

ISSUE NO. 105 | JANUARY 2023

# OAKMOORANGUS

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Many thanks to Finlay Munro, Senior VP, AA Soc & Balaldie Herd, Fern, Ross-shire, Scotland for the purchase of Oakmoor Lord Huxton X753. Junior Champion Stirling October2022.

Also congratulations to Michael Goddard of the Guston Herd, Dover, on the purchase of Oakmoor Wella X572

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#### January 2023 Issue No. 105

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# Words of welcome from Pedigree House

members for their continued support over the last year and welcome to any new members. After two years of uncertainty, it is refreshing that the shows and sales calendar has returned to normal. It has become clear that these events are a hub for bringing our community together, and it has been fantastic to see so many familiar faces while travelling across the UK over the last 12 months.

When it comes to shows and sales, it's been a busy year – one of the most memorable moments has to be the recent female breed record at Stirling, where Gordon Pole Star X695 reached 40,000gns.

As with previous years, The Review contains some fantastic technical articles and insight into the UK beef market, including updates on imports and exports and an outlook for 2023. In addition, several case studies from existing and new members around the UK are also included, and shows and sales reports are back again.

Thanks must go to the Committee Chairs. They have helped pull together The Review of 2022, which showcases the fantastic work that has been undertaken at the Committee and Council level, as well as at a farm level. Thanks must also go to the team at Pedigree House for their help and contribution to this year's Review.

We hope you enjoy the content in this year's Review and a massive thank you goes to the advertisers, members, trade and clubs, without whom we would not be able to publish the annual Review. Hopefully, it should be an enjoyable read.

It's been a challenging year for the farming sector, with high input prices and a long, dry summer. The ongoing cost-of-living crisis, and the continued upheaval caused by the war in Ukraine, remain a concern.

However, now is the perfect time to promote the merits of the Aberdeen-Angus breed, as we know our cattle can thrive on less inputs and produce quality beef that consumers want to eat. Let's hope for a positive year ahead, where we can continue to produce beef that's fit for the future. We wish you all the best health, wealth and happiness for the coming year.

The Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society

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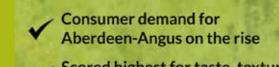
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# A review of 2022 from Pedigree House

ast November, I was asked to step up to the role of Acting CEO. It was a great honour not only to be asked to do this but also to be interviewed and secure the CEO role.

2022 was a year of learning about how the Society worked and the broad range of work and services catered for by Pedigree House.

It is a great time to be working with the breed. Aberdeen-Angus sired cattle continue to dominate UK calf registrations - both pure and cross and out of beef and dairy cows - and consumers continue to value our product, paying a premium for it. This is a great place to be!

Last year was a more typical year for the Society, with Covid in the rear-view mirror. Staff returned to the office, and while we were close to what went before, some innovations from lockdown remained. For example, most Committee meetings took place over Zoom, leading to more flexibility in when meetings could be held. This also brought a greater level of agility to Council as single-topic meetings could be convened and decisions made in a more timeous manner.

2022 also saw a return of a nearly full show season calendar. Exhibitors and members were delighted to get

back out and promote our fantastic breed to industry and the wider public. Supporting the main shows throughout the year across the UK gives members a great opportunity to exhibit cattle no matter where they are. A great thanks must go to the East of England Aberdeen-Angus Club and the Royal Norfolk Show for hosting the Summer National. It was a great two days, crowned by the Aberdeen-Angus taking the Heygates team of five prize at the show.

Last year we also had some staff changes. Emily Simpson decided to hang up her Aberdeen-Angus halter and move on to other things. We wish her well in her future endeavours. We also welcomed the arrival of two new members of staff. Natalie Cormack joined Pedigree Cattle Services as Breed Development Manager to take over from me and integrate more commercially focussed projects. In addition, Sarah Wood joined the Registrations team. Both have settled in well and are making themselves valuable to the team.

While there is much good news from last year, there is no time for complacency. There are significant challenges for the future with a reduction in the suckler herd across the UK and challenges from other breeds never being far away. The ambition of the current strategic plan is to grow the Aberdeen-Angus share of BCMS registrations

to 30% by 2031. However, if there is a reduction in cow numbers, an increase over that market share will be required to continue to sell a similar number of bulls.

DNA is an improving picture with some initiatives at the office level reducing problems and improving sample tracking. However, cost-wise, it is a significant burden on the Society, and the great frustration is that not all bulls tested go on to sire calves. The Society is looking for a way of reducing the burden, whilst retaining the best of the work that has come to date.

One of the key tasks I was given when I first joined the Society was the inception of ILR Online, an upgraded front end to our Registrations system. I am pleased to report that this year will see the first calves registered through the new system and by the end of quarter two, all members should have access to the new system.

Not only does ILR Online come with a modernised look, but it will also bring modernisation to practices. For example, it will be able to take card payments at the point of registration, leading to less processing time in the office and easier transactions for you, the member. The system will also give members greater control over their data. For example, it will be possible for members to remove animals that are no longer on the farm.

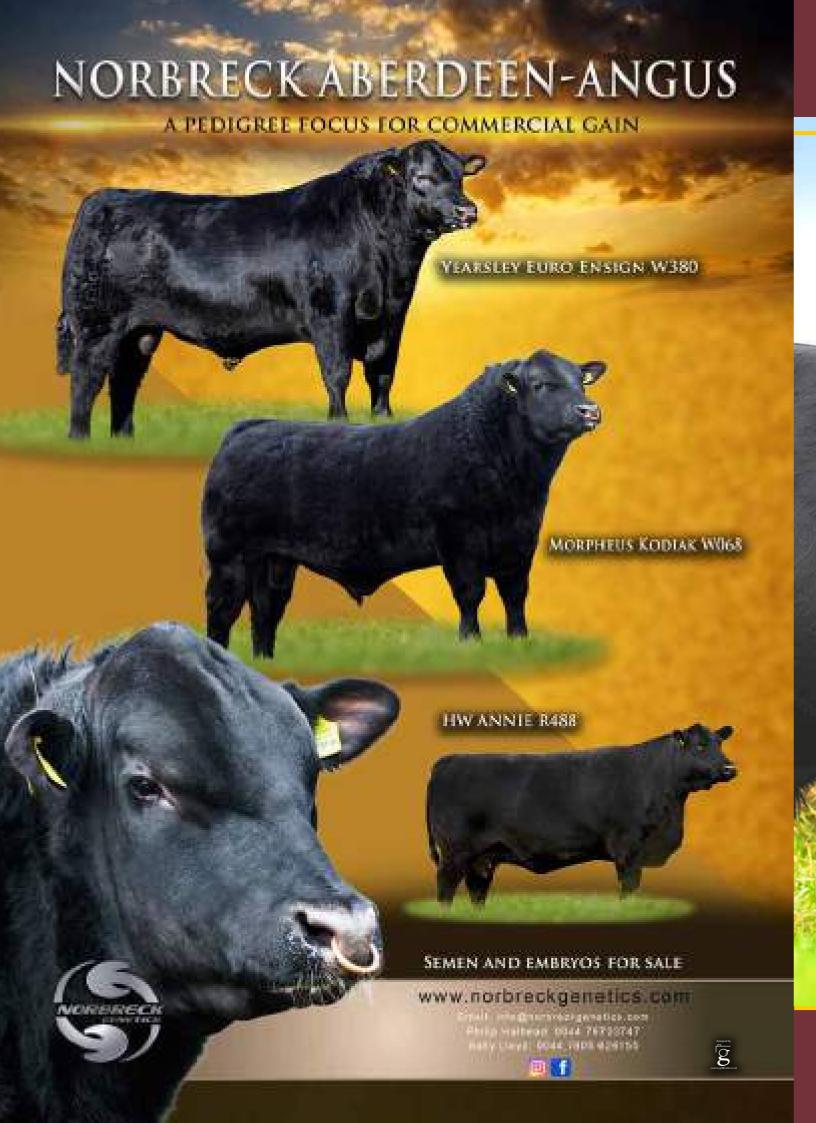
This increased control will also see us develop a new transfer system to reduce processing time alongside longer-term developments around data entry to reduce further the time required to manage your Aberdeen-Angus herd data.

2022 saw the YDP return to activity with conferences and workshops held through the year, culminating in Nicola Howie winning the 2022 final. Hosting YDP workshops is no mean feat and the Society owes a debt of gratitude to all those who have hosted workshops throughout the year. We are also incredibly thankful to the Dick family at Westerton, Stirling for hosting the 2022 final in such fantastic style. Thanks also go to the trainers, judges and other helpers throughout the year.

This is only possible with a supportive Presidential Team and wider Council, coupled with a great team at Pedigree House. My thanks go to them all for their efforts throughout 2022 and for making the transition to CEO as seamless as possible. Thank you all!

Robert Gilchrist, CEO





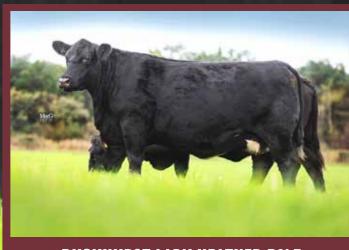


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## President's focus

ast year we saw the Aberdeen-Angus breed moving forward at a pace with the breed continuing to evolve and develop in an everchanging world.

As we move on, we say goodbye to trailblazers who shaped our past, including Willie McLaren's passing and the Shadwell herd's dispersal. The breed, however, moves on into the future in safe hands. During the 2022 YDP final, Seonaid McLaren, Willie's granddaughter, was pipped by one point by Nicola Howie, the daughter of Ken. The quality of the participants was exceptional. The Society should be immensely proud of how the YDP continues to develop and the quality and enthusiasm of our future.

No one can predict the future, but with the huge upheavals and uncertainty in the world, if you are farming cattle, the clever choice is the Aberdeen-Angus breed. With low production costs and high premiums, it's no surprise it is the number one breed in the UK.

At Rosemead, we have gone further with lowering the costs of production. We have done this by focussing on being disease-free, with very little antibiotic use, no vaccination, worm counting, and no worming for several years. We also finish on grass with no creep and have traditional crop rotations and high clover mixes. I have never used artificial fertilisers, and our spraying is minimal. I know many of you cannot go down this road, but it is a road the breed is ideally suited to.

Last year we managed a full show and sales programme. February Stirling saw two record prices, first for Duncanziemere Jacobite W374 from the Clarke family selling to Idvies and Ballindalloch for 30,000gns. This was followed by Blelack bowing out in style, with Blelack Dean Martin W063 making 38,000gns to Wedderlie. Well

The Shadwell dispersal at Skipton was a wonderful sale, with two breed records broken. In-calf heifers averaged £9,400 while maiden heifers averaged £10,500, an excellent record; well done to Robert Clark and family.

At Balmoral, a heifer Woodvale Delia X867 from the Armour family, was tapped out as champion. Ann and John Henning were reserve, with Drumcorn Lady Ida U492. The Highland had a very large entry, and it was Stouphill Quorum T208, a cow from Dallas Allen who stood top; reserve from the Wattie family was a threeyear-old cow Tonley Lady Heather V591. Lady Heather travelled down to Norfolk for the National Show and was tapped out as the national champion by Brian Clark. His reserve from Brailes Livestock was Weeton Blackbird V519.

At the Royal Welsh, Glympton Farms picked up both honours, with Glympton Riley V261 standing champion and Glympton Pride Jean T127 taking reserve.

Stirling in early October saw a heifer from John Elliot achieve a breed record for a female at 40,000gns.

Congratulations to all involved and well done to all the winners and the countless Angus enthusiasts who support Aberdeen-Angus classes across the country.

One of my highlights of the year was presenting Barbara Webster with the President's award for outstanding contribution to the Aberdeen-Angus breed. Barbara has worked for the Society for 28 years in two spells - from 1971 to 1980 and from 2002 to the present. She will continue to work for one day a week following her retirement. She is only the sixth recipient of the prestigious Watson Award, which is made in memory of Hugh Watson, one of the great founders of the breed early in the 19th Century. Her dedication and integrity helped deliver the Society's market-leading performance evaluation scheme following the acquisition of the UK rights for the Australian Breedplan system in 2002.

The Council and the Committees of the Society had a hectic 2022. We continued to use Zoom, but face-toface meetings seemed much more productive.

We had a Council meeting at Dovecote Park in July and toured the modern factory and state-of-the-art cutting rooms. We were very impressed with the eye for quality throughout the production process. Thank you to the team at Dovecote for enabling us to visit.

We have so much Council business, which is complex and requires a level of detail that takes time to deliver. This year, hopefully, you will start to see results. One of the Society's biggest problems is that we pay for DNA testing. It is financially unsustainable for the Society, so we, as members, must help with this. We are still at the development stage of DNA. How and when we test and which animals we need to test, or the best process, are all being looked at to see if there is a better, more sustainable way. We should have a way forward very soon.

I want to thank all the Council and especially the Committee Chairs for their hard work.

One of the Society's significant developments last year was the recruitment of Natalie Cormack as Breed Development Officer. Natalie comes with a wealth of knowledge on genetics and she is already making a difference. Robert Gilchrist vacated the position in March as he moved up to the Chief Executive role. I want to thank Robert for all his hard work and the rest of the team at Pedigree House, who work hard on our behalf. It is often a thankless task but they plough on with enthusiasm.

The YDP final at Stephanie Dick's was a great success. Stephanie and her family went above and beyond to deliver a superb day. Thank you also to Richard and Carol Rettie, who are great supporters providing a large number of cattle, and William McLaren, who also provided cattle for the day. There was a large number of helpers who made it all run smoothly under the guidance of National Co-ordinator Tina Russell. Thank you all. I would also like to thank all the farms across the country who had workshops and the individuals who helped on those days. The YDP is extremely important to the Society, and without you, we could not do it.

Paul Jeenes continues to help and guide the Society with liaisons with the processors and retailers. He has helped Robert understand the industry and put him in front of the right movers and shakers. Thank you Paul.

I also want to thank my team back home at Rosemead who are quite used to me either not turning up for work or having to leave halfway through a job to 'go to a

Finally, I thank the other members of the Presidential team of Finlay Munro and Ian Watson. They have dedicated their time to the Society and provided Robert and me with much-needed guidance.

**Angus Stovold** 









# The Aberdeen-Angus Clubs

The Aberdeen-Angus Clubs play an essential part in representing the breed and the Society around the shows and sales within their regions, as well as organising meetings, herd walks and competitions throughout the year.

The Society intends to help the Clubs become essential in publicising the breed and brand going forward. We will be making investments throughout the year to provide the Clubs with tools to promote the benefits of the breed throughout the supply chain.

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.

The regional Clubs are not just for breeds but for anyone interested in Aberdeen-Angus cattle - be it breeding, beef, or wanting to be part of the number one breed in the UK.

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

#### Gill MacGregor, Secretary

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# Solway Aberdeen-Angus Club

022 began with our AGM and prize-giving held at The Auctioneer, Carlisle. Last year also saw a full return to shows and sales, with many Solway members participating. The Davidsons/ Wedderlie open day gave us a chance to piggyback a trip to the Borders, where a number of members were present to see some outstanding stock on show and have a great day.

Last year we also carried out our stock judging event scheduled for 2020, but postponed due to Covid. The event was held at Mathew and Heather Curry's Kingholm herd in Dumfries. The event was a success, with great feedback and a good turnout. Thank you very much to both Mathew and Heather for their hospitality and for providing excellent stock for the event. Winners on the day were Stuart Burgess (Abbey) and James Rea (Chapelton).

#### SHOWS AND SALES

February's Stirling sale saw the Club represented by Kingholm and Carruthers achieving top prices of 10,000gns and 7,000gns, respectively.

At the May Carlisle sale, there were three members selling stock - Carruthers, Newbank and Kingholm with prices of 4,200gns, 4,500gns and 4,000gns, respectively.

Some members travelled to the summer shows, where Hardlawbank exhibited at the Highland Show and Kingholm exhibited at the Yorkshire Show, coming away with a 4th and a 6th. Dumfries Show was well represented and Hardlawbank's yearling heifer took reserve champion.

Our annual herd competition took place in September. Many thanks to everyone who participated, and a big thanks to our judge, Owen Tunney of the Morpheus herd based in Cheshire. There were more entries than ever, and the quality of stock on show was great. Well done to all participants.

This year's plans are already well underway with herd visits planned, as well as stock judging and the herd competition. We have over 15 herds now involved with the Solway Club and we are always looking for more members to join, so please get in touch if you wish to participate.

Thomas Peters, Club Chairman

#### 2022 ANNUAL HERD COMPETITION RESULTS

#### \*\* Stock bull \*\*

2nd Longbank - Carruthers Goldmine

4th Housesteads - Fordel Ma Puma

#### \*\* 2-year-old bull \*\*

#### \*\* Yearling bull \*\*

#### \*\* Bull calf born Jan-March \*\*

1st Carruthers - Y166 2nd Longbank - Longbank Patriot 3rd Gretnahouse - Gretnahouse

#### \*\* Bull calf born April onwards \*\*

2nd Longbank - Longbank Jedi Eric

#### \*\* Best cow \*\*

2nd Gretnahouse - Gretnahouse

#### \*\* Up to 3-year-old heifer \*\*

1st Longbank - Longbank Petula W232

#### \*\* Yearling heifer \*\*

2nd Carruthers - Carruthers Elspeth 3rd Kingholm - Kingholm Petal Maid

#### \*\* Heifer calf born Jan-March \*\*

2nd Comlongon - Comlongon Lola

#### \*\* Heifer calf born April onwards \*\*

#### \*\*Small herd \*\*

#### \*\* Medium herd \*\*

#### \*\* Large herd \*\*

#### \*\*\*\* Overall herd \*\*\*\*

(f) (9) (6) www.aberdeen-angus.co.uk

# SOLWAY-

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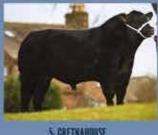
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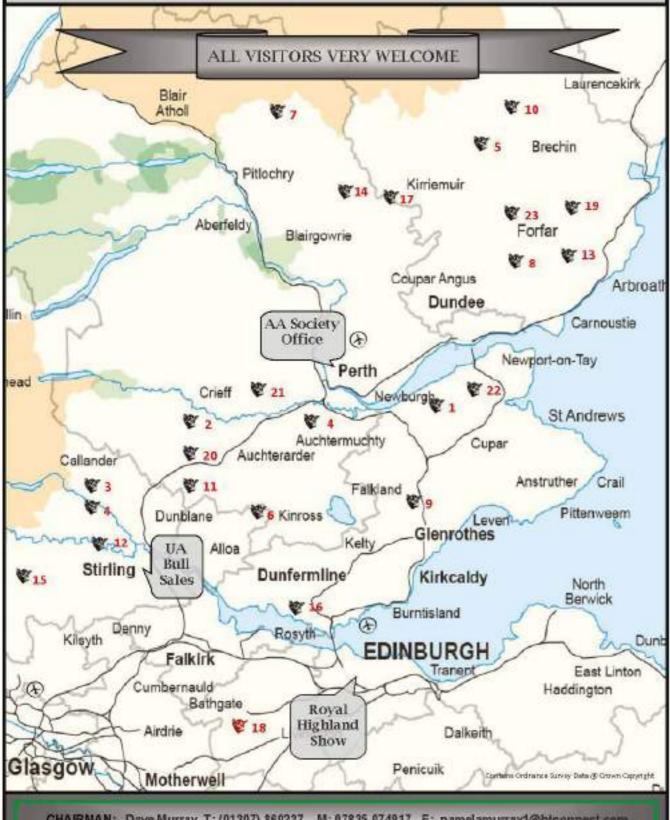
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# Central Aberdeen-Angus Club

s we start the new year, it is nice to reflect on a more 'normal' year post-covid. The weather was kind last year, although a bit too dry in some of our member's areas.

Congratulations must go to all our members who were successful at breed sales, summer shows, and calf shows. It takes a lot of work and time to support our agricultural shows, so thank you to all who attended.

Last year we managed to fit in two super visits viewing Angus cattle. Our first visit to Messrs Mather of Shandford was a real eye-opener! Five years ago, they were using 12 Charolais bulls. Now they have been replaced by Aberdeen-Angus bulls. Seeing the detail and expertise Graeme Mather puts into his breeding programme was of great interest to everyone there. Nearly 40 members and friends attended.

Then, in the afternoon on the same day, we visited Tom Hopkinson's herd at Lindertis, who is rebuilding a herd that was very famous in the 1950s and 60s. The females show a lot of promise and with young bulls coming on stream, I'm sure we will hear a lot more from this herd. Thank you to both breeders for a grand day out.

Our annual stockjudging event was held at HW Netherton Angus in September. A good turnout of members ensured some competitive judging. Thank you to William McLaren for allowing us to look at many excellent cattle.

Wishing all members and friends a happy, successful, and peaceful 2023.

**Dave Murray** 

Chairman of the Central Scotland Aberdeen-Angus Club



# PENWAC and North West Aberdeen-Angus Club



t is sad to report the loss of a friend and Club member Peter Stanley, husband to Maureen of the Coneygarth herd, which was established in 1997. Peter enjoyed showing cattle at local shows. He helped me steward at the shows and at the expo, and was a gentleman always ready to help; he will be very much missed.

At the 2020 AGM, little did we know Club activities would cease until the 2022 AGM. However, Club members were glad to get out and meet up, so we had good attendance. Robert Gilchrist, the newly appointed CEO, talked about his history and Society business. A visual presentation of costings was also very well received by members. Council officer Adrian Johnson also attended and answered members' questions.

Owen Tunney hosted the YDP at Northwich, and youngsters, as well as PENWAC members, attended. They were able to learn how cattle are prepared for shows. A skilled clipper, Owen, showed them how to wash and clip. They learnt how to correctly halter, tie up an animal, and stock judge cattle with Jim Barber. Owen gave the children veterinary tips. It was a fantastic day and well done to Sophie Tunney and William Ashworth for getting to the YDP finals.

Members also had the opportunity to visit the Wedderlie open day. The herd was a real credit to the Tilson family, seeing the 230 suckler cows which produce excellent stock bulls, breeding cattle and finished cattle with consistency. The family have a great passion for the breed, which Marion's Grandfather established in 1942 with a few Angus cattle compared to what it is today.

The Exhibition Unit attended three two-day shows last year- the Royal Cheshire, Royal Lancashire and Westmorland. It was good to be on the road again. At the Cheshire Show, Owen took the championships with his home-bred cattle.

The Exhibition Unit last attended the Lancashire Show a good few years ago. The champion was awarded to the Webster family's bull, Blelack Egotist, with reserve going to the Walsh family with their heifer Buckhurst Blackbird.

The Westmorland Show was well attended, with Brailes Livestock bringing their show team. They won overall champion.

John and Gwen Hadwin from the PENWAC Club took reserve champion and best animal bred by exhibitor prize with their heifer Aulthurstside Diana.

Thank you to all the teams that showed at all the local shows with great success, championing the breed.

Hopefully, we will have more activities this year, kicking off with our AGM on 26th February at The Garstang Hotel and Golf Club.

Mary Hamnett, Club Secretary

#### PENWAC HERD COMPETITION

Wanda Tilson and partner Julian judged the Clubs' herd competition. Here are the results.

**Stock bull:** 1st Hurries herd, Airedale Euston. 2nd Buckhurst, Morpheus Rolex. 3rd Mobberley Ranche

**Bull under 2yrs:** 1st Millstones herd, Crookhill Duke. 2nd Buckhurst Prometheus. 3rd Woodmoss Blelack Egotist.

**Bull calf 2022:** 1st Mobberley George Y423. 2nd Buckhurst Merlin Prince Y310. 3rd Autherside Energetic Y227.

**Best cow:** 1st Morpheus Rosebud U040. 2nd Pilsbury Cherry Bun T368. 3rd Woodmoss herd ,The Moss Pastiche T446

Heifer under 2yrs: 1st Mereside Dutches X085.
2nd Woodmoss herd ,The Moss Queen Mother W629.
3rd Airedale Fllie X715

Heifer calf 2022: 1st Morpheus Rose Y105. 2nd Buckhurst Top Lass Y314. 3rd Blackwatch Jolly Erica Y757.

**Best heifer group:** 1st Buckhurst. 2nd Morpheus. 3rd Mobberlev.

Best herds: Small herd: Hurries, Wendy Hoare and David Wellock. Medium herd: Wood Moss, Joanne and Derek Webster. Large herd: Mobberley, Ian Norbury.

Overall herd: Wood Moss.

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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.

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# Border Aberdeen-Angus Club

he Border Club has been back in business this past 12 months, having held a well-attended bull walk in January last year.

Members participated in several shows and events over the summer season. In addition, we hosted Finlay Munro to judge our herd competition in October.

Borders herds were well represented at Stirling in February 2022, but mainly on the purchasing side of the equation. The sole exception to this was Eastfield Black Banjo, which first caused a little sensation in the bull walk and fulfilled that expectation, realising 10,000gns.

Wedderlie were purchasers of the top-priced bull of the day at 38,000gns, with Blelack Dean Martin.

The 200th Royal Highland Show held last year will be one to remember for Border Club members Dallas and Ruth Allen, Stouphill. They set a record that will be difficult to beat, having achieved both male and female champions, and overall with their winner of the cow and calf class, Stouphill Quorum T208. Their male champion came in the form of Stouphill Murphy's Prince W301.

Rulesmains hosted the Borders YDP training day, which was well attended by a group of enthusiastic youngsters from both the Borders and beyond. Stephanie Dick led the session in her role as Scottish co-ordinator and was ably assisted by Emma Hodge. They put the attendees through their paces in halter training, stock judging and reasons, and cattle dressing, just for starters. The day also provided an opportunity to present the Crinlin Cup to Andrew and Emma Hodge, which they won at the 2021 Summer National held at the Westmorland Show. This cup is awarded to the best female and her progeny, and Rulemains are proud to have accepted this award.

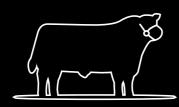


Andrew and Emma Hodge receiving their award (Crinlin Cup) from lan Watson, (middle), pictured with the attendees of the YDP training day at Rulesmains in May 2022.



Eastfield bulls displayed for the bull walk attendees in January 2022, ahead of the February bull sales in Stirling.





# NORTH EAST SCOTLAND ABERDEEN-ANGUS CLUB

The ancestral home of the Aberdeen-Angus breed





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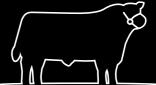


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# North East Scotland Aberdeen-Angus Club

orth East of Scotland breeders continued to flourish at local and national shows and sales last year in a very special year for the Club.

2022 marked the 50th anniversary year of the North East Club! With the show circuit and bull sales back to normal, our Club members returned with a bang.

Following the hugely successful dispersal of the Blelack herd in October 2021, there was a final flourish for the Massie Family at the February Stirling sale as they sold Blelack Dean Martin W063 to Wedderlie for 38,000gns, setting a new centre record in the process. It was also another good sale for the Wattie family selling Tonley Potter and Alba (overall reserve and junior champion) for five-figure sums. Cairnton, Deveron and Tynet herds also enjoyed a productive show and sale, with class winners, tickets and strong averages.

Following Graeme Massie's dispersal, he was a very able judge for our 2021 Black Beauty Bonanza. Despite Storm Arwen, over 90 calves and yearlings were out in force from 26 exhibitors. There were championships for Tonley, Auchincrieve and Retties and other herds excelling with class winners, including Newton Muchalls, Harestone and AJR Farms. Overall an outstanding return to our main event considering the challenges affecting many North East herds, including power and water being off for up to eight days!

