract for sale of the female, the Seller must expressly state the number of embryos which they intend to retain for use within their own herd (if any) and the number of embryos which they intend to retain for resale purposes (if any).

(14) In the event of a female carrying a transferred embryo being offered for sale, the number of embryos collected at the same time as that carried by the female entered for sale must be stated in the catalogue.

(15) Apart from the Bull and Female breeding warranties printed in the catalogue or others specifically given by the vendor in the catalogue or made at the sale, animals are sold subject to their condition and to all faults, excepting the case of animals suffering from total or partial blindness.

(16) Should any animal be sold subject to passing tests or re-tests, full details of those must be declared by the vendor to the Auctioneers prior to sale. The bargain shall not be deemed to be concluded until the result of such tests/re-tests are notified to the Auctioneers.

(17) No Rosettes or Sashes won at other Shows or Tests to be affixed to Show animals. B.

COMMISSION

(1) The Auctioneers shall charge and deduct commission of 6.5p per £1.05 (1.5p of which shall be paid by them to the Society) from the price of all animals sold, including those which may be sold privately in their premises at the time of the sale.

(2) The Auctioneers shall be entitled to charge against the vendor one percent on the price bid or £25 per animal whichever is the greater on all animals put through the sale ring and withdrawn.

(3) The Auctioneers shall not be entitled to charge commission on animals sold which fail a re-test (Sale Rule A 15), but shall be entitled to make a charge against the owner of £25 per animal in respect of cataloguing, etc.

C. GENERAL

(1) Without prejudice to the foregoing rules, it is hereby expressly declared that the vendor by selling and the purchaser by purchasing any animal shall be bound by the above rules notwithstanding the terms of any statutory enactment or custom of trade to the contrary.

(2) The Auctioneer is Judge of the Sale, to whom all disputes and differences of any kind which may arise at and in relation to the Auction, either between vendors and bidders or among the bidders themselves, shall be referred and his decision shall be final and binding on all parties.

(3) Any dispute as to any matter for the settlement of which no provision is made in these rules shall be referred to an Arbitrator or Arbitrators to be appointed, failing agreement between or amongst the parties, by the Auctioneers. The decision of the Arbitrators so appointed shall be final and binding on all parties to the dispute. Any Arbitration under this Clause shall be subject to the provision of the Arbitration Act for the time being in force in Scotland if the sale was in Scotland or in England if the sale was in England and shall be deemed to be a reference to Arbitration thereunder.

(4) In the foregoing rules, the word "animal" shall be held to include dam and a calf when sold together.

BREEDING WARRANTIES At auction sales, other than dispersals, held under the auspices of the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society, the Bull Breeding Warranty of The Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society will apply. Full information is available from the Society on 01738 622477.

FEES & CHARGES current information available online at www.aberdeen-angus.co.uk

Dispute resolution/rules of procedure

The Aberdeen Angus Cattle Society is committed to equal and fair treatment of breeders and non-discrimination between breeders based on

their country of origin.

Council reserves the right to check selected herds. The owner will be given 48 hours oral notice of the visit by the Inspector. An owner with a genuine reason is allowed an extra 24 hours for the inspection, otherwise an owner cannot refuse admission to the Inspector unless in the most exceptional circumstances. The society also has a system in place for random inspecting of herds and data where every 100th calf registered triggers an inspection requirement

If a Breeder refuses to co-operate in allowing an inspection for up to 3 weeks, all calves in the herd under 3 months of age (at the time of the first notification) could be banned from all Society run events for life and the herd banned from all Society events for two years and no herd book certificates will be printed for that herd until an inspection takes place at the breeder's expense.

When an Inspector on inspection finds that any of the rules of the society have been compromised a letter will be sent to the breeder within 20 working days of the inspection. Upon receipt of such written notification, which shall act as initial evidence of breach of the rules, the breeder shall have an agreed period of time including the date of the receipt of the written notification to make written submissions to the Society's representative and/or to produce any evidence in writing in support of any explanation that the breeder might wish to submit in defence of the initial findings purporting to a breach of any rule.

Should no such written submissions or evidence in writing aforesaid be made by the breeder within a period of five working days, then the initial finding of the Inspector shall be final and the Society's Council Representative shall submit the Inspector's findings to the Council of the Society at their next meeting and they shall proceed to impose the sanctions as set out hereunder.