The Stirling May sale was a good day for the Norrie family with their Wrae herd, selling their bulls at top prices.

Following further interest from new Angus breeders within the area, the Club was able to host a 'New Breeders Day' in May with the kind permission of Hamish and Margaret Sclater at Deveron, Turriff. This event followed a successful Scottish YDP event the previous day, and the event offered those that perhaps had exceeded the age bracket for YDP the chance to mingle and gain experience from some more seasoned breeders. The event was a great success and will hopefully give



new breeders the confidence to feature at forthcoming summer shows, bull sales and calf shows. A hearty thanks to all those involved.

The local summer show season kicked off at Echt with the Wattie family taking the overall interbreed champion on the day with Tonley Lady Heather, with her heifer calf at foot. This was the start of many championships for this outfit going on to take, notably, the overall champion at the Angus Summer National at the Royal Norfolk Show and champion at the Great Yorkshire Show. The North East Club also attended Banchory and Turriff Shows, with Graham and Fiona Willox taking the Angus championship at Banchory and the Watties returning to glory at Turriff with Lady Heather. This was yet another opportunity for Mark Wattie and Beth Dandie to meet Princess Anne as Tonley Lady Heather was awarded yet another interbreed title with a strong entry of 26 Angus cattle forward.

With such a big club milestone year, it was important we celebrated. With previous uncertainty around Covid in early 2022, we opted to combine a weekend of celebrations around our flagship event, the Black Beauty Bonanza. The exciting agenda kicked off on the 25th November with our usual Black Beauty, which was followed by an anniversary sale of elite females. The sale was co-ordinated by Josh Dowbiggin, ANM and the North East Club to ensure some of the finest Angus females from North East Breeders were available on this one-off occasion. Some herds offering females for sale included Cairnton, Auchincrieve, Deveron, Ballindalloch, Morven, Stephick and Tynet.

The following day was a great chance to visit two North East herds, with the kind permission of AJR Farms, Logie, and a commercial Angus herd courtesy of Mr W Ritch, Fingask. Lunch was served at Brewdog HQ at Ellon and the finale to the weekend was a dinner dance at Lochter in the evening to toast another 50 years! What a great end to the year!





JUNIOR SIRE: Watton Bronco Man V897

These bulls ran with 96 cows and 94 confirmed positive after 9 weeks.

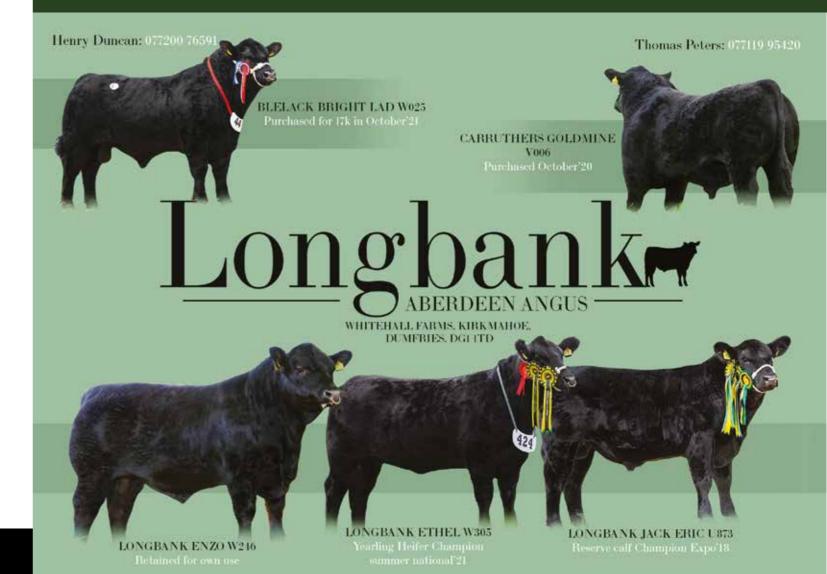
A.I. Fordel Lockdown P827 used on Heifers 63% A.I. Positive

- Biobest High Herd Health Status Level 1.
- BVD and Lepto Vaccinated.
- Out-wintered.
- Closed herd.
- Fed on grass, made to last.
- Exports to France.
- Calve at 2 years old.

Exciting times ahead at Watton Herd with the addition of WOODINGTON IDEAL RACHIS U581 to work on Gear Ben McNab V427 daughters

Visitors always welcome. Contact Richard and Jean Tully:

Waddeton Barton, Waddeton Road, Brixham, Devon. TQ5 0EL | e: info@waddeton.co.uk t: 01803 842174 m: 07813 313 411



# DIRECTORY

# NORTHERN IRELAND ABERDEEN ANGUS CLUB

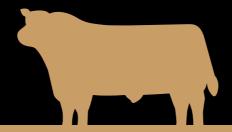


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SECRETARY: - CATHY O'HARA TEL: 07968868001

MEMBERS OFTEN HAVE STOCK FOR SALE. PLEASE CONTACT THE HERDS DIRECTLY.

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME by appointment



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- ✓ Scored highest for taste, texture and succulence (ICBF 2020)
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# Northern Ireland Aberdeen-Angus Club

ormal activities of the Northern Ireland Aberdeen-Angus Club resumed in 2022.

The first show and sale of the year was held in Dungannon Farmers Mart in February and a top price of 4,200gns was achieved. The next month saw our first AGM in three years. Our popular member Hylda Mills was elected Chairperson, with Ian Browne appointed Vice-Chairman. Our thanks goes to our outgoing Chairman, Alan Morrison, who continued to steer the Club for an extra two years. Presentations of awards from the 2021 herds competition were made on the night.

The April show and sale in Dungannon saw a lively trade and a total clearance, with the 5,000gns barrier being broken twice and the overall average jumping 660gns

When the summer show season kicked off with the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society (RUAS) at Balmoral, it became evident that stock numbers in most breeds were well reduced from pre-Covid entries. However, the trend was reversed for Aberdeen-Angus at our summer show in Clogher where we had a tremendous turnout of high quality cattle.

The herds competition was held in August and we were delighted to have Ian Watson from the Kersquarter herd as our judge. We had an amazing entry of 31 herds and lan had a mammoth task to judge them in less than five days, which he executed with skill and patience. His week in Northern Ireland concluded with an open day at Tyrella, Co Down, hosted by the Murnion family and brilliantly organised by our new Chairperson. The results and awards of the herds competition were presented and everyone present agreed that it was a unique event in an outstanding location.

#### THE WINNERS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

Large Herd: Robin and Peter Lamb's Richhill herd

Medium Herd: Kenneth Bready's Kiltarriff herd

Small Herd: James Mallon's Knockoneill herd

Champion Stock Bull: Jonathan and Lisa Doyle's home-bred Drumhill Lord Hatfield R532

Cow Family: Jonathan and Lisa Doyle's Lady Heather

Champion Calf: Kevin McOscar's Island Farm Toplass Y156

Futurity Heifer: Gerard McPeake's Grover Grazer

Princess Betty W461

Newcomer Award: Mena McCloskey's Ard Dubh herd

Any Aberdeen-Angus breeders in Northern Ireland who are not currently members of the Club should consider joining. It provides a great opportunity to network with others who share your interest in the breed and make no mistake, you will be made very welcome in our Club.

Cathy O'Hara, Secretary















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Club chairman

Simon Long

Tr 07990 595502





# East Anglia Aberdeen-Angus Club

ast year started with the Club's AGM, where Simon Long of the Long Angus herd was elected Chairman and Graham Gower-Smith of the Glaven herd was elected Vice-Chairman.

In April we held an enjoyable YDP day, which Duncan and Tracey Jeary kindly hosted at Hawthorn Farm, Briston. Numbers were lower than in previous years, but the enthusiasm was high, as were the skills shown by our young breeders.

Thanks to Terry Ives, Meg Atkins and Jess Musk for their input on ringcraft and stock judging.

There was also a talk on the safe use of medicines from Isle Veterinary Group.

Many Club members entered shows throughout the year and came away with great successes. There was a strong Club presence at The Royal Norfolk Show, showcasing good quality cattle from our region.

Last year's herd competition was hosted at Meadow Brook Angus and thanks to Mark and Sue, the event was a great success. Also, thanks to Robert Clarke for taking the time to judge all the cattle entered. Sadly, last year saw the dispersal of the renowned Shadwell herd. It will be a loss to our region, but it was an excellent opportunity for other herds to purchase some of the top families. The sale was held at Skipton and was a huge success. The quality of the cattle was clear to see, and this was echoed in the interest in the sale ring.

We wish Robert Clarke and his family all the best for their future plans. They will be missed at the Club.



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# Highland Area Aberdeen-Angus Club

t was great to finally get everyone together at our 45th AGM last February. Our guest speaker for the evening was William McLaren and his wife, Karen. William took us on a fascinating tour of the world, introducing us to the different types of Angus in all the countries he's visited, and highlighting the role each played.

Ahead of last year's show season, we added the final piece of livery to the back of the hospitality caravan. This contained the strapline 'you are following the UK's number one beef breed'. What a great message to be shared as the caravan tours the countryside. Many thanks to the Society for financing this.

It was brilliant to be back at all the shows, catching up with friends and enjoying the spectacle of live cattle in the show ring. Our members enjoyed success both locally and nationwide.

In August, 11 club members braved the airports and headed from Inverness to Gatwick to enjoy a three-day whistle-stop tour of eight herds in the South East of England. We are incredibly grateful to Angus Stovold for making the trip a success. It was eagerly anticipated following a two-year wait due to the pandemic.

We visited the herds of Perrywood, Vexour, McClemens, Warrenho, Hawkley Red Angus, Rosemead, Lockerley Hall and Standlynch. Our bus driver even got involved!

As farmers, we thought we needed rain in the Highlands until we witnessed the terrible drought conditions down south. If ever there was an advert for the breed, we saw it here. The cows were in excellent condition while still managing to milk their calves. This is a testament to the breed and those looking after them.

Our Club members were treated to the most amazing hospitality, and we can't thank our hosts enough.

In September, the nation mourned the death of our Monarch. Not only did we lose our Queen, but the countryside lost someone who understood how we work.

William McLaren very kindly volunteered to head north again and judge our Pedigree Herd of the Year competition. The results will be announced at this year's AGM.

At the end of last year, we also enjoyed a micro tour of the Orbliston herd with the kind permission of the Shepherd family. Doug Lawrence and Sam Milne were our hosts for the day, rounded off with a BBQ sponsored by ABP.

The last date in the diary was a trip to Elgin in December for a pre-Christmas meal and to see comedian Jim Smith's new show. This was just the tonic to round off the year.

We look forward to more of the same this year!



# South East England Aberdeen-Angus Club

2 was a quiet year for the Club. In March, we held our AGM and lunch. We met at Lydling Farm, where Robert Gilchrist joined us and Angus Stovold and Tom Beadle showed us some of their Rosemead cattle. The meeting then followed at Cross Farm. John O'Hara was elected Chairman and Tom Beadle, Vice-Chairman. Robert Gilchrist gave a fascinating presentation and we enjoyed an excellent lunch organised by the Stovold family.

In the autumn, a group of members went on a visit to Southern Ireland. The first afternoon took us to the Clontead herd of Eustace and Deirdre Burke. We saw some tremendous cattle, and as it turned out, the first animal we saw on tour went on to claim the supreme national calf champion a week later at the Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association (IAAA) Autumn Extravaganza.

We were treated to some spectacular views from the farm and even better hospitality by Eustace and Deirdre back at the house. A theme of the tour started that evening with the coach driver, in the nicest way, telling us he would run out of driving hours to get us back to the hotel if we didn't drink up and get moving!

We also visited Albert and Jennifer De Cogan and the Mogeely herd. The day started a little wet, but that did not dampen spirits and we enjoyed a lovely morning strolling through some superb cattle. Again, we were treated to some fantastic hospitality, and great fun was had. We might all still be happily sitting around the table with Albert and Jennifer now if it had not been for our brave coach driver eventually insisting we needed to leave!

Our next visit took us towards Killarney in County Kerry, via the scenic route. A little behind schedule and before we left County Cork, we stopped at John and Beatrice Appleby's Carrigroe herd, where we saw some lovely cattle. With our coach driver beginning to panic about his driving hours and not yet over the border into County Kerry, we persuaded him to stop at Keith and Caroline Vickery's Carbery herd. We were pleased we did and saw some lovely cattle, including a couple of the animals from their recent sale and another calf that went on to be reserve calf champion at the National Calf Show a week later.

With our coach driver now in full panic mode, we hit the road to Kerry.

We also had the pleasure of visiting Matthew and Rita Goulding near Ballyduff. We saw some impressive stock, including some super young bull calves. The scenery was spectacular along the coast and everyone enjoyed viewing fabulous cattle in such a setting.

Many thanks are due to Richie Lombard of the Dulague Red Angus herd, who accommodated us for a visit a little later than scheduled on our way back to Killarney. We saw some lovely red cattle and two very nice heifers who were sold the following week at the IAAA Autumn Extravaganza.

A huge thank you to all our hosts, who were fantastic and made the trip enjoyable.

Mike Spooner, SEEAA Club Secretary

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#### **STOWE**

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#### **VEXOUR**

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#### **WAREOAK**

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#### **WARRENHO**

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Mr TW Ives & Sons Berry Levs Farm East Claydon Road Winslow, Bucks, MKI 8 3ND 01296 712 633

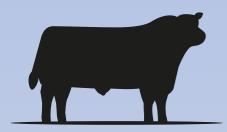


Chairman: John O'Hara - 07831 326453 Vice Chairman: Tom Beadle - 07843 020809

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



# South West of England **Aberdeen Angus Club**

www.aberdeenangus-swenglandclub.co.uk

#### Atlantic

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

#### **Bosullow**

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#### **Bramshaw Hill**

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#### Buskin

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#### Calstone

**H** Morley Blackland Farm, Calne, Wilts, **SN118PS** 01249 816131

#### Cherrylane

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#### Colhayne

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#### **FOXCOMBE**

Trevor & Ruth Dawe Highlands, Lewdown, Okehampton, Devon, EX20 4BS 01566 783127

#### Gear

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#### Grandon

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#### Kelvedon

N.W & K.E Forfitt Punchards, Shebbear, Beaworthy, Devon, EX215ST 01409 281150/07837084313

#### Kingston

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#### Luxtons

**Luxton Partners** North Alfordon Farm, Okehampton Devon, EX20 1RX 07875 246346/01837 52534

#### Maplejacks

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#### Rodmead

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#### **Sweeters Pocket**

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#### Techra

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#### Warson

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#### Westwilmer

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The Pulsford Family 1 Langley Cross, Wiveliscombe, Taunton, Somerset, TA4 2UG 01984 624624



**Chairperson:** Richard Ashenden **T**: 07740 870682 E: rashenden@outlook.com

Secretary: Lucy Pulsford



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Visitors welcome by appointment



S010



# South West England Aberdeen-Angus Club

ur AGM was held last March at Devon Hotel, Exeter.
Richard Ashenden remained as Chairman. Gill
Quinn stepped down as Treasurer after many years
of service, and Sue Pulsford was voted in. Myself, Lucy
Pulsford, was voted in as Secretary for the coming year.

Devon County Show was the breed stand's first show of the year and proved popular with show visitors and members. Our thanks to members who gave their time to man the stand on show days.

A big thank you to Sue Pulsford for sorting and operating the stand, and showing cattle at the same time. It would not have been possible without her.

Congratulations to all our members who succeeded in the show ring last year, proving that hard work and dedication pays off.

The attendance of South West members at the local shows is so valuable, helping keep the Aberdeen-Angus classes open and raising the breed profile.

One of our members, Judith Denning, held the Youth Development Training Programme at Temple Aberdeen-Angus last April. The day included stock judging, talks on the safe use of medicine, clipping, washing and ringcraft. It was a well-attended day for the up-and-coming members of the Aberdeen-Angus world. A lot of hard work made this day a success and a big thank you is deserved.

We held a very interesting herd walk in mid-September, hosted by Angus Neish, in Wiltshire. All who attended the herd walk had great praise for the farm and the cattle they saw. It was a fantastic day for the members to socialise and talk about the breed we all love.

Our thanks go to all our South West of England members for their support and determination to keep the Club going during a few very tough years. As a Club, we look forward to the years ahead with resilience and determination, welcoming new breeders, non-breeders and those interested in the breed.

Please do not hesitate to contact us or see our Facebook page for news and updates, South West of England Aberdeen-Angus Club.

Lucy Pulsford - Secretary

# West Mercia & Wales Aberdeen-Angus Club In the heart of England and Wales

Secretary Kathryn Hart T: 07887 654 898 E: kathart.ball@gmail.com

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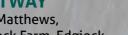
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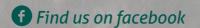


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To see bulls for sale in your area, visit: https://www.aberdeen-angus.co.uk/members-for-sale/











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#### **TEMPLEHOUSE**

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For further information about club activities, please contact: Chairman: Colin Montgomery – 07885 515172

Secretary: Shona Andrew – 07912 783719



# South West Scotland Aberdeen-Angus Club

2022 was the year we saw shows and sales return bigger and better than before. With the season back in full swing, it was there for the taking.

The year started with a bang in the sale ring at the February bull sales when the Clark family from Avisyard hit a high with Duncanziemere Jacobite selling for 30,000gns and his pen mate Duncanzemiere Mr Bond for 11,000gns.

Following on from their success at the bull sales, their luck continued at Ayr Show, where they had a clean sweep of red tickets. They also claimed the titles of champion, reserve champion, best Aberdeen-Angus bred

by exhibitor and first place Aberdeen-Angus yearling heifer exhibited by the South West Scotland Aberdeen-Angus Club.

The sale at Carlisle also provided a good trade for members with an 86% clearance rate and a 7,000gns call for the McCornick family and 6,500gns for the Clarks with Duncanziemere Extra.

The final sale of the year saw another trip back to Stirling, with 37 bulls selling to average £5,398. The Clark family achieved a double bonus of 7,000gns for both Duncanziemere Proud Ice and Edinburgh and McCornick Dark Knight realised 4,800gns.



## The Aberdeen-Angus Advantage

Easy calving reduces the potential for empty days thanks to less interventions

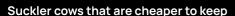






Low birthweight and easy calving means greater calf survival, increasing productivity







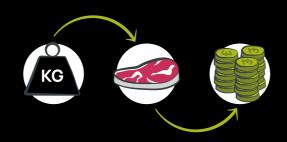
Short gestation means more days in production and more milk in the tank







Up to 25p/kg premium price on offer worth up to £80/head on a 330-kilo carcase













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# Working in True Partnership

# ...to Safeguard 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.







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# OLD GLENORT ANGUS





**James Porter** 028 9260 7333

james@gillhallestate.com www.gillhallestate.com



UK 541889 201124 Carlhurlie Gentilex S124

Sire: Skaill Dido K309 Dam: Carlhurlie Gentille J762



UK 521115 703898

#### Blelack Dakota U898

Sire: Netherallan Peter Pershore E052 Dam: Oakchurch Darlene E020



UK 560213 300806 (Junior herd sire) **Threeburnford Luther W806** 

Sire: Deveron la Quinta S564 Dam: Threeburnford Livia T698



UK 9041700 1251-4 (Picture taken at 8 months) **Old Glenort Victorious Y514** 

Sire: Carlhurlie Gentilex S124 Dam: Old Glenort Victoria N511



UK9 041700 0861-6

#### Old Glenort Edwina R616

Sire: Cardona Jewel Eric M826 Dam: Old Glenort Edwina J245



UK 9041700 1150-1

#### Old Glenort Kim W501

Sire: Carlhurlie Epic P021 Dam: Old Glenort Kim K761



UK 9041700 1043-6

#### Old Glenort Kathleen U436

Sire: Carlhurlie Epic P021 Dam: Old Glenort Kathleen N172

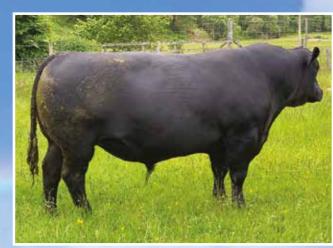
# STRATHGLASS

ABERDEEN - ANGUS

Bulls and Heifers For Sale - Biobest HI Health member (BVD accredited/Johnes Level 1)







Stratholass 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 W931 with 1st calf Strathglass Erica Y071



Strathglass Delux Y073



Strathglass Easton Y076 Boss Hogg Son



Strathglass Dakota W915 with her Jackson Eric daughter Strathglass Duchess Y117



Strathglass Dustin Y079



Just weaned Strathglass Destiny Y070



# Embrace genomics to increase accuracies in Aberdeen-Angus herds

n last year's Review, I ended the DNA Committee report by stating, 'the time for genomics isn't overdue, but the time is now'.

By the time you read this, we will have received presentations from potential genomic service providers and have almost finished evaluating them.

Genomic evaluation has the potential to improve the reliability of performance recording markedly. Various weights for age and ultrasound scanning remain the gold standard, but two of the biggest concerns for breeders when commenting on EBVs are calving ease and accuracy

Genomics, given time, will identify common genes in many herds, which should iron out many of the anomalies found regarding calving ease. However, it is in lifting accuracies that it is most important.

While genomics will do little to lift the accuracy figures on an animal with very high accuracies, it will significantly raise the accuracy for animals with low accuracies. This will be relevant in herds that have not recorded regularly, who have few animals moving to other herds for breeding, or for those using older bloodlines and, of course, imported genetics.

The uplift can be as much as 40%, putting an end, at least partly, to the scenario of an animal's figures collapsing after a few seasons of use.

The other goal of the DNA/Genomics Committee, in conjunction with the Registrations Committee, has been looking at ways to reduce the spending on DNA analysis.

Several possible solutions have come to the fore, with the Breed Fraction Test and a Genomic Relationship Matrix. These will be explored to see whether they are more cost-effective for the Society, processors and retailers to authenticate Aberdeen-Angus beef.

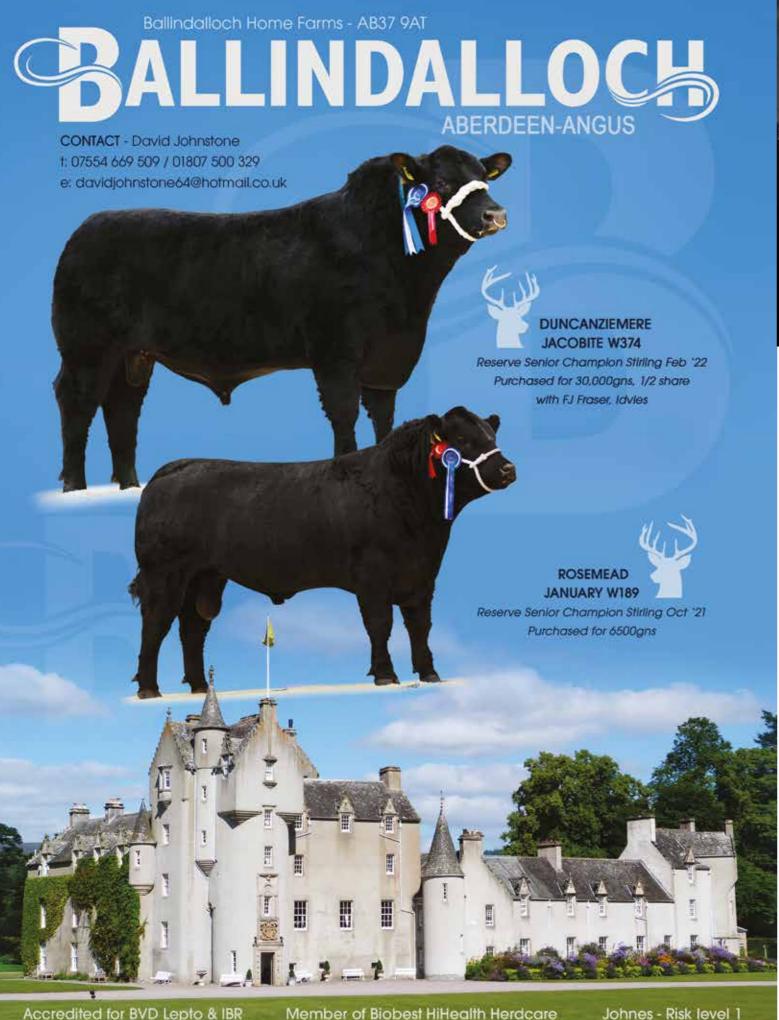
In addition, much can be done by individual members to reduce the Society's workload and spend on DNA. For example, the Society should be notified of any animal which isn't to be used or sold for breeding. We will shortly have a simple way to allow this to happen.

Genomics has the potential to streamline EBVs to become more accurate and to allow a breeder to make decisions based on them at a much earlier stage. Of course, genomics will never take over from weighing and scanning, with phenotypic measurements still the backbone of any herd. It certainly will never replace a stock person's eye when picking herd replacements. However, it is a tool to help.

#### Finlay Munro

Chair of the DNA Committee

For further info please contact **Sheena Thomson 07801353819 | Murray Harper 07842122063 strathglassfarms@btinternet.com** | Strathglass Farms, Mid Crochail, Strathglass by Beauly, IV4 7NE





# Breed Development Committee identify ways to maintain breed competitiveness

2 was another hectic year for our Committee, with some interesting projects getting underway. Our job as a Committee is to look at improvements we can make to the breed and the Society. We are always looking to the future, whether that's embracing new technologies or looking at how we can improve the Youth Development Programme. Following on from the SWOT analysis we completed in 2021, many of our key projects have resulted from identifying opportunities and working on our weaknesses. The beef industry is competitive, so we must keep moving with the times to keep our spot at the top of the BCMS standings.

Last year we spent a lot of time building our new Dairy Index. This tool is helpful for dairy farmers, calf rearers, finishers and bull breeders. It will help them select the most relevant genetics to their operation and improve their efficiency and profitability. We have been collaborating on this with the Agricultural Business Research Institute (ABRI), and we hope to roll this out shortly.

We look forward to the rollout of ILR Online, which will take place gradually over the next 12 months. The new system being brought out by ABRI will see a more user-friendly database, allowing us to become more efficient in terms of labour use in the office, with more automation

and flexibility than the current system we all use today. It will also make it easier to look at new types of data to record, such as docility, feet, legs, teats and udders. We hope that ILR Online should also help the development of the Maternal Efficiency List – the project we are working on in line with the Pathfinder Programme in the USA.

We have had preliminary discussions with AHDB about collaborating on a feed efficiency project. The aim would be to gain funding from DEFRA, allowing us to gather the data required to formulate an Aberdeen-Angus feed efficiency EBV.

Feed efficiency is such a hot topic. With input costs rising daily, it makes sense to investigate this further.

We welcome Natalie Cormack as Breed Development Manager, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience, which will be a great asset to the Committee and the breed. I am very grateful for the support from the Society staff and the members of the Breed Development Committee for their valuable input over the past year. We are always looking for projects to develop, so please contact us if there is anything you would like us to work on.

#### **Duncan Morrison**

**Chair of the Breed Development Committee** 

MacGregor



# New marketing initiatives launched for breed in 2022

hen reviewing the past year, we looked at what worked well for us and what didn't. For this, we rely on feedback and suggestions from members to help us make future decisions.

Last year the Society embarked on a spring marketing campaign. This initiative involved the placement of print and digital adverts across the UK during April, May and June, targeting the primary selling months of the year for our members. In addition, some promotional videos were produced and will be used as part of the marketing for this year's spring sales, highlighting 'The Aberdeen-Angus Advantage'.

With the return to some normality and more shows and events throughout the UK recommencing, the Committee decided to bring back our commercial brochure "The Angus" as a more user-friendly means of a show handout aimed at the commercial producer. The Angus will be updated annually with new case studies

from dairy, beef, suckler and retail producers using the Aberdeen-Angus breed to their advantage. Throughout the year, we try and gather a bank of case studies. If any member feels they know of a willing, suitable candidate for a case study, please get in touch.

2022 also saw the launch of our dissertation competition, which we will continue this year. There are more details later in this Review about the 2022 winners.

I want to thank the team at Pinstone, this year's Marketing Committee members and the staff at Pedigree House. I especially want to thank Robert and Emily for their assistance and work throughout the year and last year's Committee Chair, Chris Wilkinson, for his advice and help in ensuring a smooth transition to keep the continuity between the changing councils.

#### Alan Morrison

**Chair of Marketing Committee** 

## **Registrations Committee**



he Registration Committee and staff have worked tirelessly to speed up the registration process with some success. This is primarily due to improved office procedures. At the time of writing, we are up-to-date.

Speeding up registrations means we are already £38,000 ahead year-on-year due to the office having processed more registrations with no backlog.

Improvements have been seen concerning the number of DNA testing failures, with the replacement Caisley tags performing better than their predecessor. However, failures continue to be problematic for both members and the office, with many hours spent resolving problems, which is frustrating for all concerned.

While short-store samples are still a cause for concern, it is the long-store samples, mainly first-calved heifers and stock bulls initially processed on the low-density test, that are time-consuming and frustrating for all and expensive to resolve. The retesting of stock bulls will be resolved in time as all current potential stock bulls are now on the high-density analysis.

To reduce the problems with first-calved heifers, from this year, members will be asked to nominate heifers going into the breeding herd, e.g. in the case of spring-calvers, all heifers going to be mated should be verified as soon as possible after weaning, preferably while still housed.

This will give the breeder important information regarding the animal's parentage, for example, Myostatin. Autumn-calving heifers should be nominated when selected. Any failures from stored tissue as per spring-born heifers will be easier to resolve as, hopefully, the animal will still be housed and available for a retest.

Knowing the animal's parentage should be beneficial when making breeding decisions. Sire exclusions are also frustrating for the office, with around 15% of registrations returning with the incorrect sire. The registrations department does send out information on animals that have failed on this both by paper and email. Responding to this as soon as it is received reduces backlogs in the office.

At the October Council meeting, it was proposed and agreed that members should pay for DNA testing of breeding heifers at cost price. Any late developers can, of course, be processed at a later date or earlier.

To reduce DNA costs, we will ask members to nominate potential breeding bulls for DNA analysis when decisions have been made regarding their suitability. We are currently analysing tissue from all bulls at a considerable cost to the Society, with a large percentage going into the food chain. As with the heifers, earlier or later verification can be done.

DNA costs must be reduced, and I would ask all members to seriously assess all animals before nomination to reduce costs and improve the failure rate.

Members will receive a communication from the Society regarding the process. Hopefully, it will already have happened by the time you read this.

ILR online is being accessed as I write this report and should be rolled out for registration during the first quarter of 2023. The system offers members a more direct registration facility, with downloading facilities becoming available in time. The facility can also take payment by credit card, reducing office time.

Improving the registration process and reducing Society costs have been the focus of the Registration Committee. However, the Society's expenses, like every other business, continue to rise and must be covered. Calf registration was last increased in 1998, so to cover increased costs, the Council has voted to add £5 to the cost of calf registration, taking it to £30 plus VAT for all animals registered online from 01/01/2023.

The Registration Committee and all the staff are fully committed to improvement and will continue to make this their number one objective.

#### Ian Watson

**Chair of Registrations Committee** 

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# Rulesmains

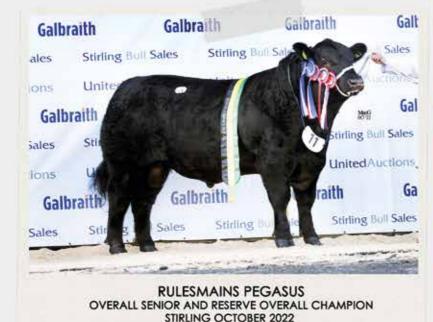


BLELACK LORD HEARTFORD (STOCK BULL)

# Stock bulls for 2021/22

**Blelack Lord Heartford** Rulesmains Lord Harold V174 Blelack Prince Camelot W017 Rulesmains Black Royce W322 Rawburn Ellington W168

F





**RULESMAINS ELEGANT X527** 



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**RULESMAINS BLACK ROYCE** 



**BLELACK PRINCE CAMELOT** 



RAWBURN ELLINGTON



# **Report from Finance Committee** of AACS Council

ur predictions in last year's Review article have proved to be mainly on the mark, stating that more challenges were to be expected in 2022 for the Society, despite its finances being on a positive path.

Challenges came thicker and faster for everyone in the UK and for Aberdeen-Angus breeders than we may have wished! For the Society, some of the challenges

- Falling global stock markets, which materially reversed the Society's investment portfolio gains over the past few years.
- · Clearing registration backlogs at Pedigree House caused by Covid.
- · Picking our way through genotyping and developing a further understanding of its longer-term benefits and what can't be presently achieved or afforded with this powerful breeding tool.
- · Quantifying the ongoing impact of genotyping on the finances of the Society if nothing were to change, and realising that steering a new course was necessary to ensure the positive outcomes of late were not squandered and instead built upon.
- Inflation.

With active stewardship, our normal Society trading at the time of writing is expected to show a small surplus once again in the year ending October 2022. This is a testament to the Council's focus on proactively meeting and overcoming the challenges as they presented themselves.

Our wholly owned subsidiary, Pedigree Cattle Services Ltd, found itself particularly exposed to the challenges of the UK economy in 2021/22. This meant lower dividends being passed back to the Society, coupled with a falling national beef herd and tough retail conditions.

Combine this with the substantially higher yearly genotyping costs (as the Covid-induced backlog was cleared), all being met by the Society rather than breeders, then inevitably, the drawdown has been substantial from some of those recent investment gains made within unreserved investment funds.

With no short-term reduction on the call on unreserved funds likely, the Council and relevant Committees were required to, and shall continue to, consider and take actions regarding how the Society balances the books in the short to medium-term. This is while seeing through

the objectives set and restated by successive Councils, which will enhance the breed's appeal and standing in

The Council noted many positives reported to it in 2021/22, such as:

- Aberdeen-Angus cross registrations at BCMS continued to rise, leading to pedigree registration income holding up for the Society.
- The appointment of a new CEO, who started his tenure with purpose and integrated seamlessly. A steady ship makes for easier financial stewardship.
- The foresight to take out a fixed-price energy contract until 2023, well before the major price hikes.

Nevertheless, 2023 will likely throw as many, if not more challenges at the Society (as it will for us all), but rest assured, the Council is mindful of their duty and responsibilities to continue to see the charity prosper and the Aberdeen-Angus thrive as a breed.

Finally, as Chair of the Finance Committee, I thank and recognise the constant work and effort made by staff at Pedigree House and the many unpaid helpers who help make my job as Committee Chair easier.

All this endeavour has one common purpose. This is to create a resilient Society fit to meet future challenges, serve all within our charity efficiently, maintain and protect the integrity of our wonderful breed and promote the breeding of Aberdeen-Angus cattle.

#### **Matthew Currie**

#### **Chair of Finance Committee**



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## **Shows and Sales Committee report**

t was great to see the shows returning to normal post-pandemic, and what a summer it was! Dry and sunny weather attracted many visitors to view the exceptional display of Angus cattle all over the country.

The Highland Show was a great event and it was encouraging to see so many entries, with exhibitors coming from far and wide to compete at this prestigious show. The Great Yorkshire Show was also incredibly well attended. The cattle displayed were a credit to the exhibitors.

A special mention must go to the Summer National at Norfolk, where exhibitors came from all over the UK to compete and make the event something special. This coming year, the Summer National will head up to the North-East of Scotland at Turriff, and I am sure it will also be equally well attended.

Stirling bull sales in February marked an incredible moment for the breed when we witnessed the centre breed record of 28,000gns smashed not once but twice. The new record belongs to the Massie family producing a top price of 38,000gns, which was purchased by Wedderlie. This was a momentous achievement following the record-breaking Blelack dispersal the year before. Second to break the record was the Clark family at Duncanziemere, selling Duncanziemere Jacobite for 30,000gns.

The sale overall proved that Aberdeen-Angus bulls are still in high demand with an average of £6,533, up £34 on the year, with 95 bulls sold. Hopefully an inspiring indication of what the future holds for Aberdeen-Angus breeders.

The Carlisle May bull sale saw an 86% clearance, with 51 Aberdeen-Angus bulls finding new homes to an average of £4,869.12, up £497 on the year, with the sale topping at 9,000qns.

#### INFECTIOUS BOVINE RHINOTRACHEITIS (IBR) INITIATIVE

A significant aspect of our work over the past year has been looking into the presence of IBR at bull sales. Helping to protect and advise the membership on the various risks associated with purchasing from the mart is our priority.

### In October 2022, the Council passed a proposal containing the following:

- All bulls entered into official Society sales must be pre-movement tested with a health scheme provider and the results must be displayed on health sale cards. For timescale, health and pen cards can be ordered up to three months before the sale date. This allows ample time to screen individual animals for IBR.
- Animals vaccinated before the blood test must display vaccination dates and vaccine type on the health card.
- The use of IBR Marker vaccines is encouraged to distinguish between vaccination and infection.

- Animals that receive a positive antibody result, but have not been marker vaccinated, must be fully vaccinated pre-movement to reduce the risk of the animal shedding the disease at the mart and also to reduce the risk of infecting an IBR naïve herd.
- Animals that test negative for IBR can enter the sale unvaccinated, but this is at the vendor's/purchaser's risk. Therefore, we encourage vendors to vaccinate with an IBR marker vaccine before the sale date.
   Again, vaccination date and type must be provided on the pen health cards (see the health test checklist on page 65 and 66).

Initially, we are recommending this practice for this year's February bull sales at Stirling. Following the spring 2023 sale season, this initiative will become mandatory for vendors entering all Society sales (both males and led females).

#### INFORMATION FOR PURCHASERS

- Actual individual testing information will be displayed on the health card. This should be taken into consideration before purchase along with the herd declaration IBR status to make an informed decision of risk.
- IBR-positive animals must be vaccinated before the sale; however, it is impossible to prove vaccination in antibody-positive animals that have been previously infected with the disease. Therefore, it is recommended that if an antibody-positive animal is purchased, it is isolated on arrival to the farm and vaccinated against IBR for complete assurance.
- The Society has adopted this initiative to reduce the risk of transfer of IBR by selling animals. It is hoped that this will allow purchasers to make more informed decisions. The AACS, however, provide no assurances about the health results being provided.

In addition to the above, we have endeavoured to make sales easier for vendors with herd health declarations. We are happy to announce that the herd health declaration will shortly be available online, removing the need to print, fill out and scan. We hope this will reduce the late returns and speed up the process in the office.

The late return of health declaration forms is a significant factor in delaying sale entry and cataloguing. Just a reminder that herd health declarations are due with sale entries and by the sale entry deadline. These should be forwarded to the AACS office by email.

As per the previous report, the potential changes to the Johne's element of the CHeCS scheme are still under discussion and we have yet to make any significant changes. We will endeavour to inform the membership of any changes as and when they occur.

As Chair of this Committee, I would like to thank all the exhibitors for their support at shows and sales last year, showcasing the best attributes of our great breed.

Daniel Whiteford, Chair of Shows and Sales Committee



# Health test requirements for Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society sales

Male Animals	Test required	Vaccination	Health card boxes to be completed
BVD accredited herds	No - Individual test optional	Optional - but recommended	The herd accredited box must be completed and if vaccinated the details must be completed
Non BVD accredited herds - must be part of the health scheme and be testing for a minimum of 12 months	Yes - Antigen	Optional - but recommended	The individual test result must be shown and if vaccinated the details must be completed
IBR accredited herds	Yes - Antibody	Optional - but marker vaccine recommended	The herd accredited box must be completed and if vaccinated the details must be completed
IBR non-accredited herds	Yes - Antibody	Optional - but marker vaccine recommended	The individual test result must be shown and if vaccinated the details must be completed
Lepto accredited herds	No - Individual test optional	Optional	The herd accredited box must be completed and if vaccinated the details must be completed
Lepto non-accredited herds	No - Individual test optional	Optional	If tested the animal's individual test result must be shown and if vaccinated the details must be completed
ТВ	Date of last test		The date of the last test and the TB testing interval must be completed. If a herd is TB exempt this must be shown. The TB information must be completed
Johne's - must be a part of the CHeCS health scheme and a minimum Level 4, and be testing for a minimum of 12 months			Every animal must have the risk level of the herd shown in the box. Non home-bred animals have no details in the Johne's box



Female Animals	Test required	Vaccination	Health card boxes to be completed
BVD accredited herds	No - Individual test optional	Must be vaccinated to cover period of sale. The Society strongly recommends that in-calf females are vaccinated prior to service	The herd accredited box and vaccination details box must be completed
Non BVD accredited herds - must be part of the health scheme and be testing for a minimum of 12 months	Yes - Antigen	Must be vaccinated to cover period of sale. The Society strongly recommends that in-calf females are vaccinated prior to service	The individual test result must be shown and vaccination details must be completed
IBR accredited herds	Yes - Antibody	Optional - but marker vaccine recommended	The herd accredited box must be completed and if vaccinated the details must be completed
IBR non-accredited herds	Yes - Antibody	Optional - but marker vaccine recommended	The individual test result must be shown and if vaccinated the details must be completed
Lepto accredited herds	No - Individual test optional	Optional	The herd accredited box must be completed and if vaccinated the details must be completed
Lepto non-accredited herds	No - Individual test optional	Optional	If tested the animal's individual test result must be shown and if vaccinated the details must be completed
ТВ	Date of last test		The date of the last test and the TB testing interval must be completed. If a herd is TB exempt this must be shown. The TB information must be completed
Johne's - must be a part of the CHeCS health scheme and a minimum Level 4 and be testing for a minimum of 12 months			Every animal must have the risk level of the herd shown in the box. Non home-bred animals have no details in the Johne's box

Calves at Foot (the minimum age at date of sale is one month)	Test required	Vaccination	Health card boxes to be completed
BVD accredited herds	No - Individual test optional	Optional - but recommended	The herd accredited box must be completed and if vaccinated the details must be completed
Non BVD accredited herds - must be part of the health scheme and be testing for a minimum of 12 months	Yes - Antigen	Optional - but recommended	The individual test result must be shown and if vaccinated the details must be completed
IBR accredited herds	Yes - Antibody	Optional - but marker vaccine recommended	The herd accredited box must be completed and if vaccinated the details must be completed
IBR non-accredited herds	Yes - Antibody	Optional - but marker vaccine recommended	If tested the animal's individual test result must be shown and if vaccinated the details must be completed
Lepto accredited herds	No - Individual test optional	Optional	The herd accredited box must be completed and if vaccinated the details must be completed
Lepto non-accredited herds	No - Individual test optional	Optional	If tested the animal's individual test result must be shown and if vaccinated the details must be completed
ТВ	Date of last test		The date of the last test and the TB testing interval must be completed. If a herd is TB exempt this must be shown. The TB information must be completed
Johne's - must be a part of the CHeCS health scheme and a minimum Level 4 and be testing for a minimum of 12 months			Every animal must have the risk level of the herd shown in the box. Non home-bred animals have no details in the Johne's box

# Society sale entry requirements

	Herd Health Declaration Form	Herd Health Declaration forms are required at the time of entry, and are due by the entry deadline. This document captures relevant details of the herd's health policy, vaccinations and testing commitments. Summary details are displayed in the front of each sale catalogue to enable buyers to make informed purchasing decisions. Herd Health Declaration forms are mandatory and are available to complete at www.aberdeen-angus.co.uk/resources/show-and-sales-resources, and on the relevant auctioneer's website.
	Health Pen Cards	Health Pen Cards are available from your CHeCS health scheme provider of which every vendor is required to be a member. Please apply to your health scheme provider for individual cards for each animal, in good time. These cards should be displayed in the pen at the sale.
E	Minimum Health Testing	<ul> <li>As a minimum, herds/animals must participate in a CHeCS approved health scheme and be the following: BVD accredited and vaccinated with an approved vaccine within 12 months prior to the sale. Vaccination dates must be provided on the Herd Health Declaration form non BVD accredited herds must be individually tested BVD virus negative, and vaccinated as above. Declaration form to inform the purchaser. Animals from non BVD accredited herds must be individually tested BVD virus negative, and vaccinated as above. See Risk Level Table] Tested for IBR, and vaccinated (if positive). All test results and vaccination dates should be declared on the Herd Health Declaration Form, and on the pen card. </li> </ul>
N CE	Minimum Performance Recording Criteria	All males and led females must have met minimum submission of performance recording data which is as follows: Birth Weight, 200 day weight, 400 day weight, check weight (done at scanning), scanning data.
<u>ග</u>		All males and led females must be sire verified and myostatin tested in line with Society requirements AHEAD OF ENTRY. It is the vendors responsibility to see that this has been successfully completed ahead of entry.

# JOHNES RISK LEVELS 1-5

DNA TESTIN

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 Johne's when buying in stock.

# SALE DAY REQUIREMENTS Contagious Diseases

# Weight for Age

Males forward for sale are expected to meet a minimum weight for age. Please see the table as follows:

Age (days)	Min Wt (kg)	Age (days)	Ξ
425	645	009	
450	670	625	
475	695	099	
200	720	700	
525	743	725	
550	765	750	
575	788		

- Testicles (size, shape and consistency) minimum size 30 cm at 12 months, 32cm at 18 months, 34cm at 24 months

  Teeth assessment must meet the pad of the upper jaw in professional view of the vet. Animals found to have undershot or overshot jaws will be rejected

  Eyes all animals will have eyes examined by a vet Identification must meet prevailing identification regulations, and concur with the entry details as catalogued
- Scurs all animals will be checked to ensure they are free from scurs

810 833

- White markings it is a requirement of the herdbook that animals should be free from white markings in front of the navel

864 900 923 943

If the vet considers any animal to be carrying a heritable genetic or phenotypic condition which in their opinion is defrimental to the integrity of the breed then the animal will not be allowed to be put forward for sale and no progeny registered.

PRE ENTRY (MANDATORY)

# Breeding for superior beef Meat Eating Quality (MEQ)

n 2021, the second largest category for Irish food and drink exports was beef. This was an increase of 9% on the previous year and had an estimated worth of €2.1 billion to the Irish economy. This growth was driven by strong demand by consumers for quality beef products, predominantly in the UK and EU markets. Although beef exports in Ireland have been going in the right direction, this growth is in contrast to the reported trends across the EU, where beef consumption is declining in comparison to pork and chicken alternatives.

Meat eating quality (MEQ) impacts repeat purchases; this is particularly important for beef which is often more variable in quality than many other meat types. Various sensory signs - such as colour, appearance, tenderness, juiciness and flavour - guide consumer decisions to purchase beef.

UK retailer research found that if a consumer had a negative experience eating beef, it would be six weeks before they purchased it again.

Therefore, it is critical to develop systems to help improve the eating quality attributes of beef for the traits that are of value to the consumer.

Selective breeding has been proven to improve these traits - most notably tenderness, juiciness and flavour.

#### MEQ DATA COLLECTION

Accurate genetic evaluations for eating quality are centred on a large database of eating quality data in Ireland. Eating quality data now exists on tenderness, juiciness and flavour scores from trained sensory panellists. Trained panellists are experts in quantifying the sensory characteristics of the steak, more so than the average consumer.

All steaks originate from the same standard operating procedure at slaughter and sensory assessment. Forty-eight hours post-mortem, after hanging, striploin steaks are taken. All samples are aged for 21 days at 4°C before being held at -20°C prior to sensory analysis. Cooked steaks are cut into small portions and presented to each panellist while warm; several trained panellists then score each steak. Each steak sample is scored for tenderness, juiciness and flavour on a one to nine scale, where a score of one represents very tough, not juicy, and no beef flavour, respectively.

#### **GENETIC EVALUATIONS**

Typically, breeding programmes focus on marbling percentage or intramuscular fat when it comes to measures for eating quality. However, research shows that meat quality encompasses a multitude of factors - most notably meat tenderness, juiciness, chewiness, and flavour (Berry et al., 2021; Judge et al., 2021).

Currently, the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF) runs a multi-breed genomic evaluation using trained sensory panellists for the meat eating quality traits directly related to the consumer experience. This type of evaluation is a 'world first' and the database behind it is the single largest database of its kind in the world. It now has over 7,000 animals with meat eating quality data and some 2.5 million animals in the entire database, 1.2m of which are genotyped.

The MEQ evaluation combines pedigree and DNA information, along with other information such as

animal gender and the herd of origin to generate genetic evaluations on the three MEQ traits of importance; tenderness, juiciness and flavour.

The resulting genetic evaluations are transformed to an expected satisfaction rating of the progeny from a given sire. The average expected rating for each trait is 80% (i.e. 80% of the progeny are expected to have satisfactory tenderness, flavour and juiciness scores). Sires higher than this are expected to produce progeny with superior meat quality for the relevant traits. The range in average satisfaction values across Al sires with published evaluations (September 2020) is 70% to 90%, with an average of 80%. While clear breed differences exist (Figure 1), of crucial importance is the variability in meat eating quality that exists within breeds.

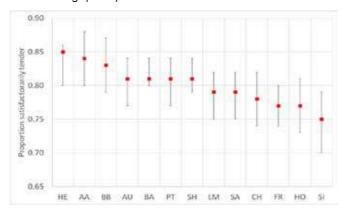


Figure 1. Average (red dot with the minimum and maximum represented by the protruding vertical bars) tenderness genetic merit for Al bulls of different breeds with meat eating quality data on 20 or more progeny. Data based on the September 2020 evaluation.

#### **MEQ OPPORTUNITIES**

Currently, meat eating quality evaluations are presented as stand-alone traits (i.e., they are not included in the Replacement, Terminal or Dairy Beef index). Further work, such as the calculation of economic values for these traits, including the potential to include traits directly into the Euro-Star Replacement, Terminal and Dairy Beef indexes, is now underway. In addition to this, new evaluations will be made available which will include MEQ proofs on all animals in the database. This includes young breeding bulls but also potentially animals going to slaughter. In time, it is anticipated that an animal's genetic/genomic evaluation for MEQ traits could be used to streamline different animals/carcasses into different value streams within the supply chain. These developments all contribute to the ultimate goal of further enhancing the delivery of Irish beef to global consumers.

Berry, D. P., Conroy, S., Hegarty, P. J., Evans, R. D., Pabiou, T., & Judge, M. M. (2021). Inter-animal genetic variability exist in organoleptic properties of prime beef meat. Meat Science. 173, 108401.

Judge, M. M., Conroy, S., Hegarty, P. J., Cromie, A. R., Fanning, R., Kelly, D., ... & Berry, D. P. (2021). Eating quality of the longissimus thoracis muscle in beef cattle–Contributing factors to the underlying variability and associations with performance traits. Meat Science, 172, 108371.

Matthew Thompson, ICBF (Irish Cattle Breeding Federation)

Bulls For Sale Privately



Visitors Welcome

Senior Stock Bulls



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FORDEL DOGMATIX



BOREWELL KRASH



Rawburn Reno

Junior Stock Bulls
Tullyfergus Tomahawk, Balaldie Baron, Balaldie Earl, Gretnahouse Blackhole
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HOFF BULL



MISS BJ



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BONNY HEATHER



LADY RUTH



TULLYFERGUS BEAUTY



TIDY BEE



EODESTA



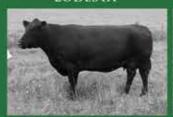
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BLELACK HILL BULLSEYE Y001 BLELACK HILL BLUE LIGHTENING Y006



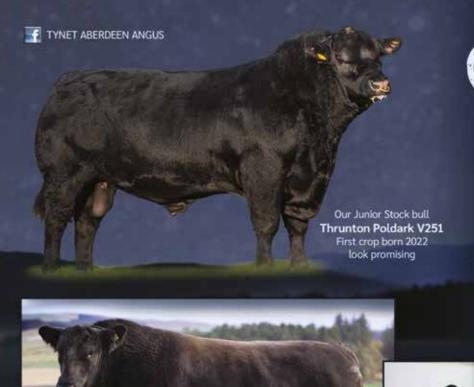
DAM: BLELACK
BLAEBERRY R604
SIRE: BLELACK
POPEYE U950

DAM: BLELACK
BEAUTIFUL LADY T883
SIRE: KILMALUAG
EIRSKAY T203

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# Careful genetic selection helps Warwickshire beef farmer protect himself from rising input costs

aving discovered the capabilities of a spreadsheet, third-generation livestock farmer Adam Quinney has become passionate about utilising data to maximise the efficiency of his family's beef and sheep farm.

Mr Quinney farms 150ha of grassland at Reins Farm near Stratford-upon-Avon, comprising multiple tenancies. The business currently includes 100 Salers x Aberdeen-Angus suckler cows and 120 sheep, managed within a low input, high efficiency system.

He aims to finish the cattle at 22-24 months of age at an average deadweight of 350kg, with the majority processed by ABP. The cattle are finished on a predominantly grass-based diet, facilitated by the easy fleshing traits of the Aberdeen-Angus, which suit Mr Quinney's low input goals for his business.

This system has allowed the farm to maintain healthy margins, despite the challenges of rising input costs faced by the industry.

"The target is to keep our inputs to a minimum wherever possible, which is why we introduced Aberdeen-Angus genetics into the herd around 10 years ago. We aim for about three-quarters Salers and one-quarter Aberdeen-

Angus. This combination helps the cows maintain winter cover and supports easy calving," Mr Quinney says.

### HANDSFREE CATTLE

Mr Quinney says calving ease is vital to ensure cows get back in-calf promptly. "I'm not interested in keeping stragglers, every cow needs to deliver value for the business, and that's increasingly important in the current climate.

"Everything we do needs to be economically viable and wherever possible, I want my cattle to be 'handsfree'. The strong maternal traits of the Aberdeen-Angus have helped with this," he explains.

### **USING EBVS**

To make informed decisions, Mr Quinney uses estimated breeding values (EBVs) when selecting bulls for his herd, with calving ease and mothering ability high on the list of priorities.

"We've been buying bulls from the same highhealth status herd for over 10 years, which is hugely advantageous as the breeder has got to know exactly what I'm looking for. We also breed all our own replacements because we want heifers that suit our farm and management style," says Mr Quinney.

Breeding heifers are selected based on a vet assessment, which he explains helps to whittle down potential replacements by nearly a third.

"The vet pelvic scores the potential replacement heifers, to help select for easy calving as we aim to calve all of our heifers at 24 months.

"I've not had to calve a cow for five years except for one set of tangled up twins a couple of years ago, which is a real triumph," explains Mr Quinney.

"Last season, we successfully reared 103 calves out of 100 cows, which cements to me that we are doing something right," he adds.

### FEEDING STRATEGY

Reins Farm grows all their forage, which is primarily red clover leys and lucerne, to help with nitrogen fixing. This allows them to keep their fertiliser use to a minimum and improve the palatability for the cows.

Young cattle are set-stocked rather than rotationally grazed due to the rented land being in multiple blocks. However, on the land around the main farm, cattle are paddock grazed in fields for three to four days before being moved to the next paddock.