(i) Should the breeder make a written submission and/or produce any evidence in writing in support of any explanation that he/she might wish to submit in defence of the breach of any rule, within the agreed period, to the Society's representative / CEO appealing the Inspector's report, then such written submissions and/or written evidence together with the Inspector's report will be submitted to Council.

(ii) The matter shall be initially considered by Council to determine as to whether the initial findings of the Inspectors report have been fully and satisfactorily rebutted and/or answered and/or explained by the Breeders written submissions and/or written evidence. Should they find that they have then the breeder shall be informed in writing and the matter ends.

(iii) Should the Council not so find then the breeder shall be given an agreed period of time, minimum of fifteen working days' notice of time, place and date for the hearing of an Appeal before the Council or a sub-committee of at least 3 members of council (appointed by council) which shall be an Oral Hearing.

(iv) The breeder has the opportunity prior of the assigned hearing date the breeder shall outline in writing the basis of his appeal, a list of witnesses intended to give evidence and a summary of their oral evidence and a copy of any Veterinary or other expert report upon which the breeder intends to rely. Failure to comply with this aspect of the Rule, in whole or in part shall leave the Council or their representatives with the discretion to allow or not to allow such undisclosed evidence to be allowed or not allowed at the hearing.

(v) In the hearing of the appeal, which shall be in private, the rules of natural justice shall apply. There shall be no right to be legally represented by solicitor or barrister. The breeder may however nominate at least seven working days prior to the assigned date of the hearing another member of the society, a family member, a representative of a farm representative organisation, Agricultural Consultant or veterinary surgeon to represent him/her. The case against the breeder shall be made by the Inspector. Evidence shall not be taken under Oath or affirmation. The appeal hearing shall be chaired by the president or Chair of Technical Committee and otherwise if either of the above are unable to attend by a member of council (or sub-committee thereof) nominated by the chairman. The council (or sub-committee) hearing the appeal shall operate by simple majority and the chairman of the hearing shall have a casting vote. The decision of the council (or sub-committee) which shall be in writing may be reserved or given on the day of the hearing and shall be final.

In the operation of this procedure, there should be a rebuttable presumption that the findings of the Inspector on his inspection, regarding the age, weight, sex, tag number and all other such findings in the Inspector's initial report shall be correct and accurate.

For the purposes of this procedure all written notifications from the society to the member/breeder shall be by ordinary pre-paid certified post which shall be deemed to be received by the member/breeder in the ordinary course of post and all written notifications from the member/breeder to the society shall be by prepaid registered post addressed to the Society's registered office.



THE SOCIETY
ENCOURAGES
BREEDERS TO
JOIN A CHECS
ACCREDITED
HEALTH SCHEME.

Sales Entry Criteria

All members should use this guide when entering cattle into any official Society sale, ensuring that all the necessary steps are taken to maximise your opportunities in the sale rings.

HERD HEALTH DECLARATION AND PEN CARDS

Members should complete a Herd Health Declaration Form and include this at the time of entry, or alternatively forward this directly to the Society. Herd Health Declaration Forms can be found at www.aberdeen-angus.co.uk/resources/show-and-sales-resources. All cattle entered for official Society sales must have a completed Health Declaration Pen Card displayed above the animal, copies of which are available from the CHeCS Approved Health Scheme of which you are required to be a member.

MINIMUM HEALTH REQUIREMENTS: BVD/JOHNES

If your entries are from a BVD-accredited herd they must be vaccinated with an approved vaccine no more than 12 months prior to the date of the sale. If your entries are from a herd which is not BVD-accredited, then the individual animals which have entered must be tested free of BVD and vaccinated no more than three months prior to the date of the sale.

JOHNES RISK LEVELS 1-5

Level 1	This is directly equivalent to the previous CHeCS Accredited status. Level 1 status is associated with the lowest risk when buying in stock. Health plan required.
Level 2	Level 2 status herds have had one or two clear consecutive herd tests. Health plan required.
Level 3	Level 3 status herds have reactors identified at the annual herd test, but these are no more than 3% of the animals tested. Health plan required.
Level 4	Herds with Level 4 status have reactors identified at the annual herd test, and these amount to more than 3% of the animals tested. Health plan required.
Level 5	Any herd that is not carrying out the required testing or does not have a suitable health plan in place automatically falls into this category. Level 5 status is considered to be the greatest risk with respect to Johnes when buying in stock. Note: level 5 animals are not eligible for official sales.