Mr Quinney says the change in the genetics of their suckler herd is helping keep feed costs as low as possible.

"Aberdeen-Angus cattle are so well suited to a foragebased diet, so we're now not reliant on purchased concentrates," he adds.

"The cattle flesh well, and we aim for a daily liveweight gain (DLWG) of around 1kg off grass in the summer. When the cattle transition onto winter diets, we expect growth



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rates to dip temporarily, but by feeding a high-quality home-grown forage as our core ration over the winter, cattle can gain around 1.8-2kg a day."

Winter rations are sometimes supplemented with by-products such as brewers' grains and potatoes, depending on the price.

### A CLOSE EYE ON COSTS

Despite rising input costs, Mr Quinney has kept his costs per reared calf constant. "The cost to rear a calf up to weaning for us is just over £600 per year," he says. "We've been able to keep this pretty stable as our fertiliser and concentrate use is minimal, which has meant we're not as exposed to these astronomical input costs."

Maintaining stocking density has helped to spread the fixed costs. "55% of the cost is overheads; if we started to cut numbers, this would rise," says Mr Quinney. "As we're reliant on rented ground, we could potentially find ourselves in this position if one of our landlords decides to take back land, but ultimately, we don't want to drop below 100 cows if we can help it as our current system works well for us."

### **Reins Farm facts**

- 100 Salers x Aberdeen-Angus suckler cows, 120 sheep
- 150ha of grassland. Some set-stocked and land closer to the farm paddock grazed
- EBVs used to select bulls with a focus on calving ease and mothering ability. All potential replacements pelvic scored by a vet
- DLWG of around 1kg off grass in the summer and 1.8-2kg on a winter ration of high-quality homegrown forage











HI HEALTH BULLS AND FEMALES

ALWAYS FOR SALE



# Aberdeen-Angus tops BCMS registrations

he Aberdeen-Angus breed makes up a guarter of all cattle registered in the UK and pushes the breed to the top of the BCMS registration results, according to the latest figures.

In 2021, 471,528 Aberdeen-Angus were registered across the year, a 4.5% growth in market share since 2018, with 24.41% of all registrations Aberdeen-Angus.

Robert Gilchrist, CEO of The Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society, is delighted the breed is leading the way in beef production. He puts the success down to breed promotion and changing beef and dairy supply chains that value native breeds.

He says: "Having the largest membership of any UK beef breed society, topping the BCMS table is something we've had our sights set on for the last few years and we are pleased to have achieved this.

"It's widely documented that British agriculture is facing the biggest changes and challenges in over 50 years. Farmers are being met with a reduction of BPS payments alongside mounting consumer pressure to produce sustainable beef that benefits the environment.

"This has brought into focus for farmers more than ever, the need to have an efficient and viable business, and much of this is down to genetics and the breed they focus on to meet the market demands of today's consumers," he says.

Mr Gilchrist adds: "The Society has been promoting the benefits of the breed to beef producers in terms of sustainability for some years. We're now starting to reap the rewards with the number of Aberdeen-Angus cattle registered within the UK.

"We have a beef herd book to be proud of, but there is also major opportunity within the dairy sector for our Aberdeen-Angus genetics."

Mr Gilchrist says Aberdeen-Angus traits such as easy calving, high calf vigour and low input finishing are attractive qualities that can help ensure every calf is reared to suit dairy systems, but with the end beef market in focus.

"There is no doubt that with an increasing focus on business viability and sustainability credentials, Aberdeen-Angus will continue to be the number one breed able to produce beef fit for the future," Mr Gilchrist says.

Herd manager: Mat Stoker 07932 914302 Email: mathew.eastongrey@outlook.com Visitors always welcome by appointment

Based in Malmesbury, Wiltshire



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# What does the UK beef market have in store as cattle prices and input costs soar?

he UK beef market has been dominated by highs
- both in farmgate prices and input costs - in
the past 12-18 months. Representatives from
farm levy bodies across the country reflect on this
period of highs.

Beef farmers across the UK witnessed a strong trade for their cattle throughout much of 2022, with prime cattle prices around 30% higher than the lows of 2019.

For example, figures from the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) showed the average GB prime cattle price for the week ending September 10, 2022, was 435.6p a kg – up 66.7p on the five-year average and 26p ahead of the same week in 2021.

"After rebalancing higher in 2020, again in 2021 and further last year, prime cattle prices are around 30% higher than the lows of 2019," explains Quality Meat Scotland's (QMS) Market Intelligence Manager, lain Macdonald.



"However, at the same time, producers faced a considerable rise in input costs – particularly for feed, fertiliser and fuel – and significant increases in farmgate prices did little to boost margins."

AHDB analyst Hannah Clarke says cull cow prices performed even more strongly than the prime trade, boosted by demand for beef manufacturing post-Covid.

The average GB cull cow price for the week ending September 10, 2022, reached 345.9p per kg – this was 96p a kg higher than the five-year average and 59p a kg higher than the same week a year ago.

Ms Clarke says: "We have seen a slight increase in the number of cows slaughtered compared to a year ago, potentially reflecting a pull of stronger prices and push of increased input costs. This winter, producers will be scrutinising their stocking levels even more closely."

### NUMBERS

Data for the total GB cattle population to July 2022 showed a slight increase in numbers – up 0.3% to 8 million – however, the number of breeding females over 30 months fell by 2%, says Ms Clarke.



Hannah Clarke

And according to Livestock and Meat Commission Chief Executive Ian Stevenson, this trend is mirrored in Northern Ireland.

He says: "Around ten years ago, dairy cow and suckler cow numbers were broadly similar at about 280,000 of each.

"However, while dairy cow numbers subsequently increased, they have remained fairly static at around 310,000 for the past five years, while suckler cow numbers have gradually dropped to around 245,000."

Looking specifically at breeds, Mr Stevenson says 540,000 calves were registered in Northern Ireland in 2021, including 98,000 Aberdeen-Angus-sired calves.

He adds: "We have seen an increase in the number of farmers turning to Aberdeen-Angus, particularly in the dairy sector, with 67% of those registrations being to dairy cows.

"And when you look at the beef-sired calves, 25.4% were Aberdeen-Angus, closely followed by Limousin at 24.7% and Charolais at 21.6%."

And in Scotland, where the Aberdeen-Angus breed originates, Mr Macdonald says the number of Scottish calf registrations with an Aberdeen-Angus or Aberdeen-Angus cross sire increased by 44% between 2015 and 2021.



He adds: "By contrast, there were declines of 18% for Limousin and Simmental and a 20% decline for Charolais between 2015 and 2021, while the fall for black and white dairy breeds was closer to 21%."

### IMPORTS/EXPORTS

Both imports and exports of fresh and frozen beef increased throughout 2022. However, this needs to be interpreted against the backdrop of a lower trading level in the first quarter of 2021 immediately after Brexit, explains Ms Clarke.

She says data for the first seven months of 2022 showed a 10% increase in beef imports, driven largely by increased supplies from places like Poland and Germany.

Mr Macdonald says: "Beef export performance at the UK level was very strong in 2022, reaching an 11-year high.

"It was supported by firm demand from the EU, where market prices rose despite supply-side indicators pointing to little change in the volume of beef available for consumption.

"Total UK export volumes rose by 36% in the first seven months of 2022, with a 67% uplift to EU markets, while trade with non-EU countries fell back."

And in Northern Ireland, the trading of beef carcasses and products has continued to work well following Brexit, says Mr Stevenson.

He explains: "We produce about 150,000 tonnes of beef a year from our domestic slaughter, but the processing sector brings in another 100,000 tonnes of beef for further processing, mainly from Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland.

"The processing sector, from what I can understand, has their arrangements well in place for taking that product in from GB under the current protocol operating arrangements and shipping it back to GB or into export markets.

"Where there are challenges and future concerns, it's primarily in other important raw materials for farming that are moving from GB to Northern Ireland, like veterinary medicines and livestock movements."

### **CONSUMER DEMAND**

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High grocery inflation began to have a significant impact on consumer demand for beef as 2022 progressed, according to Hybu Cig Cymru data analyst Glesni Phillips.

She says: "Shoppers are looking to trade down into cheaper products and for red meat, this results in a mix of buying cheaper cuts within the category, as well as buying cheaper proteins altogether.

"Data from Kantar suggests consumers are prioritising value during the cost-of-living crisis, but also still using the

out-of-home market to treat themselves, albeit less often."

Mr Macdonald says households switching from more expensive products like steak to cheaper products like mince could have implications for carcase balance.

He adds: "However, government support to limit energy cost increases should at least limit the scale of the squeeze on disposable income."

### **OUTLOOK FOR 2023**

Looking at the year ahead, Ms Clarke says AHDB estimates suggest there could be a slight increase in beef production this year.

This is based on cattle population figures and trends in calf registrations in recent years.

And while the domestic market may be less buoyant, Ms Phillips says the weak pound is contributing to a stronger export trade market for UK beef.

She says: "As supplies of beef in many key producing countries are static at best, there is the global demand present to give grounds for optimism to farmers over the next year."



Mr Macdonald agrees that the export market will be crucial for absorbing any increased production. However, he says European consumers are not completely immune to increased energy prices.

Increased energy prices and increases in the cost of other inputs also have the potential to impact production on farms, warns Ms Phillips.

She says: "There is a risk that high input prices may influence farmers' business decisions in ways which may reduce production in the longer term – such as reducing the number of cattle on farm to deal with higher farm input costs. This would initially lead to increased production but negatively impact supply levels in the longer term."

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# How a Scottish farmer is using Breedplan to produce beef fit for the future

sing Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) has been an integral part of Hugh Grierson's breeding plan to produce a herd of Aberdeen-Angus cattle that meet the requirements of his butchery business and extensive farming system.

Mr Grierson runs a mixed farm in eastern Scotland, where he has his own butchery. The farm achieved organic status in 2000 and is certified 'Pasture For Life', meaning the cows and sheep are fed no grains or concentrates, just grass and silage.

The breed of choice is Aberdeen-Angus, chosen by Mr Grierson for their breeding credentials, including hardiness and ability to thrive on a grass-fed system.

The herd consists of 120 animals who are outwintered and calve mostly in the spring, with 20 calving in September to keep an autumn supply of two-year-old cattle for the butchery.

"The Aberdeen-Angus breed allows us to produce a consistent meat quality for a premium market," he explains. "We need low-cost and easy animals to rear while producing tasty, juicy, and tender meat.

"Our breeding programme and using EBVs has helped us be selective regarding genetics to get that quality right across our herd. The breed and our organic status are a big selling point for our meat," Mr Grierson adds.

### MEETING MARKET REQUIREMENTS

Mr Grierson retains 20 to 30 heifers each year, calving them down at two-years-old. Poorer quality cows are culled, and 30 of the best animals are served to Al. All animals born are performance tested using Breedplan a genetic evaluation system used by The Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society to gauge the potential of animals to show certain traits.

"Performance testing through Breedplan isn't much extra work. We've been using the system for 12 years," says Mr

"We measure the weight of newborn calves when they're caught for tagging and then weigh them in the autumn and spring. The only extra handling is rounding up the yearlings for ultrasound scanning, but it is well worth it as it provides us with the data to understand the carcase merit for that animal."

Mr Grierson uses Breedplan to target annual improvements in whole herd performance, rather than producing individual stellar animals.

"My main focus is following the progress of my whole herd and benchmarking," he adds.

### **FOCUS ON CALVING EASE**

One area of focus is calving ease figures, which Mr Grierson believes is the single most important factor in a breeding herd. "If your cows calve easily, you will get more

live calves, fewer calves that need help to suckle, and cows that will get back in-calf faster," he notes. "Cows can also calve outside. All of these areas help lower costs."

Bull selection on-farm started with choosing sires with direct calving ease and maternal calving ease scores of +3. As replacement heifers came through with better values, older cows with poorer scores could be culled.

"At one time, before we had Aberdeen-Angus cows, I was assisting nearly 10% of my cross-bred cows at calving," notes Mr Grierson. "Now, after a decade of using EBVs, I haven't assisted calving in three years. We don't have to calve cows; we just drive around tagging calves before they get up and run away."

### PRODUCING BEEF FOR THE END USER

With calving ease underpinning the herd's breeding, Mr Grierson has worked hard to improve the quality of his end product so it's what consumers want.

"I started with a high intramuscular fat percentage, which determines marbling. However, it is usually linked to the fatness of an animal and excess fat is expensive to produce and results in high wastage in the butchery," says Mr Grierson.

"So, I now look for bulls high in intramuscular fat but also with high retail beef yields. We aim to produce carcases with normal external fat but high marbling. The years of testing and selecting now mean that we deliver reliable, consistent carcases, as required by the butcher, and more importantly, by the consumer."

### **CREATING BEEF FIT FOR THE FUTURE**

The environmental impact of red meat production is never far from the industry's thoughts. Choosing a system and breed that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and is based on forage has aligned Mr Grierson's farm with this vision.

"Breeding for efficiency and carcase quality enables us to produce meat which meets the consumer's demands for both taste and sustainability. The Aberdeen-Angus breed fits in with the carbon-friendly credentials by utilising naturally grown grass to produce food," he says

"Our cattle allow us to produce food and protect the environment, and I believe that using ruminants on natural grassland, which can't be used for anything else, is the way forward."

According to Robert Gilchrist, CEO of The Aberdeen-Angus Society, genetic evaluation is key to producing beef fit for the future.

"With new payment support regimes coming in and margins getting tighter, beef producers will have to explore all avenues to maximise outputs and reduce costs," he says.

"Breedplan is one of many tools available to farmers and should be considered in tandem with other tools. Data is vital to any farm business now to ensure they can track progress and benchmark performance.

"It's a great way for farmers to get under the skin of their animals and see what's actually happening. For example,

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you could rear two animals that appear exactly the same, however, they'd have very different performances if their EBVs are different."

By using EBVs, Mr Gilchrist says producers can make the best breeding decisions for their business.

"It's not necessarily about selecting animals which are maximum on all parameters; you need to select for a balanced and productive animal," he says.

He adds that using EBVs can help farmers produce an animal that suits the end market, aligning traits with consumer demand and also marketing beef in a positive way. He stresses that the traits chosen will vary between farms.

"The ideal traits may not be the same on all farms, and there needs to be a balance across traits," adds Mr Gilchrist.

"It's also important to remember that while EBVs play a big part, management also impacts performance. If it is incorrect, then animal performance may still not be optimal."

### What is Breedplan?

Developed in Australia, Breedplan is a genetic evaluation system used by The Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society to gauge the potential of animals to show certain traits. Based on performance recording and measured using EBVs, the system helps farmers breed animals best suited to their business and market, increasing efficiency.





# Aberdeen-Angus ideally suited to conservation grazing conditions in County Down

ormer National Beef Association NI and UK
chairman, Oisin Murnion, farms a pedigree and
commercial suckler enterprise over 283ha (700
acres) of high nature value land in partnership with his
wife Anne-Marie, and daughter Jolene Burns.

Oisin, a pioneer in conservation grazing in Northern Ireland, farms land primarily designated as ASSI (Area of Special Scientific Interest). This land is monitored to protect and safeguard various species, habitats and geological features.

The land is all within a 30-mile radius of the home farm and is split across several locations at Ballykinler, Glenloughan, the Mourne Mountains, Downpatrick, Paul Island and Taggart Island in Strangford Lough.

"Most of the land we farm is species-rich pasture and heather-rich moorland, surrounded by sand dunes and coastal landscapes," he says.

"These are long-studied sites with a large variety of flora and fauna, and it's interesting to note that the Ballykinler area is home to the Marsh Fritillary butterfly, a very rare and protected species." He adds: "As custodians of the land, we are governed by various restrictions and regulations such as low-density stocking rates (one cow per five acres). We're not permitted to sow artificial fertiliser or use supplementary feeding."

The main enterprises include 100 commercial suckler cows plus followers, 100 ewes and 200 hoggets, which are mainly Lanark and Perth-type Blackface, and a small herd of pedigree Aberdeen-Angus cattle registered under the Glenloughan prefix.

The pedigree venture was established in 2020 with the purchase of foundation females from John McCallister's Glasker herd and the Dartrey herd owned by Hylda Mills at Scarva. The herd has grown to 10 breeding females and includes daughters of bulls such as Logie Lustre F473, Nightingale Proud Jake G405, Luddenmore King Kong S273 and Dartrey Elliott S467.

The environmentally sensitive nature of the land is more suited to native breed cattle. "The cattle and sheep are outwintered, so we must have hardy breeds that can withstand the rough terrain and the inclement winter weather," adds Oisin. "There is land as far as the eye can

see, and the contours of the ground and the natural flora provide shelter for the animals in cold and hot weather."

Oisin, Anne-Marie and Jolene initially had a herd of black Galloway cattle, which are well-known for their ability to forage and survive on marginal land and inhospitable climates. The breeding programme focused on crossing with native bulls, resulting in a herd of Angus/Shorthorn/ Galloway cows.

"We bought our first Aberdeen-Angus bull in 2011," recalls Oisin. "I like a long, stretchy stock bull with breed character and good legs and feet."

Bulls have been purchased over the years from leading herds such as Liss, Glasker, Yellowhill and Leestone. They were sons of proven Angus bulls Bunlahy Kojak, Dartrey Richie, and Birches Lord John.

"The Aberdeen-Angus epitomises everything we want in a suckler cow, and around 90% of the herd is now predominately Angus-bred," says Oisin. "Medium-sized cows are ideally suited to the conditions. They are fertile, easy calving and have excellent maternal qualities, which are essential traits when they are mostly isolated and self-sufficient."

He adds: "Spread over such a vast area, we can't be on hand when cows are calving. It's survival of the fittest, and the Aberdeen-Angus is an easy fleshing, healthy and hardy breed with the ability to survive on a low input system.

"The cows calve all year round, but more than half the herd is spring-calving. They have a lovely temperament and plenty of milk to rear their calf. The breed's naturally polled characteristics are another advantage in a herd of 'free-range' cattle."

Calves are weaned around seven or eight-months-old age. The best heifer calves are retained and reared as suckler replacements, while the bull calves are grazed and outwintered on one of the islands in Strangford Lough.

Oisin has established a ready demand from repeat customers at Markethill Mart and Rathfriland Co-op. The Angus progeny are sold as forward stores. Ranging in age from 15 and 20 months old, they can command prices from £900 to £1,500 per head.

"Aberdeen-Angus beef is a niche market product, and the premium makes it attractive for beef finishers," says Oisin. "Now and again, depending on trade and if we need to maintain cash flow, we sell a batch of weaned bull calves. They attract prices of around £500 to £700 per head, which is very profitable considering they haven't had the luxury of expensive creep feed."

Cull cows and bulls are also saleable, adds Oisin. "Longevity isn't an issue. Aberdeen-Angus cows and bulls lead long, productive lives. We wouldn't keep a suckler cow over 15-years-old, and we recently sold a nine-year-old stock bull. He weighed 499kgs dead and graded R3."

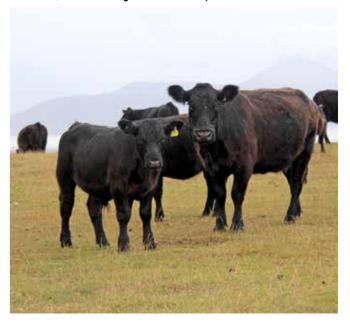


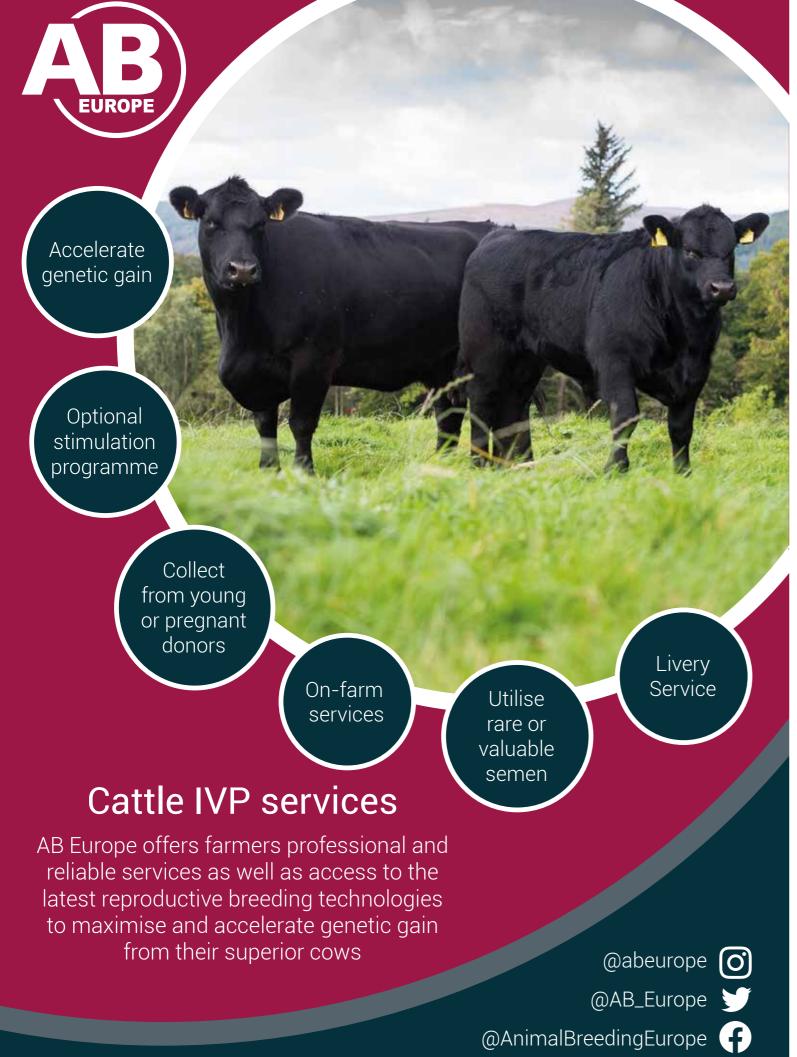


Oisin, Anne-Marie and daughter Joleen Burns



NI Minister for Agriculture Edwin Poots; Oisin Murnion; NI Aberdeen-Angus Club Chairperson Hylda Mills; and Ian Watson, Junior Vice President, Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society





# Science into practice: Aberdeen-Angus breeders reaping the IVP rewards



attle breeders seeking to improve their herd's genetic potential are introducing In-Vitro Embryo Production (IVP), a cost-effective service from specialist artificial breeding technology company, AB Europe. "IVP is a widely used method globally for producing embryos where it outcompetes MOET for its flexibility and multiple benefits to breeders and their donor animals," explains AB Europe's vet, Gavin Tait.

The process produces embryos from collected oocytes which are fertilised within a petri dish by selected semen and subsequently cultured for seven days until the fully developed embryos can be transferred or frozen."

William Moses is one of the Aberdeen-Angus breeders reaping IVP's rewards.

Angus had played an increasing role over a decade at Challoch Farms, Newton Stewart, before William took the decision to establish his own pedigree herd.

"I'd always had an interest in the breed. The first decision I was allowed to make when I returned home to farm in 2008 was to swap our suckler herd's Limousin bull for Angus and we've never looked back," explains William who manages the traditional family farming business looking after 4,500 acres of both lowland and hill permanent pasture.

"We've adopted a low input forage-based strategy and Angus genetics perfectly fit; they have also improved temperament, the calves are easier fleshed and we're able to retain our own heifer replacements in what's developed to become a Black Baldy suckler herd of Angus cross Herefords. we currently have 200 cows with plans to reach 250 cows in two years time."

While the commercial herd evolved, William began to study quality Angus breeding lines before deciding to start breeding his own bulls. The Challoch prefix was

now contains a nucleus of 20 cows and the prospect of a new added value enterprise. Foundation females include genetics purchased at Blelack and Weeton herd dispersals along with Liley cows bred from the Rawburn Duchess line and maiden heifers from Wedderlie.

"While our preference is to maintain herd size, our focus is on breeding high genetic merit cattle, selecting for eye muscle and retail beef yield without sacrificing gestation length or fertility," says William. He explains how IVP began to help him to fast track his plans after becoming aware of Gavin Tait's level of professionalism and enthusiasm for the process, as well as a recommendation from Sandy Watt, Swordale herd.

A couple of separate enquiries for two of the Weeton cows lit the touch paper, and in 2021 they were amongst the first three Challoch females to undergo IVP followed by a further three cows in 2022.

"We decided to leave the entire IVP process to the professionals and opt for AB Europe's livery offer based on Gavin Tait's farm. The donors came straight off grass and into the trailer, the oocytes were collected while at livery and fertilised. We averaged 12 embryos per flush, 70 went into the tank and were frozen using vitrification; the majority were grade 1.

"We managed our Black Baldy maiden heifer recipients - they were maintained in the same social groups from spring turn out and CIDR synched at grazing. The AB Europe team came over to Challoch with the frozen embryos, implanted 17 in the recipients and we achieved a 70% hold rate. I've already sold 10 embryos in Stirling and the remainder are in the tank. Success is testimony to our females' fertility and to AB Europe's service.

"Freezing the embryos provides flexibility; it's enabled us to implant earlier the following summer, ensuring timed spring calving and allowing recipient synchronisation to fit between baling and hill shearing. Freezing also provides longer term storage for future implantations. The last week of April 2023 is going to be very exciting at Challoch," he says.

IVP requires less semen per fertilisation, so multiple donors can be fertilised with a single straw. Furthermore, different bulls can be introduced. Both Blelack Duke and Blelack Lord Heartford have been used over Challoch oocytes - Duke within the breed's top 5% for eye muscle and Heartford in the top 5% for 200, 400 and 600-day growth.

William adds: "IVP has helped to influence our initial objective from just breeding our own Angus bulls to offering high genetic merit bulls suited to low input, low-cost forage-based systems to other commercial producers at commercial rates, with fertility bred into them."

registered in 2018 and has rapidly grown. The herd

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# Investing in the next generation with travel bursary and research sponsorship

he Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society is helping promote knowledge and learning in the beef sector by funding a travel bursary and dissertation projects for young people.

### **GODFREY NEAL TRAVEL BURSARY**

Individuals aged between 18 and 24-years-old pursuing a career in beef production are eligible for the Godfrey Neal Bursary, which aims to support the development of the beef sector's future stockmen and women.

Two bursaries are awarded each year worth between £200 and £500. The money can be used towards travel and training opportunities.

Robert Gilchrist, CEO of the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society, says the bursary is an excellent opportunity for young people to further their knowledge and skills in beef production.

"The bursary's primary intention is to contribute towards travel costs for young people who have expressed an interest in learning more about beef production in other parts of the world. Funding for specific UK-based training courses is also considered," he explains.

Past Society President and beef farmer Angela McGregor was the first beneficiary of the Godfrey Neal Bursary and encourages other young people in the beef sector to apply.

"The Godfrey Neal Bursary, in collaboration with a scholarship from The John Fotheringham Trust, helped fund my trip to Japan and Australia, where I spent time looking into beef production systems which deliver consistently high eating quality.

"I spent my time on farms finding out about their selection criteria for cattle; visiting abattoirs and wholesalers looking at handling, hanging and storage; plus researching the science behind their techniques," she explains.

"Following the visit, I continued to select cattle for efficiency and also prioritised carcase size and eating quality traits. I continued to work with a catering butcher for several years who supported my research and 18 years ago finally opened my own farm shop, implementing some of the techniques I'd seen on my travels."

In addition to travelling, candidates can put forward applications for funding for training. However, Mr Gilchrist encourages applicants to think outside the box and consider specialist courses.



### **DISSERTATION SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES**

The Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society is also supporting undergraduates interested in the beef industry through a dissertation sponsorship award.

Launched last year, the dissertation sponsorship package awards a student interested in pursuing the research of native breeds or, specifically, the performance of Aberdeen-Angus genetics in farming systems. This could cover meat eating quality, the environment and sustainability of native breeds, for example.

The winning candidate receives £1,000 sponsorship towards completing their dissertation.

Last year two final year students, Vicki Elder and Megan Cameron, from SRUC were the recipients of the award. They received financial support for their final year research project, alongside one-to-one mentoring and help accessing key industry contacts.

Vicki Elder was awarded £1,000 towards completing her dissertation, looking at whether a high or low input beef production system is better suited to the future of sustainable farming in Scotland.

As part of that, she has recruited four case studies where she has carried out farm audits on these herds, comparing intensive to extensive systems, focusing on the three pillars of sustainable beef production. This has involved investigating and comparing economic and environmental performance as well as taking into account the social element of each system.

Ms Elder says: "With Scottish agriculture moving from the common agricultural policy (CAP) to a new policy framework, there's going to be significant change for farmers. The new policy will likely align with the Scottish government's vision of being a global leader in sustainable and regenerative farming.

"With this in mind, I wanted to base my dissertation on researching the most sustainable beef farming system based on this new policy."

Miss Cameron was awarded £500 to support research into the advantages that grazing cattle deliver to soil quality.

She has been comparing the micro-organisms in soil from land grazed by cattle with the soil micro-organisms of ungrazed land.

Miss Cameron says: "The vision is to understand the benefits cattle have on land and soil quality, as this may provide an opportunity to showcase another positive contribution that the beef industry has to offer."

AACS CEO Robert Gilchrist adds: "We had a great response in our first year and it is fantastic to have two enthusiastic young people so interested in the future of the beef industry.

"The two selected students are carrying out strong research projects that will provide valuable insights for our members and may help steer the development of sustainable and profitable beef production systems that are fit for the future. We are excited to see what their findings show."





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# Aberdeen-Angus breed of choice on supermarket shelves



ystery shopper research has shown that British Aberdeen-Angus beef is the most prominent brand across premium supermarket meat ranges.

Analysis carried out by the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society in September 2022 revealed the native breed is the beef of choice in the premium meat product lines across a range of supermarkets from Aldi and Asda, through to Waitrose and M&S.

Robert Gilchrist, The Society's CEO says the findings of the mystery shopper research are incredibly encouraging and testament to the hard work Aberdeen-Angus farmers put in to producing beef with such a high meat-eating quality.

"It is especially reassuring to see such a strong brand presence in both discount retailers and the more highend supermarkets," he says.

"We're proud to be able to fill the shelves at every price

The research looked at eight of the main supermarkets in the UK and their own-brand premium lines of beef - looking specifically at burgers, steaks, mince, and roasting joints - to investigate whether a breed was specified and its country of origin.

Aldi, Asda, Waitrose and Marks & Spencer all represented a strong brand presence of Aberdeen-Angus across their premium labels, and positively all the participating supermarkets at least boasted British beef.

The mystery shopper research showcased that Aberdeen-Angus beef was prominently labelled across Aldi's entire premium line of burgers, steaks and roasting joints.

Mr Gilchrist says this is particularly encouraging because a recent AHDB report shows discount supermarkets including Aldi - are set to grow their market share by 23.9% over the next five years, making it the fastest and largest growth of any grocery channel. "

"It's fantastic to see retailers supporting not only British farmers, but also our favourite native breed," says Mr Gilchrist.

"This should be hugely reassuring for farmers that our breed is recognised as the number one brand by consumers."

He adds: "It's also incredibly promising that the most recent British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS) results, which show Aberdeen-Angus as the most popular registered breed in the UK, are being reflected on supermarket shelves."

### i) Mystery shopper research

### Key findings:

- 50% of supermarkets in the study sold Aberdeen-Angus burgers

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# Moving towards herbal leys to maximise meat from grass



oving towards grazing Aberdeen-Angus cattle on herbal leys is helping Northumberland farmers John Sordy and sons Harry and Peter implement a more sustainable, low-input system.

They run 1,216ha of land across several different farms, the majority of which is permanent pasture alongside 100ha of temporary pasture, 80ha of arable, which is all home-fed, and 15ha of kale mix.

The family business signed up as an AHDB monitor farm as they are looking to increase margins. One way of helping to achieve this is to increase the production of red meat from grazing.

They run a 225-head spring-calving Aberdeen-Angus cross Simmental suckler herd, retaining around 30 heifers for replacements each year, with the rest sold as stores or finished.

In a bid to lower input costs, they are using more Aberdeen-Angus bulls to breed cattle that are better suited to their system and that can be outwintered.

"The hybrid vigour has been great and now the herd is established, the Aberdeen-Angus cows go to the Simmental bull and the cross-bred cows go to the Angus," explains Harry.

"Maternal traits are a key focus for us and Aberdeen-Angus genetics offer this, as they're easy calving and provide low birth weights. We like growth, but we prioritise maternal traits. We need live calves and the cows need to be able to get back in-calf to maintain a tight calving interval," Harry adds.

### **MONITOR FARM**

Alnham Farm became an AHDB monitor farm in the summer of 2021, and this is something the whole team have got behind and invested time in. Shepherds

Stephen Hogg and Scott Young each run separate hill units within the business, while Craig Hardy manages the cattle with Peter. Their support and hard work have been integral to making the recent changes on farm.

The Sordy family applied to become a monitor farm as a reaction to changes in subsidy and to become less reliant on that support by reducing their input costs. Harry was also keen to improve their grassland management, having already started to do some rotational grazing.

"We wanted to make the business more profitable. As a hill upland unit, we're very reliant on subsidies, so we wanted to work on improving efficiencies.

"I've also been part of an AHDB progressive sheep group which was really beneficial, so becoming a monitor farm was scaling that on to a farm basis and getting everyone else in the business involved too," explains Harry.

AHDB Beef and Lamb runs nine monitor and strategic farms across England, supported by counterparts in the dairy, cereals and oilseeds sectors.

"The aim of the strategic and monitor farms are to highlight the benefits of implementing best practice on-farm," says Sarah Pick, Senior Knowledge Exchange Manager at AHDB Beef and Lamb.

"At the start of the programme, each farm sets out its key actions and objectives. We then monitor their progress throughout the four-year programme and share any learnings with the wider industry - good and bad.

"It's really allowing other farmers in the local community and also across England to learn from the monitor farm."

There were nearly 90 applications in the same application window as the Sordy family. As part of the project, the selected farmers also benefit from a farmspecific steering group made up of other comparable farmers, the farm vet, and land agent. Each monitor farm is also enrolled in a discussion group.

One of the Sordy family's objectives as a monitor farm has been to reduce the cost structure of their cattle enterprise through outwintering cows on hill land and growing store and finished cattle on herbal leys. This is a system that suits the Aberdeen-Angus cattle, which thrive on a forage diet and are easy fleshing.

71-head of youngstock are grazing the 11ha of herbal leys in daily shifts. Turned out on 11 April at an average weight of 295kg, the Sordy family aim to achieve 200kg of liveweight gain - (1.16kg daily liveweight gain) by the end of September.

"The herbal leys are part of the GS4 option for Countryside Stewardship and the business receives a payment for including them in the rotation," explains Emily Grant of Forrit Consultancy.

In the past, the cattle were finished on cereal grown from the arable ground, but the Sordy family wants to reduce reliance on these crops and finish the cattle off forage where possible, as they're looking to enhance margins as subsidies drop off.

With grain prices high, there is also an income foregone from feeding grain instead of selling it and due to the timing of input purchases, there could be a good margin on grain sales this winter.

"The herbal leys are a great opportunity to increase growth rates from a lower input ration. It's really highquality feed and we're going to increase the hectarage of GS4," says Harry.

One of the challenges of the herbal leys is that the stewardship crop has to be shut up for five weeks between 1 May and 31 July to allow red clover to flower for pollinators.

"It's been a really promising start with the herbal leys. The cattle came out of the shed and took off really well. After the herbal leys have been shut up, they're stemmier and stalkier, which I'm less comfortable managing, but I think the proof will be in the pudding," Harry adds.

Matching cattle type to this input is key and is one of the focuses of the monitor farm programme at Alnham. One of the projects will look at alternative ways to select cattle and the best traits for their system.

"We're planning to do some frame scoring. In theory, this means we can pick the slightly smaller-framed animals that should finish earlier and be better suited to finishing off pasture. They might end up with a slightly lighter carcase weight, but they should be starting to lay down fat a little bit quicker," says Harry.

### **OUTWINTERING**

The business is adjusting the sheep grazing to allow 100ha of hill land to be shut up to provide deferred grazing for cattle over the winter. This has necessitated a lot of support from their shepherds, who have had to accommodate changes in their systems.

"We need to build pastures on the hill in order to be able to outwinter," says Ms Grant.

"50ha will have ewes pulled off in July and another 50ha will be shut up at weaning in August. We'll see how much pasture we can grow in that period, determining how long we can outwinter the cattle. This needs to be balanced by having enough grass on lower ground for the ewes," Ms Grant adds.

The Sordy family are now looking to select cattle suited to an outwintering system. Those with a higher proportion of Aberdeen-Angus genetics are likely to be a better fit, but the programme will look at specific selection criteria to ensure the best results.

"It's really important that Alnham remains a productive unit. We can see the opportunity in shifting how stock utilise the natural resources on the farm to help reduce costs and hopefully maintain output where possible." summarises Ms Grant.



- 225 spring block calving Aberdeen-Angus and
- cereal feed and straw to the cattle enterprise

### Monitor farm objectives

- Grow store and finishing cattle on GS4 herbal leys through a cell grazing system
- Use data to monitor performance through use
- Outwinter cattle and reduce the housing period from 16 to 10 weeks
- Reduce wormer inputs in lambs through targeted selective treatments
- Utilise arable stubble to grow dry matter for hoggs over winter
- Measuring and monitoring soil carbon levels



# End of an era as Blelack herd dispersed

he dispersal of Neil and Graeme Massie's renowned Blelack Aberdeen-Angus herd in October 2021, reported briefly in the last issue of the Review, marked the end of an era for the Aberdeen-Angus breed in the North-east of Scotland and, indeed, throughout the UK.

It is little wonder that press reports of the dispersal sale generated headlines such as 'Sale of the Century' as breeders from all over the country vied to secure some of the top genetics in the breed.

The sale achieved a top price of 62,000gns for a cow and heifer calf (sold separately at 32,000gns and 30,000gns), 31 five-figure prices and a sale gross of over £1.1 million for the 161 lots.

To crown an amazing day, the herd also carried off the bull sale championship and reserve with two bulls, which sold for 24,000gns and 11,000gn and a third – second to the champion in the same class – realising 17,000gns.

It was a remarkable sale and testimony to the pedigree breeding acumen of Mr Massie, who built up the herd from fairly modest beginnings into the leading Aberdeen-Angus herd of its era, with an unrivalled record of championship successes and high prices at the Perth and Stirling bull sales. This success story was continued by Graeme when he took over the ownership and management of the herd in more recent times.

The herd's roll of honour includes no fewer than 11 supreme championships at Perth/Stirling and eight reserves, as well as countless senior, intermediate, junior and female championships.

Bulls from the herd have sold for up to 28,000gns and 25,000gns (twice). Two Blelack Matron sales held in recent years saw the cow, Blelack Eyrie G197, sell for a then record price for an Aberdeen-Angus female of 32,000gns at the 2012 on-farm sale. This was only to be capped at Stirling in October 2016, when the cow, Blelack Lady Eraline J258, sold for 35,000gns, with her bull calf selling separately for 10,000gns.

It only takes a browse through Herd Books, Reviews or sale catalogues to get a flavour of the impact of Blelack breeding in herds throughout the country.

The herd certainly bowed out in style and the sale only served to endorse Graeme's view that the herd had reached a peak with the best group of cows and the best crop of calves in the herd's 50-year history.

This claim was borne out by the doyen of pedigree auctioneers, David Leggat, who sold many of Blelack's high-priced bulls over the years. He paid tribute to the herd as having been synonymous with the development and improvement of the Aberdeen-Angus breed to its present high standard over the past four decades.

"The Blelack herd dispersal was one of the most significant in the breed's history and provided a rare opportunity for breeders to obtain a class of cattle not usually offered for sale," says Mr Leggat.

Little wonder that Neil, who has twice served as President of the Society, is a former recipient of the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland's Sir William Young Award and was also honoured with an OBE for outstanding services to livestock breeding Like the breed itself, the Blelack herd evolved over the years to reflect changes in market demand. They moved from the smaller, dumpier cattle in vogue in the 1950s and 1960s to suit the export market, to the larger, rangier cattle of the 1970s and 1980s (sometimes considered too extreme and lacking traditional Aberdeen-Angus characteristics) to the "middle-of-the-road" of today encompassing all the desirable characteristics of the breed, such as easy fleshing and correctness, as well as size.

The herd was founded by Neil in 1967 following the move to Blelack, although he had previously dabbled in Aberdeen-Angus at near-by Burgh Farm, Kintore. He had already earned his spurs and demonstrated his skills as a judge of cattle as a member of the winning team in the young farmers' international stockjudging competition at the Royal Highland Show.

But there was no crock of gold behind the foundation of the Blelack herd, which by Neil's own admission, was founded from modest resources.

The foundation females comprised two cows from Mrs A F Wallace's Candacraig herd at Strathdon, which were considered too old to include in the herd's dispersal sale.

This was followed by 16 females from the dispersal of Brigadier ER Kewley's Little Dean herd in Hampshire and five at the dispersal of Capt Lewis Edmunds' Cholderton herd in Wiltshire.

Individual purchases at the dispersal of Howard Potts' Addington herd in Buckinghamshire included the cow, Phyllis of Addington, bought for 70gns, and the dam of Prince Philip of Blelack, who came out top in a bull performance test at the North of Scotland College of Agriculture and was retained as a stock bull, exerting a big influence on the early development of the herd.

A later significant purchase for the top price of £500 at the dispersal of Jim Stuart's Balavil herd in Ross-shire was Evora of Balavil, founder of what has become one of the most successful breeding lines in the herd.

By the 1970s, it was becoming evident that the breed had to change. Demand for Aberdeen-Angus bulls had tailed off, the export market had all but disappeared and bulls were considered too small for the home commercial market, where the continental breeds were beginning to make an impact.

But it was not until 1971 that the Council of the Society eventually agreed to open the Herd Book to imported cattle and breeders were able to look to Canada for bulls with greater growth potential.

Neil was very much in the vanguard of the move towards larger Aberdeen-Angus and was among the first breeders to import Canadian genetics, which proved to be the key factor in getting size back into the breed.

The Massie's first purchases were a heifer, Skillymarno Princess, and a bull, Skillymarno Revlon, followed by a succession of influential bulls and females over the next 30 years.

A notable early purchase from Doug Robertson was the heifer, Coldstream Lady Heather 16W, which had a huge influence on the herd, her progeny including Lord Horatio P11 of Blelack, by Southolm Winchester 35T, a notable sire in the Borders' herds of Wedderlie, Haymount and Tofts

Other Canadian sires which proved real game-changers include Royal Added Value 190, sire of three Perth champions, which went on to win a Royal Show championship for Shadwell as an eight-year-old, and DMM Decision, sire of two Perth champions and also Blelack Blackstock, retained as a stock bull and considered by Graeme to be one of the best bulls bred in the herd.

Perhaps the most influential sire in recent years has been Netherallan Peter Pershore E052 which, line-bred to Added Value daughters, proved highly successful, his first crop of nine bulls at Stirling averaging £10,000.

Al and embryo transfer have been used only on a limited extent in the herd over the years, with the policy being to use new stock bulls sparingly until their first calves could be assessed and then adopt a line-breeding programme to maximise their genetic potential.

The herd was always managed on commercial lines, with cows outwintered and heifers calved at two years of age, with an emphasis on size and the milking ability of cows.

"I think we managed to get the size of our cattle about right for the modern market," says Neil. "Commercial buyers are looking for calves which will grow and finish quickly."

He views the current trend of going back to a smaller type of Aberdeen-Angus to reduce the maintenance cost of cows and meet the current demand for smaller carcases as a risky business.

"History tells us that you can lose size very quickly but getting it back takes several generations," he warns.

Neil is delighted that the Calcott family, buyers of Blelack farm, are putting together a herd under the Blelack Hill prefix, and enjoys regular visits back to Blelack to keep his eve in.

The story of the Blelack herd, from its modest beginnings to becoming one of the most influential herds in the breed, is a remarkable success story. The expertise and influence of Neil and Graeme in the Aberdeen-Angus breed will be greatly missed in their retirement.



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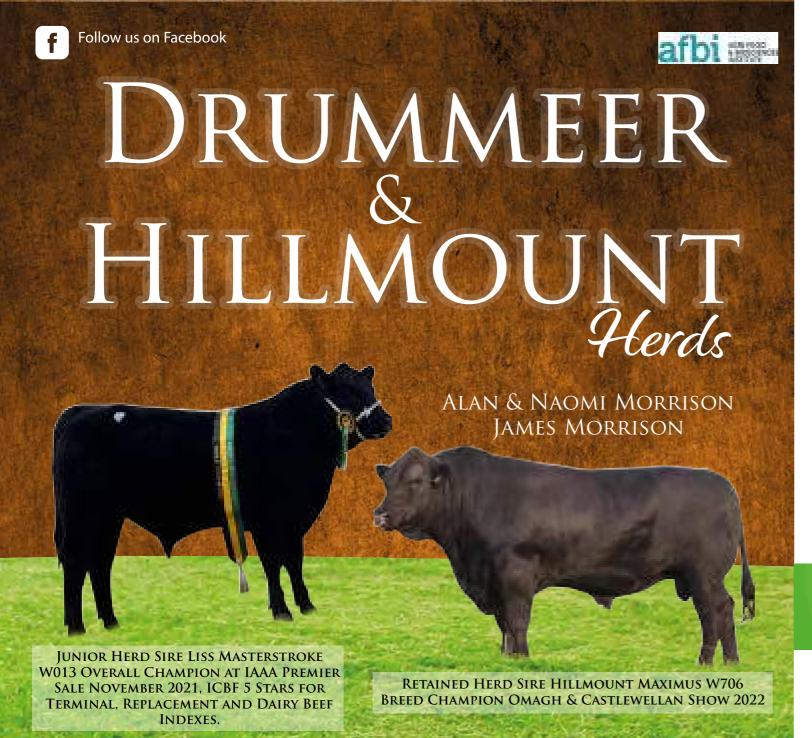
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# Careful selection of breeding stock is key to producing consistent beef

eeping genetics at the heart of the beef herd and refining breeding stock by selecting specific traits has been key to the success of the Glenbervie herd, Kincardineshire.

John Lohoar, Farm Manager at Glenbervie Estate, explains that they introduced Aberdeen-Angus cattle almost 30 years ago to get a better return from the estate's marginal land.

"In total, the estate sits on 526ha, which comprises pasture, woodland and a variety of combinable crops that include wheat, winter barley for feed and malting barley.

"About two thirds of the land we run is good arable land, but one third is marginal ground which is only suitable for grass production. However, by establishing the Aberdeen-Angus herd, we've been able to turn grass into great food," says Mr Lohoar.

"This breed is the perfect fit for our business as it offers a sustainable solution. The cattle thrive on a grass-based system, produce a high-quality product that meets consumer demands and offers a good return on investment," he adds.

### **REFINING BREEDING STOCK**

The estate is home to a 170-head pedigree Aberdeen-Angus herd, which calves down in April, allowing the cows to make the most of the grazing season.

When selecting breeding stock, Mr Lohoar has certain traits he looks out for. "When it comes to heifer replacements, we select the most suitable animals for our herd and system and aim to calve them at 24 months. Our decisions when selecting replacements are based on specific Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) which suit our herd, as we're keen to continue to improve performance in certain areas

"The traits we specifically focus on for the maternal line are calving figures, growth rates, plenty of milk, eye muscle and fat cover," explains Mr Lohoar.

He adds that they focus on two main EBV traits when selecting bulls: moderate growth and good health status.

"We've bought our last few bulls from a breeder in Orkney who's also focusing on feed efficiency. This is another heritable EBV which we hope to introduce into our herd to help us achieve more from less feed.

"While I use EBVs to ensure that I'm selecting high quality breeding stock, when it comes to choosing a bull, the figures aren't everything. They also need to have good locomotion and shape.

"We also ensure we put an easy calving bull onto our heifers to avoid any difficult calvings or worse, experience mortality at calving time," he adds.

Mr Lohoar estimates that at a cost of £1/day to keep a cow, it's expensive to retain unproductive animals. That's why his aim is to breed fertile cows that calve easily and get back in-calf quickly.

He is currently exporting 30 to 40 surplus breeding heifers to the European Union due to demand for these high-quality animals. However, when Brexit first happened it wasn't easy to export, so they were finished instead.

The steers are all sold to Scotbeef at 20 to 22 months at 360 to 370kg deadweight. Their aim is for all cattle to be graded at R4L or better.

"To help achieve carcase consistency, we feed all of our animals the same ration. We also aim to finish all animals at a standard age, weight and fat cover," he adds.

"It's also important to reiterate that while EBVs give you a strong genetic foundation for good breeding stock, to get the best out of the stock and achieve consistency throughout the herd, good management is key."

### **KEEPING THE CONSUMER IN MIND**

There is no other breed in the country that has the brand presence of the Aberdeen-Angus with consumers.

Mr Lohoar says: "It's renowned for being a quality product, so why would you try and sell something else? The Aberdeen-Angus breed is paving the way for premium beef products on the shelf, as it's an iconic brand consumers look out for.

"The reason demand is so high for this product is because of the consistent meat-eating quality," he explains.

"As producers, we're all aware that margins are getting tighter and that we need to do all we can to be as efficient as possible. Therefore, it's more important than ever that we're producing beef that's fit for the future and genetics have a key role to play in this," concludes Mr Lohoar.



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### A herd built to last

ith another year of rising input costs under the belt, it can be exceptionally tempting to cut back and only spend on essentials.

### WHAT IS 'ESSENTIAL'?

Many discussions have been had around how best to maintain and improve herd performance and profitability – after all, you are running a business. All inputs need to be carefully scrutinised and their ability to improve efficiency of the herd justified.

One place we can have an impact on the overall bottom line, is by having a herd with inbuilt longevity. Cows that get in calf, calve down every 365 days and live forever should be what we strive for. In the dairy world, it is readily accepted rearing heifers for replacements is a significant cost and the ones which do not get in calf, do not rear a calf or do not make it to second lactation, are a colossal strain on the business. Heifers in a suckler herd are no different. Therefore, just as much emphasis should be placed on rearing heifer calves for replacements as the cattle being turned out for shows and sales

Epigenetics is a simple concept where we can influence which performance genes are switched on and off in calves, by the nutrition and environment of the cows and bull just before bulling and at the point of conception. In reality, we can influence the lifetime performance of calves by getting nutrition and management right around bulling. This is not overly complex, although requires a careful overview and a good plan alongside your nutritionist.

When it comes to turning out quality stock, genetics, management and nutrition are all required. Aberdeen-Angus cattle stockmen and women are well respected for expert stockmanship and ability to turn out stock. Couple that with quality genetics, it just leaves the nutrition. This is where we at Harbro come in.

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From all of us at Harbro, we hope 2023 is full of success for all Aberdeen-Angus cattle breeders!

Jill Hunter - Harbro Beef & Sheep Nutritionist





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### **LINDERTIS ABERDEEN-ANGUS**

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# Teamwork makes the dream work for the Woodvale herd

inning a breed championship at Balmoral Show is top of the bucket list for many aspiring Aberdeen-Angus breeders in Northern Ireland, but for the Armour family's Woodvale herd, the supreme overall title came twice within eight months.

Founded in 1995 by Alwyn and Carol Armour, the Woodvale herd has been a regular exhibitor at Balmoral Show.

"We've always dreamt of winning Balmoral, and our dreams eventually came true when Woodvale Miss Annie U436 won the supreme overall championships at the 152nd Show," recalls Alwyn.

Due to the pandemic, the 2021 event was held in September, four months later than its scheduled date.

The Armour family were thrilled to win their first-ever Balmoral championship. Still, success didn't stop there as the home-bred junior cow, shown with a heifer calf at foot, beat off her native and continental rivals to win the interbreed award for the supreme champion of champions.

Sired by stock bull Oak Moor Mr Paul S311, accompanied by her Oak Moor Lord Ivanho U419 daughter, and incalf to Woodvale Lord Juggernaut V495, the Balmoral champion was described by judge David Evans as a "beautiful young cow with exceptional breed character".

The Woodvale prefix secured its second successive Balmoral title in May 2022 with the home-bred heifer Woodvale Delia X867. The fourteen-month-old caught the eye of Scottish judge Brian Clarke, who described her as "a very correct and easy winner, with femininity and a little bit of extra flash".

"We've won numerous prizes at shows, sales, and the club's annual herd competition, but we waited over 25 years to win Balmoral. So to win it twice in succession within twelve months was way beyond our expectations. Teamwork really does make the dream work," added Alwyn, who is ably assisted in the day-to-day management of the farm by his youngest son Adam, and his girlfriend, Cathy Holmes.

The 2022 Balmoral supremo was sired by Oak Moor Lord Ivanho U419, and is out of Woodvale Delia T101, a daughter of the 24,000gns Stirling champion Tonley Evor P044.

"I bought her maternal grandam Carlhurlie Delight N956 for 3,500gns at the Carlhurlie dispersal in 2016. She was in-calf to Evor. Obviously, I'm very pleased with my investment!"

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Comprising of 20 breeding females, the Woodvale herd is spring and autumn calving and includes a number of cow family lines, including Polly Pride from Tofts, Blackbird from Eastfield, Edwina from Duncanziemere, and Delia from Carlhurlie.

Foundation females included Lady Jane 2nd of Priestland bred by Sam McCollum from Bushmills, County Antrim; and the Miss Annie and Tidy Bee families are the results of embryos imported from the Coldstream herd in Canada.

Heifers calve into the herd at two-years-old, and all stock is grazed in the summer and fed round baled silage during the winter housing period. The herd has been participating in the SAC herd health scheme since 2009.

Other enterprises include the Woodvale pedigree Beef Shorthorn herd, which comprises three breeding females; and a 20-ewe flock of pedigree Dorset sheep, which recently scooped second prize in the small flock category of the society's National Flock Competition.

Over the years, Alwyn has been actively involved in the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society, serving two terms on the Council and two terms as a representative in the Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association. He also chaired the NI Aberdeen-Angus Club over three years; and has judged numerous shows, including Perth, Berwickshire County Show, Elmia in Sweden, and the Irish Association's Herd Competition.

The Armour family are impressed by the longevity and hardiness of the Aberdeen-Angus breed. "Our breeding females are all relatively young, but in the past, we've had cows in the herd that were fourteen years old.





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"The Aberdeen-Angus is a fertile and easy-calving breed that adapts well to a variety of farming systems. The females have plenty of milk and excellent mothering ability, and the bulls and females have a good temperament and are easy to work with," added Alwyn.

Stock bulls that have had a positive impact in the herd include Wedderlie Net Profit E916, owned in partnership with Neville and Ivan Forsythe's Coltrim Herd; and the home-bred Woodvale Roscoe Y054.