The Society encourages members to join all CHeCS accreditation schemes to give buyers added confidence.

DNA

All males and led females should be sire verified and myostatin-tested in line with Society requirements. More information on these requirements can be found at:

www.aberdeen-angus.co.uk/sire-verified-aberdeen-angus

Breedplan EBVs are important to buyers so please ensure animals are scanned for the data to be displayed in the catalogue. Members should contact the Registrations department as early as possible with the tag numbers of animals being entered for sale. It is vital that we arrange DNA/Myostatin testing in plenty time. Occasionally we may require a repeat sample if the original tissue sample does not work, therefore it is vital that you give us ample time to ensure we have results back prior to the sale.

If your bull has not been sire verified or Myostatin status confirmed prior to the official catalogue going to print, the bull will be removed from the catalogue and not be passed for sale.

INSPECTIONS

Following arrival at the sale premises all cattle are subject to an official veterinary inspection. To avoid disappointment of having cattle rejected please use the guide below before consigning cattle to the sale:

- Ensure the dentition is correct - teeth must make contact with the dental pad of the upper jaw. Animals found to have undershot or overshot jaws will be rejected
- Testicles (size, shape, consistency) will be evaluated and measured and must attain the following minimum measurements of 30cm at 12 months, 32cm at 18 months and 34cm 24 months
- Make sure all animals are free from scurs
- No white markings in front of navel

If the vet considers any animal to be carrying a heritable genetic or phenotypic condition which in their opinion is detrimental to the integrity of the breed, then the animal will be debarred from the sale and no progeny registered.



CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

Check that all animals are free from Warts (particular attention should be paid to the sheath and scrotal area of bulls), Ringworm, Mange and Lice or other contagious diseases.

TREATMENTS

If your entries are showing signs of any of the above conditions and have been treated, then a signed veterinary certificate to that effect must accompany your entry.

PERFORMANCE RECORDED HERDS

For your entries to have their latest EBV information in the catalogue they will require to have a Birth Weight, a 200-Day Weight, a 400-Day Weight, a Check Weight and will need to have been scanned. From Stirling October sale 2020 all cattle entered for Stirling sales must be performance recorded through Breedplan.

WEIGHT FOR AGE

We have a lot of data now on bull sales and the type of bull that meet buyers' expectations. With the usual caveats on locomotion, conformation and breed character, bulls really need the genetic capability to grow and flesh out well if they are to catch the buyer's eye. Data would indicate that bulls which fail to achieve a daily live weight gain (DLWG) of 1.4kg/day from birth to date of sale are historically more difficult to sell.

.....
All animals MUST have their LOT NUMBER LABEL applied at the time of the inspection.
Failure to attend for inspection in the time slot identified by the auctioneers and Society will automatically debar an animal from the show and sale.
.....

SOCIETY SALE AUCTIONEERS

Aberdeen and Northern Marts

01467 623700

Dungannon Farmers Mart

028 8772 2727

Harrison and Hetherington

01228 406230

McCartneys 01905 769770

CCM Skipton 01756 792375

United Auctions 01786 473055

.....

CHECS APPROVED HEALTH SCHEME PROVIDERS

AFBI Cattle Health Scheme

www.afbini.gov.uk/articles/afbi-cattle-health-scheme

028 90 255689

HiHealth Herdcare

www.biobest.co.uk/hi-health-herdcare-cattle-health-scheme.html

0131 440 2628

SAC Premium Cattle Health Scheme

www.sruc.ac.uk/info/120112/premium_cattle_health_scheme

01835 822456

For all sale dates: www.aberdeen-angus.co.uk/events
Please note: if for any reason you are unsure about anything please contact the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society, your Council representative or your vet.





BOOK YOUR SPACE NOW!