"Roscoe was the sire of the October 2003 Perth junior and supreme champion; while Net Profit was behind the breeding of the Stirling October 2015 reserve intermediate champion. Net Profit was a popular Al sire and produced more than 170 progeny in herds throughout GB and Northern Ireland.

"More recently, our herd sires Oak Moor Mr Paul S311 and Oak Moor Lord Ivanhoe U419, both purchased privately, have been putting their stamp on the herd."

Successful Al sires have included Keirsbeath Karma S539, Rawburn E-Type W176 and Lockerley Black Boromir.

The Woodvale herd has sold bulls to a top of 8,500gns, and females have peaked at 5,000gns, with animals sold to local pedigree and commercial herds, and exported to Albert de Cogan's Mogeely herd in County Cork, Paul and Lisa Frain's Allabury herd in Cornwall, Norman Belfield's Daneside herd in Macclesfield, and Jim Mulvey's herd in Co Leitrim.

Three bulls have also been sold to the bull stud at Ballycraigy owned by Al Services (NI) Ltd – Woodvale Total G616, Woodvale Kool Jaguar P633 and Woodvale Network R854.







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### **DRUMHILL PRIME CUT X155**

Stirling Reserve Senior Champion Sold to Denamona Herd

### DRUMHILL MINOR PRO X306

Stirling Reserve Junior Champion Sold to Eurick Herd - Joint top price of the day



# Irish Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society spring sales in short

### LISNAFANNA ED TOPS TUAM AT €3.800

A strong yard of quality Angus bulls was led with a call of €3,800. This was paid for Lisnafanna Ed W052 from the herd of John Brady, Virginia, Co Cavan. Born in September 2020, this powerful bull was awarded champion bull calf in last year's Connaught Leinster Aberdeen-Angus Clubs herd competition. Sired by Al bull Stouphill Bomber T182, he is out of Scottish imported cow Cheeklaw Emilia R527.

### ANGUS BREAK RECORDS IN BANDON

The Munster Aberdeen-Angus club hosted its annual spring bull sale in Bandon in early April, reaching record highs. In total, 83% of the bulls forward sold to an exceptional average of €2,820, up over €400 on the year. The highlight was when the day's pre-sale show champion sold for a new sale record price of €5,100. This was secured by Inchisine Todd, a September 2020-born bull bred by Denis O'Riordan, Macroom, Co Cork. Ranking five stars on the replacement index, this bull is a son of stock bull Cooldaniel Rekie, with a host of former stock bulls on the dam's side. Todd was secured by local breeder Derek Lovell. Tapped out as reserve champion of the day by judge Gene Lynch was Briarhill Pavarotti W018. Bred and exhibited by Bryan O'Halloran, Templemartin, Co Cork, this bull is a son of the herd's stock bull Mercury Royal Figo. Born in October 2020, this stylish bull goes back to The Moss Ethelorence L132 and was knocked down at €3,000

### ANGUS ON FIRE IN TULLOW

The Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association hosted its first ever sale in Tullow on Wednesday 20th April with exceptional demand for the quality bulls on show from the getgo. Such was the demand, the sale witnessed a 100% clearance rate. This flawless rate was matched with the associations' strongest sale average to date at a massive €3,862 and an average age of less than 14 months.

Leading the way with a call of €4,800 was 12-month-old Liss Doyle X066. This stylish young bull was bred and exhibited by John and Sean McEnroe from Oldcastle, Co Meath. Doyle is sired by the McEnroe family's former stock bull Mogeely Dreamer T534, who claimed the overall Irish Aberdeen-Angus All-Ireland championship in 2019. Securing the five-star bull was the Wexford-based Murphy family who run the Foundry Aberdeen-Angus herd. This topped an exceptional day for the McEnroe family who also sold the second- and third-top-priced bulls. Overall, over 82% of the young bulls sold hit €3,000 or more.



Premier sale topper Liss Bulleye X028 who sold for €5.000.

### EXCEPTIONAL TRADE CONTINUES AT IRISH ABERDEEN-ANGUS PREMIER

The Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association hosted its premier sale in Central Auctions Nenagh on Thursday 5th May, with the exceptional trade witnessed for Angus bulls well and truly continuing. In short, the average price rose by over €900 on the year, with a further eight bulls selling.

Continuing their strong run of bull sales were John and Sean McEnroe of the Liss herd in Oldcastle, Co Meath. Leading the prices with a call of €5,000 was the January 2021-born Liss Bullseye X028. Sired by the herd's stock bull Cairnton Kilimanjaro U435, he is out of Liss Darl R561-bred dam Liss Biluri V852. This double five-star bull is ranked in the top 5% of the breed for dairy beef index and found a new home with a local farmer.

Securing the second-top price of €4,700 was Masreagh Mr Essence W261. This bull was bred and exhibited by John McDermott, Skreen, Co Sligo, and is a son of the highly popular Al bull Cornamuckla Lord Hardy K222. Carrying a dairy beef index of €105, he ranked in the top 5% of the breed. Tasked with judging this year's premier was Jim Forrestal of the Curraheen herd, based in Kilkenny. He found his champion in the oldest bull on offer - Pubblestown Eddie W265. This August 2020-born bull was bred and exhibited by Meath-based John Canty. Sired by the herd's stock bull Dunleaver Porter R772, he is out of a Mogeely Joe H979-bred dam. The first lot into the ring, he got the sale into full swing selling for €3,600. Standing reserve to Eddie was Crann Mor Lord Juggernaut X021. This bull was bred by Conor Byrne, Dunshaughlin, Co Meath, and was exhibited by farm manager Niall Lynch. Born in March 2021, this five-star bull is a son of stock bull Coraghy Ronaldo, with Luddenmore Kallosal on the dam's side. Carrying a dairy beef index in the top 10% of the breed, he was knocked down at €4,100.

# Irish Aberdeen-Angus extravaganza breaks all records

he Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association hosted its new autumn extravaganza over the 8th and 9th October in Mid-Tipp Mart Thurles.

The event combined a new pre-inspected genetic excellence sale of 55 lots on the Saturday, with a massive €10,000 national calf show on the Sunday.

Hitting the ground running, the sale boasted a number of high sellers and smashed numerous records.

A full catalogue of entries resulted in 47 of the 55 selling to a massive average of €4,211. This easily surpasses any other average record for an Angus cattle sale on the island of Ireland.

In further breakdown, we saw bull prices range from €3,700 to €10,500 to record an average of €6,340. Female trade peaked at €9,400, with 87.5% of all females forward selling for an average just shy of €4,000.

Topping trade at €10,500 was the nine-month-old Liss Bruno Y120 from the herd of John and Sean McEnroe, Oldcastle, Co Meath. This super example of the breed is no stranger to success, having claimed the male championship at this year's Tullamore Show as a seven-month-old calf. Home-bred on both sides, he is sired by Liss Dingle V936, who also placed first in the intermediate bull class at this year's Tullamore Show. His second-calving dam, Liss Biluri V852, also knows success, having claimed the championship at this year's Mohill Show with her first calf topping the association's spring premier in Nenagh earlier this year. Ranking five stars on most traits, he was the choice of Al company Dovea Genetics. This is the highest male price at auction for an Angus in Ireland in nearly 20 years. Buyers of the two highest-priced lots sold through the ring also received a €500 money back voucher, which was kindly sponsored by Angus Beef Ireland.

Securing the second-top price of the day and the top female price was Bunlahy U2 Katy ET, who sold for €9,400. Bred by Longford breeders Aiden and David Reynolds, this rising 15-month-old heifer is the first to be offered from the super donor cow Bunlahy Katy. Her sire is equally as impressive, being former All-Ireland champion Carrigroe Mr Rebel. Boasting five stars down the line, she was secured by Ray Tiernan for his Blackhall herd.

Back to the males and next in line was Albert and Jennifer DeCogan, who sold Mogeely Dram X783 for €8,000. This bull needs little introduction, having secured numerous championships throughout the summer right across the country. Sired by former All-Ireland champion Wedderlie Blackbox, he is a full brother to Mogeely Dreamer, who was All-Ireland champion in 2019. Securing the double five-star bull was the Gigginstown Aberdeen-Angus herd. This topped an unbelievable day for the Cork duo, who sold four animals to average just shy of €6,000.





Above: Liss Bruno Y120 who sold for €10,500. Below: Bunlahy U2 Katy who sold for €9,400.

Another breeder leaving happy was Richard Lombard, who runs the Dulague herd in Castleisland, Co Kerry. He saw his top lot Dulague Red Beauty X314 sell for the second-top female price of €7,400. This super September 2021-born red Angus is sired by the herd's stock bull Stairhaven Red Ernie U266, who comes from the renowned Ellen Erica line. Carrying four stars on the replacement index, he was again knocked down to Gigginstown.

Taking home €6,400 were the DeCogans with Mogeely Pru X785. This five-star heifer is sired by Mogeely Joe H979 and is out of the 20,000gns Cheeklaw Pru S541. Securing her for his Dowagh herd in Co Mayo was Conor O'Mahony.

As part of the sale, the Liss herd of John and Sean McEnroe had a select draft of nine heifers from the core of the herd. These heifers topped €6,000, with eight of the nine selling to average over €4,000. Leading the way was Liss Minree X043, who was secured by Cathy O'Hara from Northern Ireland. This five-star heifer is sired by Cairnton Killimanjaro U435 and out of the Minree family, who secured best cow family in the Connaught Leinster herds competition for the last two years running.

## Irish show highlights

### MERCURY CLAIMS FIRST ABERDEEN-ANGUS ALL-**IRELAND**

INTERNATIONAL

The Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association hosted its first All-Ireland finals since 2019 at Oldcastle Show at the end of July. This major summer event in the Angus calendar attracted 80 entries and made tough work for this year's judge Angus Stovold, who runs the Rosemead herd in England.

After over three hours of judging in sweltering heat, he eventually tapped out Mercury Special Tinge as his overall champion. This super young cow was bred by John and Shane Murphy, who run the Mercury herd based outside Banteer, Co Cork, and had earlier in the day also taken the title of senior champion.

Special Tinge is a two-year-old first-calver sired by the herd's former stock bull Luddenmore Just The Business and out of the home-bred Mercury Lovely Tinge, making her a full sister to Dovea Al bull Mercury Royal Tinge. She was shown alongside her smart January-born heifer calf Mercury Evening Tinge Y882, who was sired by the homebred Mercury Sexy Eric.

This marks the first overall championship win for the Cork pair, who were presented with the prestigious All-Ireland championship trophy by Mark O'Rourke and Stephen Lyons of Univet, title sponsors of the event for the last 33 years. It was a double for Cork, as standing reserve overall champion was Mogeely Dram X783 from Albert and Jennifer DeCogan. The DeCogan pair are no strangers to top placings at this event, having claimed the supreme championship on no less than seven occasions. Dram X783 emerged victorious from the biggest class of the day before taking the junior and reserve overall championship. Sired by former stock bull Wedderlie Blackbox J935, this super September 2021-born bull is a full brother to Mogeely Dreamer who secured the overall championship at the event in 2019.

This topped a highly successful day for the Mogeely duo, who also claimed a host of other prizes. Next highest of these was the reserve senior championship for their senior cow Mogeely Diana T540. This 2017-born cow is sired by Wedderlie Oscalade R250 and was shown alongside her stylish December 2021-born heifer calf by the aforementioned Wedderlie Blackbox J935.

The last championship on the day was the reserve junior, which was secured by Carrowboy Victory ET. This January-born heifer was bred by Strokestown breeder Alan Gibbons and is sired by Lawsons Ford Bagatelle Z094 with Rawburn Lord Rocket F609 on the dam's side.

### LISS KIM CONTINUES FORM AT TULLAMORE

It proved a hugely successful day for John and Sean McEnroe's Liss herd in Co Meath who secured the male, female and overall championships in the Aberdeen-





Above: Growvite All-Ireland supreme champion Mercury Special Tinge. Below: All-Ireland reserve supreme champion Mogeely Dram X783.

Angus rings of this year's Tullamore Show. Taking senior female, overall female and supreme championship was the stalwart cow Liss Kim S641. This rising six-year-old cow is no stranger to the Blueball site, having placed first in the junior cow class and taken the reserve senior title at the last Tullamore Show in 2019. Adding to this, she secured the junior championship at the 2018 show as an in-calf heifer.

Sired by Te Mania Berkley B1, she was shown alongside her natural twin heifer calves, who also performed well on the day by placing first and second in the Januaryborn heifer calf class, despite being over three months younger than most exhibits. The pair were sired by the herd's stock bull Lisduff Bang Bang V742.

This year's show was judged by one of the most recognised cattle judges in the world - PJ Budler. To date, he has judged over 70 different breeds on six different continents in over 40 countries.

He found his reserve overall champion in the form of Jadam Lady Sandra X150. This September 2021-born heifer was bred and exhibited by first-time Tullamore

exhibitors Enda and Adam Kearney from Kilfenora, Co Clare. Sired by Canadian Al bull HF Alcatraz, he is from the herd's most prolific family line.

As mentioned, the McEnroe family also came up trumps in the male section. Their January 2022-born bull calf Liss Bruno X120 was the judge's choice. This stylish young bull is a son of Liss Dingle V936, who placed first in the intermediate bull class on the day.

Standing reserve male champion after coming out on top of a strong autumn bull calf class was Clara Ungar. Bred and exhibited by the Murphy family from Millstreet, Co Cork, this December 2021-born bull is a son of Rawburn Boss Hogg, with the dam the homebred Clara L734 Donna.



Overall champion Tullamore Show Liss Kim S641.

### **CLONTEAD CLAIMS FIRST AXA SUPREME NATIONAL CALF SHOW CHAMPIONSHIP**

It was a weekend of dreams in Thurles for mother and son Deirdre and Eustace Burke of the Clontead Aberdeen-Angus herd. As part of the Irish Aberdeen-Angus Extravaganza, the pair went on to take the title of All-Ireland champion medium herd for the second year running on Saturday 8th October, before their young heifer was tapped out as AXA supreme national calf show champion the next day.

The Extravaganza proved a roaring success for the association, attracting record prices for its premier sale and the €10,000 prize fund for the national calf show attracting the best animals in the country.

This record prize fund for the association would not have been possible if not for the generous sponsorship of AXA, Marteye, Angus Beef Ireland, FDC Group, Munster Bovine, Cormac Tagging, Irish Angus Producer Group/ ABP, Agriland and Dovea Genetics.

Due to this hefty prize fund, eyes remained firmly on judge for the day Wanda Tilson, who runs the renowned Wedderlie herd in Scotland alongside her mother and father. Following her judging of 11 classes and four championships, even more tension built on the build-up to her tapping out the AXA supreme champion for 2022.

After much deliberation, she eventually tapped out Clontead Mandy X363 as her supreme champion. As



### AXA supreme calf show champion Clontead Mandy

mentioned, this heifer was bred by Cork-based Eustace and Deirdre Burke and marks the first time the duo has claimed the national calf show championship. Sired by Rawburn Boss Hogg N630, she is out of the home-bred Clontead Miss Mandy S204, herself a Goulding Jumbo King K436 daughter.

Mandy X363 came out on top of a strong August and September 2021-born heifer class, before taking the senior heifer championship and eventually the AXA supreme championship.

The reserve supreme championship also headed to Co Cork, with Carbery Venice from Keith and Caroline Vickery taking the plaudits. This February 2022-born bull was again sired by Rawburn Boss Hogg N630, with Carbery Sea Mist the dam. Venice took the February and March 2022-born bull class before taking the junior male championship on his way to the reserve supreme.

Standing senior male champion on the day was the winner of the first bull class into the ring. Droumdaniel Ultan from Eoin Lynch, Bantry, Co Cork. This August 2021-born bull is sired by the herd's stock bull Westellen Black Bingo V865 and out of the Gigginstown Days of Thunder.

Taking the last section championship on the day was Edgeworthstown Lady Henn Y058, who stood as junior female champion. This February 2022-born heifer was bred by the Ferguson family from Co Longford. Sired by Lisduff Red Pepper R368, she is out of Edgeworthstown Lady Heidi R014.

Standing reserve senior heifer champion to the supreme was Jadam Lady Sandra X150 from Enda Kearney, Co Clare. This daughter of HF Alcatraz is out of Blackfied Lady Sanda P531 and had a phenomenal summer at the

Reserve senior male champion went to Alan Gibbons with Carrowboy Uisce Beatha. This October-born bull is a son of Stouphill Bomber and Marganure Lady Haze. This topped a super day for the Roscommon man, who also took the reserve junior male championship with Carrowboy V.I.B. This April-born bull calf was sired by Maine Dragon and out of Kilteevan Damsel.

# **Canadian Angus Association**

# Initiatives

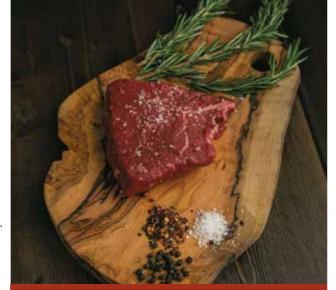
During fall 2022, the Canadian Angus Association announced several new initiatives that showcase how Angus is a leader in the Canadian beef industry. We're excited to share details about these programmes launching in late 2022 and early 2023.

### Marketplace

The goal of the Marketplace app is to support our Angus Verified partners in the marketing promotion of their Angus Verified calves. The app provides solutions to improve the transfer process, efficiency of the process and the number of transfers. Producers can post animals for sale and be matched with feedlots, and order buyers seeking Angus influenced cattle and feedlots can share requests for animals that meet certain criteria and be matched with producers. All animals for sale and animal requests are fully shareable with social media platforms. All animals offered will be Angus Verified and can include feeder calf sales, backgrounded cattle, seedstock genetics, frozen genetics, boxed beef and CAA merchandise.

### Digital Calving Book

In late fall 2022, the Canadian Angus Association solved a problem plaguing a lot of farmers and ranchers around the world - calf book destruction due to accidental laundering. The Angus Digital Calving Book allows producers to enter data offline wherever and whenever it is convenient, requiring Wi-Fi or cellular data only for syncing. The simple, clean, easy-touse interface fully integrates with the CAA database for ease of submitting registrations. Producers can create multiple calving books within the app, and any or all of them can be shared with the farm team and family members. The CAA calving book is ready for the 2023 calving season and is available for Android and iPhone.



### Genuine Angus Beef

The Canadian Angus Association Board of Directors approved the launch of a new Canadian Angus business entity that has been trademarked and registered as a separate entity of the CAA. The company known as Genuine Angus Beef will focus on the creation of value for Angus and Angus-related products. It will encompass strategies and revenue from sources outside of traditional core revenue of memberships, registrations and transfers. The entity will build its focus around Angus Verified and the development of value related products and programmes around this initiative.

### Angus Verified

Since 1999, the Canadian Angus Association has used the Angus tag programme to verify minimum 50% Angus genetics. We announced the next evolution of the programme in fall 2022 with the launch of Angus Verified, an app that verifies Angus genetics regardless of the radio-frequency indentification tag used. The Angus Verfied app makes it easier than ever to verify Angus genetics, which provides more opportunities for producers to monetize their investment in Angus genetics by qualifying them for Angus branded programmes available exclusively to Angus Verified animals. Calves enrolled in the programmes that are verified to a registered Angus sire or dam qualify for branded Angus beef programmes, are eligible for more than 160 Canadian Angus feeder sales across Canada - more sales than any other beef breed - and qualify for the new Canadian Angus marketing platform (unnamed as of press time).



### More Information

Details on these and other initiatives can be found on our website, www.cdnangus.ca, and we invite anyone who is interested in keeping up with the latest developments to check out our monthly electronic newsletter at www.cdnangus.ca/newsletter.



his year marks a special anniversary in the history of Aberdeen-Angus in Czechia. Thirty years ago, shortly before the dissolution of Czechoslovakia, the first calves were born here to heifers that had been bought and flown as cargo from Canada. This purchase of several hundred heifers laid the foundations for breeding Aberdeen-Angus in the country.

As a result, the breed has enjoyed much popularity, with 5,000 calves from 150 individual herds registered just last year. Half of these were Red Angus.

After a gap of one year, we conducted the third large-scale scanning of more than 700 yearlings. Linda McKendrick keenly completed the scanning within one week. ABRI Australia conducted an EBV evaluation in Breedplan for the whole population of Czech Angus cattle. We presented the results to the breeders through an online database to stimulate decisions on whether to join the platform.

In Czechia, we allow only bulls that pass performance standards for breeding. We perform weighing and linear scoring at licensed testing stations or farms. While testing stations regularly organise sales on the day of last scoring, there were no sales of bulls tested at breeders' farms. In May 2022, we organised the first sale of farm-tested bulls, where each breeder showed off two of their best bulls. The price for the top-selling bull

reached £5,000. We believe that we succeeded in setting up a new tradition of bull sales. For more information about the sale, visit: www.svodbyku.cz.

To take our cattle shows to new heights, we hosted Seonaid McLaren and Stephanie Dick for a cattle-fitting workshop in the summer. More than 50 attendants between the ages of 5 and 75 were blown away by all the new tricks and skills handed over by their exceptional teachers.

Now, the top news. The World Angus Technical Meeting comes to the Czech Republic between 8 and 15 September 2023. After four long years of absence, we invite you to join us for a series of excellent presentations by confirmed speakers and meetings with old and new friends. Please, visit the following link for a detailed programme: www.worldangus2023.com.

The shows and the congress will kick off in the historic city of České Budějovice, south of Prague. As part of the meeting, you can look forward to a four-day trip filled with exciting stops, including cattle farms, wine cellars at a monastery, a Prague boat tour, and beer and delicious food on the way.

We look forward to presenting our cattle and hospitality.

Vladimir Matěj Šašek

Czech Aberdeen-Angus Association

### Josef Dvořák, the Man Who Brought UK Aberdeen-Angus to Czech Breeders, Celebrates 70 Years

Josef Dvořák was born on the 10th of November 1952 to a farming family in 'Teleci', a fitting name that means the 'Calf Village', on the border of the Czech Highlands. Around that time, the Communist regime confiscated the land his family had owned and cultivated since the 19th Century. His farming roots led Josef to study at the University of Agriculture in Brno, but he was determined to pursue a career as a professional cross-country skier. Afterwards, he ventured into forestry, working as a lumberjack, one of the few private enterprises the Communist regime would tolerate. Wood logging opened a window for Josef to work with his beloved horses. After the fall of the Communist regime in 1989, Josef's family regained possession of their land and returned to farming. Browsing through his dad's old book on farming, a drawing of an Aberdeen-Angus bull stopped Josef in his tracks. Could this breed be a good fit for the sloping hills and stony soils of the Czech Highlands? Josef made a decision. While his first heifers came from the Ajshoj herd in Denmark, Josef soon turned his gaze to Scotland. He would take every opportunity to explore Aberdeen-Angus herds while visiting a friend in Glasgow. His friend, a Protestant priest and a native of 'Teleci village', had been expelled by the Communist regime. Josef would always bring along at least one Czech breeder on these trips to introduce them to the native country of



collaboration among Czech breeders. Undoubtedly, Josef's enthusiasm and commitment brought Angus culture to the Czech community of cattle breeders. His beloved Scotland became the place for another important decision, marrying his future wife, Iva. Today, Josef and Iva run a 70-cow pedigree herd.

We want to thank Josef for his pioneering work and invaluable teachings. We wish him many happy returns on hi future journeys.

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## Aberdeen-Angus Portugal



■he Aberdeen-Angus Breeders Association in Portugal has more than 300 associated breeders spread all over the Iberian Peninsula and the Azores islands. At the end of the first quarter of 2022, there were 9,935 animals registered in the herd book, of these, 4,634 were breeding cows.

Besides the herd book, the Association manages the certified beef scheme, Aberdeen-Angus Portugal Carne Controlada. Each year almost 10,000 animals are verified, resulting in 7,000 certified carcasses. In addition, the registration and control of the Aberdeen-Angus crossbred animals totalled 43,000 in 2021.

Breedplan is the genetic evaluation system. To be registered in the herd book, animals must be phenotypechecked and parentage verified by DNA analysis.

We also check all the potential M1 carriers, excluding the sires that are carriers.



The breeders are visited at least once a year (90% of them have two visits annually), and the technicians check the animals' weights and vital measurements. They also collect hair samples for parentage verification or genetic conditions testing. There is also a scanning service done once a year by an ABRI-accredited ultrasound scanning technician.

Annually, Aberdeen-Angus Portugal organises a bull performance test. The animals are weighed every 21 days during a 120-day testing period, in which all the feed is controlled. This enables the bull's average daily gain, feed efficiency and residual feed intake to be evaluated.

The animals are also measured, scanned and genomic tested. The approved animals are presented at an auction that usually takes place at the beginning of January.

Last September, the Association organised the 4th Iberian Show, judged by William McLaren. We had 18 breeders from Portugal (Mainland and Azores) and Spain participate, with more than 100 animals on show. It was a big event and an excellent opportunity to promote the breed and the top-quality animals bred in Portugal and Spain.

This year will be another mark in the history of the Association with the construction of the Aberdeen-Angus Performance Station. This will allow more bulls to be tested and offer a range of tests and services.

The herd book is open to European breeders. Our main goal is to provide breeders with the best information for their breeding decisions and the buyers and consumers with a top-quality and reliable product, whether it's beef or breeding animals.



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# Switch to pedigree Aberdeen-Angus brings joy back to cattle enterprise on Herefordshire farm

move away from labour-intensive continental cross cows to a herd of pedigree Aberdeen-Angus cattle has brought the joy back to keeping cattle for one Herefordshire farming family.

The Gilbert family – Harry and his brother George, alongside their father Nick and uncle Phil – are fourth generation tenant farmers at Nantyglasdwr Farms near Hay-on-Wye.

They run a mixed livestock and arable enterprise at the 223 ha (550-acre) farm, which is home to the 60-cow pedigree herd of Aberdeen-Angus cattle under the Harewood prefix, a 1,000-ewe sheep enterprise comprising a mix of Suffolk cross Mules and Hardy Speckled ewes, and 81 ha (200 acres) of cropping.

An interest in achieving a high-health status for their commercial herd drove the Gilberts to a radical change in their farming system, and five years ago, the family started researching what breed of cow would best suit their system.

"We used to have commercial cows up until 2018," explains Harry. "We had a bit of a mix of breeds – Limousin cross, Salers cross, Blue cross and Simmental cross – with everything going to a Charolais or Limousin bull

"But when we started focusing on achieving a highhealth status by doing Johne's and BVD testing with our old cattle, we had a little trouble with the odd calf showing up with  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{BVD}}.$ 

He says the family decided to address the problem by culling problem cows and buying replacements. However, they struggled to find any high-health commercial farms to buy cattle from.

"We didn't really keep our own replacements, so we always just bought in cows and calves from market," adds Harry.

"But when we started doing the high-health testing, that became tricky."

The Gilberts decided a move to a pedigree, closed herd of cattle would help them achieve the high-health herd status they wanted while creating a system that was easier to manage and less intensive.

"We started doing a bit of research into breeds; we wanted a cow that would look after herself, calf unassisted but would also produce high-quality animals for today's market," explains Harry.

"Before we moved to Aberdeen-Angus, we visited a few farms, including Jeremy Price's Oakchurch herd and Angus Stovold's Rosemead herd. We were impressed with the cattle and thought they would be something that would suit our enterprise."

### **SWITCHING BREEDS**

The Gilberts started their Aberdeen-Angus herd by purchasing 18 maiden heifers in 2018, comprising 12 from Rosemead and six from Dark Lane.