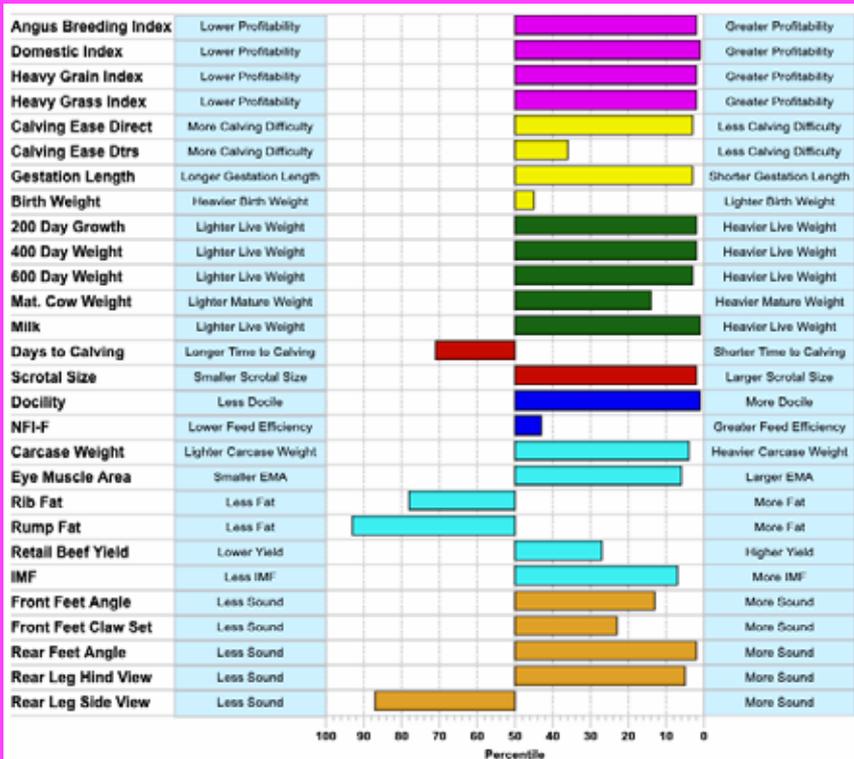
Contact us at barrie@aberdeen-angus.co.uk
to book your advertising slot in the 2022
edition of The Review

Aberdeen-Angus, its more than a breed, it's a brand.

TE MANIA NEBO



- TOP 3% CALVING EASE
- TOP 3% GESTATION LENGTH
- TOP 2-3% 200, 400 & 600 DAY GROWTH
- TOP 1% MILK
- TOP 2% SCROTAL
- TOP 1% DOCILITY
- TOP 6% EMA
- TOP 1-2% AUSTRALIAN INDICES



Traits Observed: BWT,200WT(x2),400WT,SC,Scan(EMA,Rib,Rump,IMF),DOC, Structure (FA,FC,RA,RH,RS), Genomics
 Statistics: Number of Herds: 6 Prog Analysed: 243 Genomic Progeny: 68

At this stage progeny look good. The first crop of his calves within our herd were born during spring 2019. We had calves out of heifers, calving as a two year old and also out of cows. In all we had 76 calves by him, of which 29 were from heifers for an average birth weight of 34kgs. The remainder were out of cows, ie 47 calves for an average of 36.4kgs.

Hamish McFarlane, Te Mania Angus.

Price structure per straw excluding VAT, sold EXW UK Sires
 (1-5 £80) (6-10 £65) (11-40 £50) (41-99 £40) (>100 £35)

Jeremy Price

Oakchurch Angus

01981 500 038

www.oakchurchfarm.co.uk

jeremy@oakchurchfarm.co.uk

Sam Owen

Owen Cattle Co. Ltd

07528 436 163

www.owencattle.com

sowen@owencattle.com

Oakchurch

PRIDING OURSELVES ON OUR HOME SALES AND REPEAT CUSTOM



TE MANIA BERKLEY



TE MANIA LEGEND

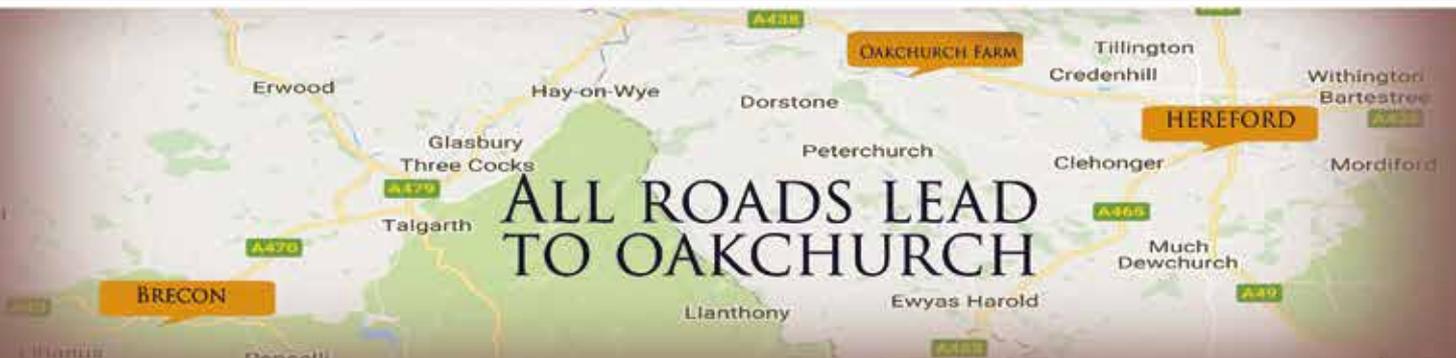


OAKCHURCH DUSTER M109



TE MANIA NEBO

EXPERTS IN THEIR FIELD AT CONVERTING FORAGE IN TO CASH



VISITORS
WELCOME

Jeremy Price Oakchurch Farm, Staunton-on-wye, Hereford, HR4 7NE
Tel: 01981500038 Mob: 07788454454 Email: jeremy@oakchurchfarm.co.uk
Website: www.oakchurchfarm.co.uk



Newton of Idvies
By Forfar, Angus
DD8 2QP
BVD Accredited

FJ FRASER & SON EST.1960
IDVIES
ABERDEEN-ANGUS


Idvies Aberdeen
Angus Herd
Johnes level 1

Hi Health Bulls and Heifers Always FOR SALE on Farm

We would like to wish our Customers, both home and abroad the very best with their purchases

Idvies Ed V875

Selling to the Rhynd Family,
Newton of Struthers Herd,
Morayshire

Sire - Thrunton Panther S922
Dam - Idvies Edwina R714



Idvies Ed V875

Idvies Ferrari S752

Supreme Champion
Stirling Feb 2018

Sire - Gretnahouse
Prince Cool N623
Dam - Idvies Flora K489

Idvies Barber U855

Selling to the Born
Family of the Born Angus Herd,
Germany

Sire - Idvies Pink Peugeot R687
Dam - Idvies Barbara Oli L499



Idvies Barber U855



Idvies Ferrari S752

The Shape of Things to Come



Alastair Fraser: 01307 818313 / 07764532193
Graeme Fraser: 01307 819141 / 07712829840
Email: enquiries@idvies-aberdeenangus.co.uk



UK Contact

T: 01738 622477

Barrie Turner, Chief Executive

Direct Dial: 01738 448345

E: barrie@aberdeen-angus.co.uk

Laura Stewart, Office Manager

Direct Dial: 01738 448343

E: laura@aberdeen-angus.co.uk

Registrations

Caroline Ford

Direct Dial: 01738 448341

E: caroline@aberdeen-angus.co.uk

Fiona Flood

Direct Dial: 01738 448342

E: fiona@aberdeen-angus.co.uk

Accounts

Angela Cumming, Finance department

Direct Dial: 01738 448344

E: angela@aberdeen-angus.co.uk

Society Shows & Sales, Website, Social Media & Stock for Sale

Amy Johnstone

Direct Dial: 01738 448348

E: amy@aberdeen-angus.co.uk

Breedplan and Pedigree Cattle Services

Barbara Webster

Direct Dial: 01738 448346

E: barbara@breedplan.co.uk

Helena Stewart

Direct Dial: 01738 448347

E: helena@breedplan.co.uk

Ireland Contact

Kathryn Bradshaw

T: +353 71 9632099

E: irishaberdeenangus@eir.net