"We bought these 18 pedigree Aberdeen-Angus heifers as a bit of an experiment and we calved them at two-years-old in the spring of 2019," says Harry.

"We Al'd them to an Aberdeen-Angus sire – Australian bull Millah Murrah Klooney K42 – and then we swept up with an old Limousin bull we had."

Harry says the family was instantly impressed with the introduction of Aberdeen-Angus cattle to the farm.

He says: "Straight away we noticed a massive difference in calving ease and with the quietness of the cows.

"The vigour of the calves also stood out massively. We pretty much fell in love with them straight away."

The family had grown to dread calving their old cattle as they often had to assist cows or tube-feed calves in the middle of the night.

However, the Aberdeen-Angus heifers impressed the Gilberts so much that a further 10 maiden heifers were bought from Dark Lane in 2019 alongside a bull from the Oakchurch herd – and all the commercial cattle were sold.

### **CHANGE IN FOCUS**

The introduction of Aberdeen-Angus cattle to Nantyglasdwr Farms did not just mark a change in breeds but also a shift in focus for the farm's beef enterprise.

It has moved away from producing calves for finishing on the farm to primarily producing breeding stock to sell to other farmers.

All bulls were previously kept entire, finished at 15-16 months and sent to ABP, with heifers finished at 18-20 months and sent to ABP or local butchers' shops.

The focus is now on producing breeding stock, and anything unsuitable for breeding is finished on-farm, with bulls going to ABP and all finished heifers going to the local butcher.

Harry says the finishing times have remained unchanged, however, the quantity of concentrates needed has significantly reduced.

"When we went into Aberdeen-Angus, we quickly found out that there was quite a market for bulls," adds Harry.

"In the last two years, we've sold over 20 bulls for breeding, and we've also found a massive demand for heifers already."

All cattle are kept out at grass from the end of March until December, depending on the weather, and the calving period runs throughout February and March.

Cows are given straw while out at grass for a month after their calves are weaned in November, and once housed, they get straw and minimal silage until calving. They are then fed better quality silage once they have calved.

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"We're registered with Breedplan and currently recording calving ease, birth weight and daily liveweight gains with plans to back scan in the near future," explains Harry.

He says a home-bred stock bull – Harewood Jack V694, out of one of the herd's foundation heifers and sired by Millah Murrah Klooney K42 – is leaving an impressive mark on the herd.

"He is producing cows that are our type," Harry adds.

"He isn't a huge bull but is naturally fleshy and very deep-bodied. We don't want a massive cow, just one with a moderate frame that's milky, fertile, and has a quiet temperament. Breed character is also important."

### LESS INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT

The move to Aberdeen-Angus cattle has not only reduced the need for intervention at calving but reduced input costs on the farm.

"Our home-bred stock bull Harewood Jack V694 is very easy-calving," explains Harry.

"He had 30 cows in-calf in 2022 and they all calved unassisted, apart from one that was coming backwards, and his calves averaged 34kg birthweight for 24-month-old heifers and 39kg for cows."

And from a financial perspective, Harry says the Aberdeen-Angus cattle require much less feeding than the farm's continental cross cows did in the past.

"When we bought those first 18 heifers, I did a bit of a trial on them that winter," adds Harry.

"Just on feed alone, they cost us about £2,000 less to keep during the winter housing period, in comparison to 18 of our continental cows, primarily because they were on straw rather than good quality silage.

"Our old cows were very hungry, but one thing we've noticed with the Aberdeen-Angus is that they stay fit; our heifers were still fit in the winter on limited silage and straw."

He says the breed's ability to thrive on minimal feed was especially beneficial in the long, dry summer of 2022.

### **FUTURE PLANS**

In the future, the Gilberts hope to increase the size of the Harewood herd to between 80 and 100 cows, and they hope to bring a couple of bulls to the Southern Show and Sale in Worcester this year while continuing their high-health status of being Johnes level 1, BVD and IBR accredited.

"I think with the challenges that the farming industry is facing with ever-rising input costs, the less intensive Aberdeen-Angus cow can only be for the better as they still can thrive with substantially fewer inputs," adds Harry.

"We can see the Aberdeen-Angus playing a big part in our farm business going forward and producing beef that's fit for the future."

**FACEBOOK: HAREWOOD ANGUS** 

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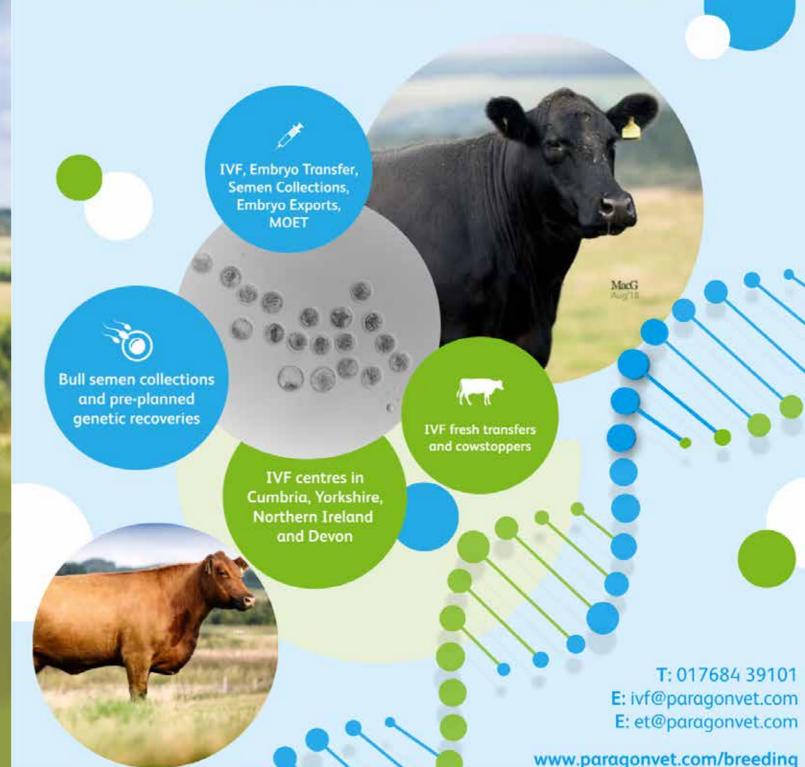


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# Farming dreams made a reality as young family establish Evanley herd

he Evanley Aberdeen-Angus herd is one of the newest herds, established in January last year (2022).

Run by husband-and-wife Carwyn and Kim Evans and their son Ethan, the herd consists of 35 Aberdeen-Angus cows and their calves, nine heifers and a junior stock bull.

The family had always dreamed of establishing a small herd on Kim's father's farm, which is managed by a local dairy farmer. However, with the couple working full time – Carwyn on a large dairy and arable farm and Kim as a Deputy Head Veterinary Nurse, the dream was pushed aside

That was until their neighbours approached them to see whether they would be interested in renting their 122ha (301 acres) farm and investing in the machinery and the Aberdeen-Angus herd, as they wanted to take a step back

Mrs Evans says: "We knew how rare opportunities like this come around, and we were truly taken back. Their herd had always been a topic of conversation at home, seeing them on the land, how good they looked and how brilliant their temperament was.

"Carwyn and I were brought up on farms, so we knew how hard farming could be. However, this decision wasn't taken lightly and wasn't solely about Carwyn and me. Our son Ethan who was 12 at the time and who already lives and breathes all things agriculture, would be a massive part of this new venture and we would be reliant on his help too."

After some long conversations and support from their family, the Evans' accepted the proposition and created the 'Evanley herd' within two weeks of the initial discussion.

Mrs Evans says: "Our neighbour initially invested in the Nightingale herd a few years ago, so we had a fantastic and solid herd right from the start."

A last-minute investment was made to the foundation herd, with purchases from Stirling last February. They included ten cows from the Gordon herd, three in-calf heifers from the Isle of Bute, and a maiden heifer.

Mrs Evans adds: "Calving began within 48 hours of taking over, so we had to learn about embryo transfers and registrations overnight.

"We aim to concentrate on good breeding lines and genetics and to get to know the Aberdeen-Angus

community. We are also lucky to continue to learn and work with our neighbours whose advice and guidance are invaluable."

The Evanley herd prides itself on being low input, performing well on grass, with cow's easy calving and the ability to produce well.

Last year the Evans' retained all heifers calved into the herd, selling all bulls privately to local dairy units at 15/16 months of age.

"The bulls sold well, so we didn't need to consider selling through a market," says Mrs Evans.

"We don't have a mature stock bull at the moment; this will be something we will start to look at soon. Last year we synchronised breeding and used AI, which resulted in great conception rates. These will calve down in March / April.

"We used the junior bull on a small selection of unrelated young and smaller cows and he's had great success rates too."

The family also keep tack sheep all year round, providing a stable income and grazing areas of the farm unsuitable for the cows.

Mrs Evans adds: "2022 was a fantastic year, and we have learnt so much. Not just all the practical things, but learning about the breed, how to run a business, manage our finances and all the paperwork bits that come along with it. We honestly wouldn't change any of it and look forward to what this year offers."

### Follow us on:

Facebook - Evanley herd of pedigree Aberdeen-Angus Instagram - Evanley\_herd









# 5 YEARS OF

# BARNSVIEW

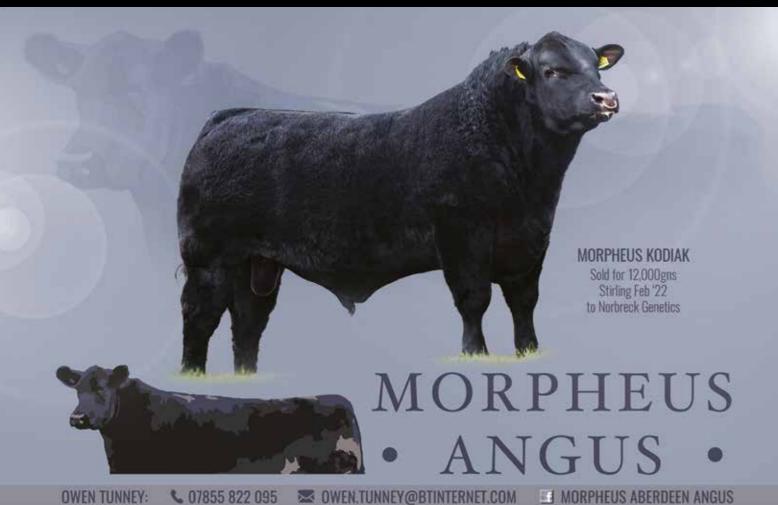
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Gender: Male Female Registered Disabled tick if appropriate
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Please complete this form and return to: Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society, Pedigree House, 6 King's Place, Perth PH2 8AD

Or register to to become a member of the Youth Development Programme by filling in the online registration form, which can be found by scanning this QR code.



# **YDP Senior Conference Spring 2022 –** Omagh, Northern Ireland

ebruary 2022 took the YDP Senior Conference over ■ to Northern Ireland, where our event was based around meat processors Foyle Foods and their local supplier farmers and their own expanding trial finishing unit.

Lead farm liaison officer, Andrew Clarke, welcomed us to the Foyle (Omagh) processing plant, where we assembled in their board room and were introduced to Aberdeen-Angus Quality Beef, a cooperative scheme established in 1998 by Ann Morrison.

The scheme provides physical inspections and DNA profiling to ensure supply chain traceability with Aberdeen-Angus sire verification and incorporates a 15.1 grading scale for carcasses to ensure the integrity of the final product.

Foyle also offers a semen straw of Elliot Bravo in return for a kill beast to ensure a consistent carcass through their plant.

Once donned in our blue foot coverings, white overalls, hair nets and masks, we were escorted around the whole process working backwards from packaging to the lairage. It was fascinating observing the skilled labour working very efficiently and thoroughly in the processing and packaging hall. A demonstration from one of their master butchers on breaking down a loin, plus a look at graded hanging carcasses, certainly added to the experience.

Foyle kindly supplied lunch, and during this time, we had a very informative presentation from Naomi Heron of the Foyle marketing department on effective marketing strategies.

The Foyle Group Farm, just 20 minutes away, enabled us to see some of the cattle that were part of trials covering various topics, including diet and housing.

On Saturday morning, we visited several farms that provided finished cattle for Foyle. Unfortunately, the snow did try to hinder our travels, but we arrived safely and enjoyed great hospitality and farm tours. We thank Tynan, Noreen Roulston, Leslie Dunn, and family for their time, kindly hosting us and showing us their farming practices and cattle.

Whilst enjoying our evening meal, our YDP Chairman, Will Chrystal, continued the subject of setting up a Youth Council, which had been raised at previous Senior Conferences. It was discussed at length and through a fair voting process of those present, a Chairman and Vice Chairman to represent all of Ireland was agreed upon.

Congratulations to Callum McAleese as Chairman and Mena McCloskey as Vice. It is hoped they will meet regularly and establish a role to link the YDP to the Society Council.

What is always so impressive about those attending the Senior Conference is the expanse of talent and willingness to grow as an individual whilst making new acquaintances and having fun. We hope that other young people can be encouraged to join in future events, as all are welcome over the age of 18 years.

### Tina Russell

### YDP National Co-Ordinator









# YDP workshop dates for 2023



**Spring Senior Conference:** 

Herd Visit to Rawburn Herd Fri 17th Feb - 19th Feb 2023

England and Wales - Saturday 29th April Standlynch - Mr & Mrs A Carter, Standlynch Farm,

Midlands England - 6th May GLYMPTON - c/o Trevor Kirk Woodstock, Oxfordshire, OX20 1AH

**DARTREY** - Ms Hylda Mills Glenvale.15 Fir Tree Lane, Scarva, Co. Down BT63 6NY

Scotland - 28th May Cardona Aberdeen-Angus. By kind permission of Robert Galloway Cardona, Perthshire. FK16 6AX

North East England - 4th June YEARSLEY -Mr T A & Mrs P Johnson Clarence House Farm, Yearsley, Brandsby, Nr York,

North East Scotland - 10th June Ballindalloch - David Johnstone Ballindalloch Home Farms Ltd, Estate Office, Ballindalloch, Banffshire. AB37 9AX

North West England - 10th June MORPHEUS - Owen Tunney
Manor Farm, Cuddington Lane, Cuddington,

Connaught - 8th July

**Autumn Senior Conference:** 

### TAKING PART IN THE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

### WHO CAN TAKE PART?

Any young person aged 8 -24 yrs can attend and compete at the

from experienced cattle stockman in how to prepare cattle for shows and sales, and learn cattle handling techniques. husbandry, health and welfare.

### HOW CAN I QUALIFY FOR THE YDP FINAL?

During the day you will be observed by our trainers and assessed, so that you can establish where improvements can be made. and invited to attend the YDP Final held in the autumn. Any young

opportunity for young folk considering making agriculture their

Register online by completing the booking form via www. aberdeen-angus.co.uk/youth-development/ You can attend as many workshops as you wish.

Your YDP Regional Co-ordinators for 2023

Tina Russell - National Co-Ordinator, and workshops in England and Wales Email: ydp@aberdeen-angus.co.uk

Stephanie Dick - Regional Co-Ordinator for Scotland Email: ypdsteph@gmail.com

Niall Lynch - Regional Co-Ordinator for All Ireland Email: ydpniall@gmail.com



# **YDP final report**

ur YDP finalists went from strength to strength in 2022, despite being unable to compete for

On Friday 30th September, 34 finalists aged between 8-24 arrived from all corners of the UK and Ireland at Airth Castle Hotel for the evening gathering before the YDP final at Westerton Farm, Cowie, Stirlingshire. The final was hosted by Mr and Mrs Dick and their daughter Steph, Scotland area coordinator for YDP.



The enthusiasm and skills of all competitors over the weekend were unbelievable, considering, for most of them, it was their first time to do the YDP. Going into 2023, it can only go from strength to strength.

### Niall Lynch -**YDP Coordinator Ireland**

Shane Murphy

Once presented with their blue shirts, society ties and YDP black hoodies, they were ready and equipped for the competition to begin the following morning.

Divided into their age groups, the young people embarked upon the full programme for the day with determination, skill and commitment to win. The day included a panel interview for the seniors, whilst the intermediates had to give a presentation on "why are there so many different types of Aberdeen Angus cattle'. Judges included Angus Stovold, Eustace Burke and Duncan Morrison.

Plus, the following:

including;

Ring craft and changing halters Judged by Carol Rettie

Clipping Judged by Andrew Hughes

Dressing and grooming Judged by

Stock judging Judged by Dallas Allan

In between the competitive elements were workshops

Charlie Maclaren Know your cows

Fertility and breeding Gavin Tait, AB Europe

Dougie Macbeth Halter making

of ability, knowledge and maturity of our seniors and intermediates, prompting our President to endeavour to secure further opportunities for them in their future development.

Congratulations to our first and second-placed panel seniors, John Smyth and Catherine Smyth, who were invited to attend the British Cattle Breeders Conference this month (Jan 2023).

Following the long day of competition, a formal presentation dinner was held at Airth Castle Hotel. Our President, Angus Stovold, delighted us with an amusing speech and followed with the day's results and awards presentation.

Congratulations to our overall first and second-placed seniors, Nicola Howie and Seonaid McLaren, who the President and YDP Chairman invited to attend the next Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society council meeting to introduce and promote the establishment of the new Youth Council.



Because you have all helped in the learning, providing your experience and creating the experience for the competitors. Thank you.

> Will Chrystal -Chair of YDP

It was an immensely satisfying and proud moment for the YDP Team, Steph Dick (Scotland), Niall Lynch (Ireland) and myself, Tina Russell (England and Wales), along with our Chairman Will Chrystal, to witness all the development of friendships, confidence and comradery between the 34 young folk, as a result of their experience over the 48 hours prior.

The scale of this event is immense and cannot be achieved without the goodwill and generosity of fellow Angus breeders and friends. We thank our skilled judges and workshop leaders for giving up their time and sharing their knowledge.

Special thanks must be paid to Carol and Richard Rettie, along with William and Seonaid McLaren, for providing equipment and livestock for the day's events and, of course, to the Dick family for all the preparations in advance and for letting us take over their family farm for the day.



It was a great weekend with many new friends made. Our son Kieran had a great time and learned lots to assist him in the coming years."

Ger Ryan



What a final! Best one I've ever been to! Well organised from start to finish, this is our son's first time and he's loved every minute, thank you.

It fills me with pride that the team has pulled this amazing weekend together, so a massive pat on the back from me.

I had the opportunity to sit in on the panel, and again, it amazes me when the young people have that level

of enthusiasm and sheer guts to stand in front of the panel and say their piece. So very well done to you all. All area coordinators are extremely proud and impressed by their remarkable positive attitude and friendly rivalry throughout the weekend.

Looking forward, your YDP Coordinators are planning their dates and venues for this year's workshops to find our next finalists in autumn 2023, which will be held in England.

### Tina Russell

**National YDP Coordinator** 

### YDP Final 2022

### Juniors Intermediates Dressing and grooming: 1st Cliodhna Smith 1st Finlay Hunter 2nd Alexander Crombie 2nd Adam Kearney 3rd William Ashworth Clipping 1st Finlay Hunter 1st Cliodhna Smith 2nd Molly Posner 2nd William Ashworth 3rd Sam Herdman Ring craft 1st Finlay Hunter 2nd Lucas Ashworth 2nd Ruby Simpson 3rd Adam Kearney 3rd William Ashworth Stock judging 1st Sam Ferguson 1st James Morrison 2nd Finlay Hunter 2nd Ruby Simpson 3rd Daniel Willis 3rd Adam Kearney Panel 1st James Morrison 2nd Cliodhna Smith Overall junior Intermediate

2nd Adam Kearney (Ireland)

1st Finlay Hunter (Scotland)

1st Cliodhna Smith (Ireland) 2nd James Morrison (Ireland)

2nd Alexander Crombie (Scotland) 3rd John Smyth (Ireland)

Our panel judges were very impressed with the strength

(f) (g) (iii)

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Cardona Cottage, Doune, Stirlingshire, Scotland FK16 6AX



# Meet the 2022 YDP champion

wenty-one-year-old Nicola Howie from
Aberdeenshire scooped last year's overall
champion at the YDP Senior finals. We learn
about her association with the Aberdeen-Angus breed
and what it is like to be crowned champion.

I am very grateful to be the 2022 winner of the YDP final, but it hasn't happened overnight. I work on the family farm where we run 20 Aberdeen-Angus cows, calves, and youngstock.

I attended my first YDP workshop at eight years old and have done a workshop almost every year since.

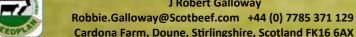
The YDP final in 2022, held at Stephanie Dick's farm in Stirling, was brilliantly run and organised by the YDP coordinators. They made sure we still had fun with our friends while competing.

I have learnt so much from YDP and, most importantly, made many new friends. The one thing I would say to people who aren't sure about doing YDP, the friends you

make at workshops and senior conferences are definitely for life.

Last year I participated in many shows all over the country with our cattle and was asked to show for other herds too. The highlight was showing our own bull at Stirling bull sales. He did amazingly and sold for 8,000gns to a pedigree herd down south. We are excited to see what he does.

I'm sure you all know that winning the Senior YDP comes with the brilliant prize of epic bragging rights plus a £1,500 travel bursary. I cannot wait to go exploring the world with that money. My dream has always been to travel around North America, seeing how they breed and turnout cattle over there. I have a few farms in mind already that I want to visit. I cannot wait to see what opportunities my trip and winning the final will bring for me.



# How the YDP is benefitting the next generation

he Aberdeen-Angus Youth Development Programme (YDP) is the perfect platform for 8-24-year-olds to learn about and experience the cattle breeding industry. We meet some of this year's Intermediate and Senior members.

### **INTERMEDIATE MEMBERS**

Name: Cliodhna Smith

Age: 15

### Location: Oldcastle, Co Meath, Ireland

I learned about the YDP as a workshop was held on my neighbour's farm, John Mac Enroe, from the Liss Aberdeen-Angus herd. John knew I was interested in farming and asked me if I would like to attend to learn about showing cattle.

During the workshop day, I learned how to clip cattle, show cattle, stock judge, and dress and groom cattle. However, one of the biggest things I learned from the workshop was how to handle cattle, approach cattle and give them respect.

Seeing how much I enjoyed and was interested in showing, John asked me to help him at shows throughout the summer.

I attended shows in Mullingar, Oldcastle, Tullamore, Virginia and finally Trim. I also attended the Premier Calf Show and Sale in Thurles, County Tipperary, for the weekend to help.

The YDP 2022 finals were held in Stirling, Scotland, on Stephanie Dicks farm. I competed in the Intermediate section. My experience from the final was very positive and enjoyable. It was great to meet other people from Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales who share my interests.

Over the next few years, my ambitions are to have my own cattle to show and return to compete in the YDP finals.







Name: William Ashworth

Age: 15

### Location: Bolton, Manchester

We farm a 33.5ha (83-acre) poultry and pedigree beef farm. My herd prefix is Blackrodian Aberdeen-Angus and Stoneyalne Angus and we also have a Charolais herd.

I learned about the YDP workshops as a member of the Aberdeen-Angus Society.

l attended the workshop at Owen Tunney's farm, home to the Morpheus Aberdeen-Angus herd. Owen showed us how to clip and dress an animal and talked about what injections to use if something is wrong. I enjoyed clipping and seeing how breeders have different techniques to clip and groom the animal. Overall, the workshop ran very smoothly.

At the YDP final in Stirling, I got placed third in ringcraft and dressing and second in clipping, which I was extremely pleased with. Clipping and dressing the animal in one hour was my favourite part of the final

This year I attended a few shows. The biggest one was the Great Yorkshire, where I won champion young handler. One of our bulls also had a successful show.

Over the next few years, I want to increase my herd numbers and breed more bulls of a good enough standard to go into pedigree herds and make a huge difference in other people's herds.





### SENIOR MEMBERS

Name: Rebecca John

Age: 22

### Location: Pembrokeshire, Wales

I am new to the Aberdeen-Angus breed, having established the Whitcastle herd with my partner Ben Reynolds in 2021 with a purchase of a Nightingale cow and heifer calf. We have since added to the foundation of our herd with additions from the Blelack, Penguin and Retties herds.

My farming background is dairy, and I have been working full-time on the family dairy farm since 2021 after graduating from Aberystwyth University with a degree in Agriculture and Business Management.

My interest in beef began when I met Ben when I was seventeen, who shared his knowledge and passion for pedigree beef by involving me in working and showing his Welsh Black cattle.

I saw a post on Facebook advertising a YDP workshop. After seeing this, I went onto the Society website to learn more about the programme. The YDP sounded like a great way to begin my journey with the Aberdeen-Angus. So, I enrolled on the programme and signed up for a workshop shortly afterwards.

The Denning family hosted the YDP workshop I attended at Temple Farm in April 2022. The day began with a talk by local vets on the safe use of medicine, followed by stock judging, washing, clipping and ringcraft. We also had the chance to learn how to make a halter. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting other young breeders and having the opportunity to see a fantastic herd of cattle. I left the



workshop feeling more confident and excited to put the new skills I had learnt into practice.

I was thrilled to qualify to represent the senior England and Wales team in the 2022 YDP final held at Westerton Farm and hosted by the Dick family. The day of the final started with the panel interview, followed by clipping and dressing a bull. Following the clipping, we had a presentation over lunch from AB Europe about breeding and fertility. It was a very informative presentation. I found learning more about embryos particularly interesting. We then moved on to compete in ringcraft. Our last task was stock judging. We judged a class of four exceptional heifers. To end the day, we had a very interesting talk about knowing your cattle. A big thanks to everyone who worked hard to make the weekend a success.

One of my main ambitions for the future is to establish a respected reputation for the Whitcastle and our Plan B dairy herd. My goal with both herds is to be able to breed cattle which are highly productive and also have show potential.

### Name: John Smyth

Age: 20

### Location: Mountnugent, County Cavan, Ireland

I farm at home alongside my father, Noel, where we run commercial suckler cows alongside our pedigree Limousin herd, which is bred under the Greeve prefix. We recently established an Aberdeen-Angus herd which will operate under the Ballinrink prefix after the purchase of our foundation female Liss Dina X049 from the Liss herd.

I am currently in my third year studying a Level 8 BSc Hons of Agricultural Science, working for a farm machinery dealership alongside farming.

I learned about the YDP in 2015 from Dermot Lynch while attending the Annual Gigginstown Angus bull sale. I participated in a workshop on the farm of John McEnroe, who runs the Liss herd, and I was fortunate to qualify for the finals that year as a junior.

Following on from this, in 2019, I was fortunate to qualify for the YDP finals and placed first in the intermediate section. I qualified in 2022 at a workshop in Liss. Meeting and getting to know new people is my favourite thing at the workshops, alongside picking up tips from the experienced coordinators and trainers.

The 2022 final was an enjoyable experience and a great opportunity to meet new people, learn new skills, and improve on some.

Over the next three years, I aim to complete my degree and qualification while expanding our recently



established Aberdeen-Angus herd. In addition, I intend to continue participating in the Aberdeen-Angus YDP. It would be a remarkable achievement to win the senior section of the YDP and travel with the help of the £1,500 bursary.

The summer of 2022 was spent exhibiting under the Liss prefix. The highlight of the year was at the Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association Autumn Extravaganza when they sold nine heifers to a €4,000 average and topped the male trade with Liss Bruno Y120 at €10,500 a only 10 months old.

livestock to take part in the Aberdeen-Angus YDP. It has opened many doors for me and given me invaluable experience.



# New online portal for member services

e are pleased to announce that we are moving the majority of member services to a new online portal - ILR Online. This should allow for easier and simpler online access to member features including:

- Simpler calf registrations
- Herd inventory maintenance and management
- Performance data entry
- Animal transfers
- Viewing and download of lists of animals and customers
- Reviewing billing information

While the platform is intended to be accessed via a computer or laptop, it will rescale for a mobile browser, allowing for quick access on the go. Members will also be able to pay by credit card for services online, such as calf registrations.

There will be a gradual roll-out of the new platform to members over the next 6-months and a step-by-step user guide and webinar will be made available to support the transition.

# Registration (FEEPION) Poster Demit) Pick or enter a value

# Photo gallery



























# Photo gallery

# Medi

















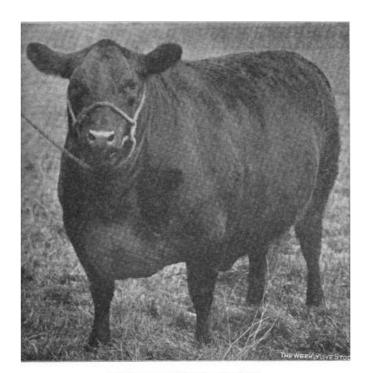








# A look at the 100-year-old Aberdeen-Angus herds



Aberdeen-Angus Heifer Layla of Glamis. Sweepstakes champion at the Birmingham and Smithfield Shows, England, December, 1902.

n February, one of the most celebrated names in the breed can celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of the first calf the family registered with the Society. Another famous family can do the same with a birth registered in 1926.

So who has achieved that milestone? Not an easy thing to find out for two reasons:

Firstly, the Society has never maintained a comprehensive list of members. The membership number every member has today only dates back to about the 1960s, and as there were over 5,500 breeders who registered cattle between the years 1928 and 1960, all of whom should have been members, it is obvious our numbers (mine from the mid-1990s is 3,588) are woefully low.

Secondly, although the herd books contain the information, they were designed to help people find cattle. They were not how we use them today, a way to trace pedigrees or research the breed's history. The breed and its breeders go back way beyond the herd book records.

Even the introduction of a herd book, first put forward in the 1840s, was pretty shaky. All the material collected by Edward Ravenscroft went up in smoke when the Highland and Agricultural Society's Museum in Edinburgh burned down in 1851, which means that when the first volume finally appeared in 1862, it could not have been either as comprehensive or accurate as it would have been. It was another ten years before a second volume came out. By 1879/1880, there had only been five volumes produced. Only then did they become the annual production we know today.

### THE HERDS

Apologies for any I have missed out or mistakenly included. A great deal is commonly known about many of these herds. Unfortunately, there isn't the space, nor am I competent, to sing their praises again, so I have attempted to bring out something that most of us didn't know. I hope I have got it correct. Please remember the Society's rules have evolved; what was allowed in the past is not always so today.

BALLINDALLOCH: Originally in Elginshire, then in Banffshire and now in Morayshire, although it has never moved. Far older than herd book records go back, but whose records start with a birth in 1855. This is the oldest herd still active within the Society. Even if registrations dropped to very low numbers on a couple of occasions, it has almost certainly registered more cattle than any other herd in the British Isles. The contribution of the Macpherson-Grant family has been outstanding. Sir George, who was so influential in founding the Society, and became its second President, was vehemently opposed to closing the herd book and changing the Society's name from The Polled Cattle Society to The Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society. The reason for this can be seen by a look at the herd book, which shows that one year about a quarter of all the herd book registrations and breeders were within twenty miles of Ballindalloch, along the Morayshire/Banffshire border. One cannot help thinking that he knew just how many cattle, typical of the breed, were to be found outside the area of Aberdeen and Angus and so was instrumental in trying to get as many of the local pure polled cattle registered as possible.

PORTLETHEN: Just south of Aberdeen, the steading can be seen from the railway station. We have yet to find the date of birth of the first cow recorded by the Walkers. The dam of a bull born in 1818 was the earliest date of birth recorded in the herd book. We believe Robert Walker, who witnessed that birth (he had just been sent as a fourteen-year-old to work on the farm where the bull was born), was a prodigious record-keeper, so it is disappointing that his records were almost certainly lost in the Edinburgh fire. Nevertheless, the family continued to register cattle until 1927 with varying degrees of enthusiasm.

SPOTT and INVERQUHARITY: Where the hills meet the low ground in what was Forfarshire and now is Angus. There appear to have been quite a few Whytes farming within the area. This line first registered cattle at Spott in Glen Prosen in 1854 before uniting with Inverquharity. Other Whytes had also registered black cattle, later withdrawing back to Spott with their last calf registered in 1972.

**BANKS:** The Beddie family were successful breeders in the north-east of Aberdeenshire, first registering cattle in 1874 and just making the hundred years with their last calf registered in 1975. They produced a huge family of Gammers and Gaffers (grandmothers and grandfathers to those from outwith Scotland).

**ESSLEMONT and YTHAN:** The Wolrige Gordons from near Ellon in Aberdeenshire were an army family and many of the names they used reflected the campaigns and postings they experienced. Starting in 1882, the last calf they registered was born in 1989.

THEAKSTON: The second oldest herd still in existence, it stands on the western side of the A1 in Bedale, Yorkshire. It has also been a horse racing stud since the 1890s (Dante stood there). Starting in 1885 at Hollingside, Newcastle-on-Tyne and moving briefly to the Neasham Stud Farm, Darlington, the McIntyre family have been registering births at Theakston since 1894. This is a herd which few people today know of, yet it provided the Society with a council member in the days when very few members outside Scotland managed to achieve that and exported cattle to just about every continent in the world.

**AYNHO:** The one that everyone adds the suffix "if that's how you pronounce it" and the response is "I think so". Third oldest overall and second oldest in England. The McLaren family registered very few bull calves for long stretches but always a steady number of females.

**KNOCK:** the only Irish herd in this list. Irish herds have been there ever since Volume One. The two breeders found in the first volume both married girls from Forfarshire. Could they have picked them up at the mart, or was it a case of if you want to sleep well, you had better buy a few black cattle? The Jeffery family owned the Knock herd, which registered births from 1905 to 2020 at Rathcoursey and, later, Ballyvodock, Midleton, Co. Cork.

WEDDERLIE: Not just one family and not yet 100 years of continuous membership. The herd was started by Major W A Baird in 1914. When he died in 1934, his son did not become a member until 1941, just before he sold Wedderlie, with the herd, to Captain Elliot in 1942. Some cattle born and sold during that period appear in the herd book, but all were registered by the purchasers, not Wedderlie. Captain Elliot, of the family that had, and still has, the Cape Wrath herd, already had his own herd, Thirlestane, and bought this herd for his son, who

unfortunately died during the war. The Wedderlie cattle were registered by Captain Elliot's wife until the herd was given to one of his daughters after her marriage, and she, Mrs Jenny Campbell, left the herd to her daughter Marion (Tilson). As we all know, the herd is still thriving.

SCOTSMILL: If you ask the Society, this herd is not 100 years old. The Lawson family have bred black cattle in Tullynessle, just north of Alford, Aberdeenshire, since at least 1875, when their first calf was registered, a couple of calves were registered in 1884 and 1886, and regular registrations began in 1908. Then, in the late 1970s, their farming policy changed. Cattle were reduced to making use of land unsuitable for cropping and the cows were put to a Charolais bull, with the last Aberdeen-Angus calf registered being born in 1977. However, in 1992 registration of calves began again and continues today.

### THREE HERDS ARE APPROACHING THE ONE-HUNDRED-YEAR MARK:

**AUCHINCRIEVE:** Starting with a calf born on 8th March 1923 at Guise in the Howe of Alford, Aberdeenshire, Charles McCombie moved to Rothiemay in Banffshire during the second world war. The family descends from a cousin of the famous William McCombie. The herd book records that Charles McCombie sold a pedigree bull before 1923, but it was one he had bought. He is first recorded as a member of the Society in the 1923/4 volume.

**KILHAM:** In Northumberland, just south of the border between Scotland and England and property of the Goodson family. Perhaps not so widely known as the other two herds that are due to celebrate their centenary, but still one which had some export success, and Sir Alfred was President of the Society in 1949. Their first calf was registered in 1925.

**NETHERTON:** Three quite substantial herds, each having some success with exports, used the name Netherton. The most successful, and the one near to its centenary, is that of the McLaren family. By the time the McLaren's moved to Netherton from Drumhead, also in Blackford. Perthshire, one of the others had already moved from Netherton, Aberlour, to Advie (both Banffshire) and used that name instead. Note to John Deere drivers in the East of Scotland: the tattoo letters assigned to this Netherton were HRN. The third Netherton herd started at almost precisely the same time the McLaren's moved to Netherton. It was at the Netherton Training School (for bad lads) near Morpeth in Northumberland. The McLaren's first registered calf was born on 4th December 1926, but curiously, they do not appear in the list of members until the 1944/5 volume, but keep that to yourself, or Angela could be calling around for 18 of the one guinea fees (a guinea would get you about twenty pints of beer in 1945).

### **Angus Smith**

### Nostalgia – A look back in time

The Aberdeen-Angus breed has often claimed the limelight at the Smithfield Show over the past century. We look at some of the breed's highlights at the prestigious event.



December 1902- Lavia of Glamis. Supreme champion at Birmingham and Smithfield Shows.



1966 Smithfield Show - Alan H B Grant with his supreme champion Aberdeen-Angus heifer Pride Moreta of Thorn (111) and his reserve supreme champion, the cross-bred steer, Bonzo (335).



1980 Smithfield Show - The Duke of Norfolk trophy-winning team.



December 1984 - Society President, Mrs Margaret Walker, with the Duke of Norfolk trophy won by the Aberdeen-Angus team at the Royal Smithfield Show.



December 1910- Clasp 2nd of Maisemore. Supreme champion at Smithfield Show.



December 1934- Evergreen 161st of Maisemore. Supreme champion at Smithfield Show.



December 1958 -. Messrs J Sainsbury Ltd's Aberdeen-Angus cross Shorthorn heifer, Diana. Supreme champion at Smithfield Show.



1867- Black Prince, a steer from W M McCombie, Tillyfour, was the first Aberdeen-Angus to win the Smithfield Club championship in 1867.



President of the Royal Smithfield Club, H.R.H. Prince Philip, inspects the 1957 supreme champion, Mr T Mann's Aberdeen-Angus Prospect of Charterhouse Matha and chatting with Miss Kathleen Mann, the 17-year-old daughter of the owner who looked after the animal.

### **Obituaries**

### **WILLIAM BLACKHALL**



A much-loved Deeside farmer and former long-serving Secretary of Banchory Show, William Blackhall, died last January aged 86.

William, Bill or Willie, as he was variously known to his family and many friends, was a pillar of his local community and served as Secretary of the show for 24 years from 1969 until 1993.

His affinity with livestock and the Aberdeen-Angus breed started as a teenager when his favourite pastime was pretending to be an auctioneer and conducting mock auctions of cattle from his father's pedigree Aberdeen-Angus herd.

He worked at home with his father before acquiring the nearby farm of Bogfon, Maryculter, where he worked hard in the early days to improve boggy, stony and heavy land with an extensive programme of drainage and removal of boulders, and continued to farm there throughout his life.

His passion was Border Leicester sheep and he was highly respected as a breeder and judge, supplying rams all over the country to a regular clientele who trusted his judgement to send them rams to suit their purpose. He served on the council for the Border Leicester Sheep Society for many years and judged the breed's national show at Carlisle in 2019.

His interest in the Aberdeen-Angus breed remained throughout his life, although he didn't indulge in pedigree breeding. But it was always Aberdeen-Angus pure and cross store cattle he bought for finishing because of their easy-keep characteristics and the premium price for Aberdeen-Angus beef.

Friends and neighbours bid William farewell at a private funeral in Durris church. He was unmarried and predeceased by brothers lan and Sandy and survived by two brothers, Peter and Kenneth, and 16 nephews and nieces.

### **HENRY DURWARD**

A leading Aberdeen-Angus cattleman in the post-war heyday of the Aberdeen-Angus breed in the 1960s died last February at the age of 80.

Henry Durward, who as a cattleman with the MacRobert Trust's Douneside herd at West Davoch, Tarland, Aberdeenshire, for 28 years, had the distinction of showing the Aberdeen-Angus bull, Essedium of Douneside, which was supreme champion at the Perth bull sales in February 1964. He sold for 54,000gns, still the second highest price for an Aberdeen-Angus bull sold by auction in the UK, for export to Black Watch Farms in New York State, USA.

The Douneside herd was prominent at the summer shows under Henry's stewardship. Successes included the supreme championship at the Royal Highland Show in 1967 with a home-bred heifer, Bamexma of Douneside, and the female championship the following year with the five-year-old cow, Euthera of Douneside.

Sadly, Henry's expertise was lost to the breed when the Douneside herd dispersed in the late 1980s and he joined the Scottish Water Board.

He was highly respected, and his advice was greatly valued. Although quiet and unassuming, he was always willing to share his knowledge of the breed with others, not only young cattlemen coming into the breed but established breeders who always appreciated his advice.

He also, for a time, continued to prepare Aberdeen-Angus and Charolais bulls for show and sale for other breeders and had his own small Charolais herd.

Henry, who latterly lived in Alford, was predeceased by his first wife, Isobel, and is survived by their son, Stephen, and his second wife. Mimmie.

### **IAN MATTHEW**

St Andrews Parish Church, Inverurie, was packed with 350 mourners for the funeral of the well-known stockman and "lad o' pairts", lan Matthew, who died on June 17, only four months after being diagnosed with several brain tumours.

Brought up on the family farm of Flowerybrae, Strichen, Aberdeenshire, he honed his livestock skills in the young farmers' movement, gaining his master craftsman certificate and other qualifications.

lan worked on the farm on leaving school and had a parttime job with Aberdeen and Northern Marts at Maud and Aberdeen marts.

But in 1980, he decided to leave the farm to concentrate on his passion for bringing out show cattle, working with Neil Barclay's Charolais herd at Harestone, Banchory.

The move to Inverurie came in 2001 when he decided to concentrate on becoming a freelance stockman, working for many pedigree herds regularly, most notably Hamish and Margaret Sclater's Deveron Aberdeen-Angus herd at Denhead of Dunlugas, Turriff.

Despite adversity to travel, he became known as the "Flying Stockman" when Susan and Henry Widdicombe invited him to prepare the bulls from their Starline Simmental herd near Exeter for the Stirling bull sales after Henry was injured.

He also travelled to Orkney to help the late John Hepburn and his daughter, Phyllis Harcus, to show cattle from their Aberdeen-Angus herds at the Orkney summer shows.

He had a particular skill in making halters and was latterly selling more than 400 halters a year to livestock exhibitors all over the country.

He was an active member of the North East Aberdeen-Angus Club and played a leading part in the club's junior showmanship activities.

lan was a family man devoted to Brenda, their two daughters, Shona and Ann, and their grandchildren, Scott and Gillian.

### WILLIE MCLAREN



The Aberdeen-Angus breed lost one of its great stalwarts last May with the death of Willie McLaren. He was one of the leading breeders of his generation and twice President of the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society during a career in the breed, which took him all over the world.

He came to be known as "Mr Aberdeen-Angus" for his unstinting efforts throughout his 89 years to champion and promote the Aberdeen-Angus breed.

The Netherton herd, now run by his son, William, also a former President of the Society, is one of the most prominent in the breed, with a string of championship successes and top prices to its credit over the years.

Little wonder that Willie was the worthy recipient of the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society's annual Sir William Young Award in 2011 for his outstanding contribution to livestock breeding in Scotland, and is one of only two living Scots of 150 listed in the Angus Hall of Fame in the USA.

Over the years, Willie judged at all the major shows in the UK and Ireland and has been the Society's ambassador at every World Angus Forum for the last 50 years.

Willie and his wife, Cathie, enjoyed 64 years of marriage, raising their family of two daughters, Margaret and Kay, and two sons, Duncan and William, and in more recent years, greatly enjoying the company of their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Willie fitted a lot into his busy life and was working almost right to the end, completing a fascinating pictorial history of the Aberdeen-Angus breed shortly before his death, just a few weeks short of his 90th birthday.

### ROLEY FRASER



The acknowledged doyen of Scottish auctioneers in the boom days of the export trade in Aberdeen-Angus and Beef Shorthorn bulls to North and South America, Rowland (Roley) L Fraser, died at the age of 91 last autumn.

Roley was a descendant of J M Fraser, who, with a Mr Macdonald, founded the Perth auction firm of Macdonald Fraser in 1876. This grew to become the leading auctioneers of pedigree cattle in Scotland.

Roley joined the family firm in the 1950s and succeeded in the early 1960s following the retirement of his father, Lovat Fraser, and his uncle, Harry Fraser.

He had an innovative and entrepreneurial spirit and went on to forge relationships with other auction companies, such as Speedie Brothers and Livestock Marts in Stirling and Corson's of Oban, to create what became United Auctions (UA).

Roley also expanded the company's activities to include property and insurance broking. McDonald Fraser, for many years, acted as the official auctioneer to the Royal Smithfield Show in London.

A significant move in 1990 saw the opening of a new mart on the outskirts of Perth.

Mr Fraser was predeceased by his wife, and daughter, Sarah-Jane, and is survived by his daughter, Nina, her husband, Walter Alexander, and two sons, Mark and Simon.

### JOHN HEPBURN

John Hepburn, a life-long enthusiast for the Aberdeen-Angus breed, who maintained a small Aberdeen-Angus herd on his farm of Burnside, Tankerness, Orkney, died at the age of 89.

John always had a hankering for the Aberdeen-Angus breed and bought his first heifer calf, Barbara Maid of Caldale, for £875 from the late John Scott in 1965. Just two years before, the family moved from Newbot on the island of Shapinsay to the 32 ha (80-acre) farm of Burnside, where he built up a herd of 24 cows, half of which were pure-bred Aberdeen-Angus registered under the Newlot prefix.

Much later, one of the famous Juana Erica family, Newhouse Jewel Erica 139th, by Moore Park Romulus, was purchased at Perth from Newhouse for 1,700gns, and all the females in the present-day herd are descended from these two females.

The herd was prominent in the showring, with four beef cattle champions to its credit at the Orkney East Mainland Show and numerous breed championships at the Orkney County Show, always with home-bred cattle.

A small herd of cross cows was also maintained and it was a Charolais x Aberdeen-Angus steer sold privately to Harry Emslie, Brae of Coynach, Mintlaw, for £500 which gave John his greatest success- winning the Royal Smithfield Show championship in London for Mr Emslie that year and selling for a record price of £8,000.

In recent years, the herd has been run by his daughter, Phyllis, who also has her Burnside herd, along with her husband, Angus Harcus.

John was predeceased by his wife, Claire, three years ago and is survived by Phyllis and Angus.



### Fees and Charges (UK) - from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2023

Membership subscription (life): f750

Membership subscription (annual):

Junior membership (annual): £15 Herd name copyright fee: £10

Herd book registration - late entries (see Byelaw 6 (b))

Herd book registration - males: Up to 6 months of age and intimated within 60 days £30 if submitted online. £35 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.

Herd book registration - females: Up to 6 months of age and intimated within 60 days £30 if submitted online. £35 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.

Animals registered after 12 months of age will be subject to the following late fee penalties.

Age	Registration fee	Late fee	Total			
1-2 years	£30	£175	£205			
2-3 years	£30	£275	£305			
3-4 years	£30	£375	£405			
4-5 years	£30	£475	£505			

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.

Change of ownership fee for members: £25

Change of ownership fee for non-members: £35

Overseas purchases - registration

Males: £50 Females: £30

Notification of E. T. Flush - (home):  $\mbox{Nil}$ 

Notification of E. T. Flush - (imports):

dditional f

Additional fee for calves got by A.I:

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: £25.00\*

Females: £25.00\*

Semen: £25.00\*

Embryos: £25.00

- Duplicate/amended certificate of pedigree: £5\*
- Extended pedigree certificate: f30\*
- Retrieval and distribution of a dna profile £8.00\* Per profile retrieved
- 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.

ANIMAL	SAMPLE TYPE	TEST	CHARGE
Registered male calf up to 14 months old	TISSUE	50k SNP+Myostatin	Free
Registered female up to first calving	TISSUE	50k SNP+Myostatin	£19.34
Registered female post first calving	TISSUE	50k SNP+Myostatin	£30
Intimated calf	TISSUE	50k SNP+Myostatin	£30
Untested older stock bulls (born before 2020). All stock bulls must be DNA/Myostatin tested	TISSUE	50k SNP+Myostatin	£30

### NOTES

- Tissue samples are preferred any hair sample submitted cannot be stored and testing will be charged at full rate.
- Stock bulls where the sire does not have a SNP profile the calf male calves will only be tested for myostatin and profiled only.
   Where the sire does not have a SNPS profile, male calves will be myostatin tested and run as profile only
- Breeders should check that any stock bulls they are using have been tested on 50K SNPS.
- Lab requests for testing will be sent when the breeder nominates the animal for testing.
- Male animals will be tested for free. Females tested prior to first calving will be charged at cost. Those females that do not have a profile on file by first calving will be charged full rate for the DNA test.
- · Members will get an email with a list of tests requested. Please check junk folders for these emails.
- Members will get another email when the results are uploaded to the database.

www.aberdeen-angus.co.uk

### Scanning provision newly bolstered

he scanning provision for the whole of the UK has been bolstered by the new accreditation of four scanning providers. Barbara Webster of Pedigree Cattle Services oversaw the accreditation process last year between 25-26th October, held with Andrew Laughton, Louth, Lincolnshire.

Fifty cattle will be selected from a bigger pool of candidates, 30 of which will meet the criteria for the variation required for scanning accreditation purposes. The pool of animals will be divided into training and exam animals. Training will be provided on a one-to-one basis by the accredited scanning team of Jim Barbour, Linda McKendrick and Willie Wilson, ably assisted by Barbara.

### **ACCREDITED SCANNERS CONTACTS:**

CONTACT	AREA	CONTACT DETAILS	
NAIRN WYLLIE	West Midlands	07912 011918	njwagri@gmail.com
MAYMILLER	Scotland	07590 199770	maymillarscanning@gmail.com
STUART FRISWELL	Worcestershire	07789 113137	sfscanning@outlook.com
GWION PARRY	Wales	07531 156018	gwionbodgaea@hotmail.co.uk
WILLIAM TAIT	Northern Ireland	07833 968417	burnview@btinternet.com
WILLIE WILSON	Scotland	07740 611545	williewilson4@btinternet.com
GORDON CLARK	Scotland	07850 307687	glclark@gmx.com
JIM BARBOUR	Cheshire	07973 307687	j.barber334@btinternet.com
LINDA MCKENDRICK	Scotland	07803 064452	arnydie77@hotmail.co.uk













### **Strong demand for Angus remains** but threat from Wagyu looms

he demand for pedigree and commercial Aberdeen-Angus cattle shows no abating despite increased numbers coming onto the market through pedigree sales, store cattle sales and on the finished market.

The May 2022 sale in Borderway Mart, Carlisle, saw an exceptional clearance and a solid average at £4,869, up £700 on the year.

Sales of Aberdeen-Angus females have been successful with the inaugural Angus Fever Sale (in conjunction with Dowbiggin Marketing) held in November 2021, setting the pace to average £7,086.75 and selling to a top of 29,000gns for Retties Lady Ruth from James Rettie.

This was followed on the same day by the HW Angus 10th Anniversary Sale, which was met with great interest with HW Blackbird selling with her bull calf at foot for 9,500gns.

October 2022 saw the return of HW Aberdeen-Angus with the Matrons Sale. This provided another wonderful run of naturally reared cattle and was met with great interest. Although it didn't quite hit the heights of the 2021 sale, the averages levelled out at £3,400 for the 59 cows in calf or suckling, with served heifers averaging £2,789.

Online bidding played a huge part in the sale, with several Irish customers, both North and Republic, operating.

The next instalment of Angus Fever is planned to take place on Friday, 21st January 2023, in Carlisle and will once again be conducted in conjunction with Dowbiggin Marketing.

On a commercial note, as the UK's suckler herd continues to come under pressure from increasing input costs and demand for forestry planting, it is clear something needs to change. Unless our new DEFRA Secretary of State,

on the hills, the future of our red meat industry will depend on the supply of beef from the dairy herd.

reintroduces a headage payment to keep suckler cows

This is where the Aberdeen-Angus can further increase its foothold in the market. However, success in this market is not a given. It will require Aberdeen-Angus breeders and the dairy industry to recognise that they must combine to produce the quality of cattle that fits the supermarket specification for carcass weight, grade, and finish. At the same time, they must also tick the boxes for the dairy farmer's management system.

No longer should the dairy farmer be the outlet for cheaper, second-quality Aberdeen-Angus bulls. Instead, bulls with growth, ease of fleshing and good conformation must be selected to secure a premium price for their calves, stirks or store cattle so that an Aberdeen-Angus bull is at the top of the dairy farmers' shopping list.

The new competition in this market comes in the shape of Wagyu, with its short gestation, easy calving and guaranteed price for the calf. With the price of liquid milk at the present level, every day of production and every litre is required to offset increased costs.

Angus breeders must know that Wagyu is a serious threat to their position in the market. They must gear themselves to produce cattle that make Angus the preferred option for the dairy farmer. They must promote the fact that the breed offers more marketing alternatives for both male and female calves, as well as significant demand from most major retailers for what is a world-recognised product. Failure to do this could put their market share at risk.

Scott Donaldson, Managing Director and Auctioneer, Harrison & Hetherington







### **Strong demand for Aberdeen-Angus** at Stirling sales

fter two long years of varying sales formats due to covid restrictions, it was refreshing to fully return to showcasing breeders' livestock in the ring last year.

The Aberdeen-Angus breed kicked off 2022 in style with a tremendous entry at the February Stirling bull sales, with 29 more bulls being sold on the year, resulting in 95 bulls selling to average £6,533 (+£34). This was accompanied by a top call, leading all the breeds, of 38,000gns for the Massie family's Blelack Dean Martin W063, followed by a second top of 30,000gns for Duncanziemere Jacobite W374 from the Clark family.

The May event saw an increased entry of bulls forward, with a demand for stronger bulls ready to go straight to work. This was followed by the much-anticipated dispersal of the Shadwell herd held down at Skipton, which showcased the large demand for top-quality female genetics within the breed with records smashed.

Leading the way was Shadwell Lady Heather P738 and her stunning heifer calf Lady Heather Y292 at 28,000gns. However, the in-calf heifers and maiden heifers stole the show, averaging a record £9,400 and £10,500, respectively. It is always sad to mark the end of an era, with some noted herds dispersing over the last few years. However, it is encouraging to see such investment from breeders when these genetics become available.

So many new members within the Aberdeen-Angus community are developing new herds and coming to the forefront on the show and sale circuits in their own rights.

Last October, the Stirling bull sales attracted a packed catalogue of the finest Aberdeen-Angus bloodlines. The females stole the limelight with three collective sales from the Gordon, Rulesmains and Retties herds. There was a strong demand from start to finish, with a huge crowd. This culminated with a new female record of 40,000gns being achieved for Gordon Pole Star X695 on behalf of the Trustees of the Late Gordon R Brooke.

All in all, there was great confidence within the breed from both the pedigree and commercial markets last year. Breeders invested in quality stock to meet the market demands. As a result, the demand for the Aberdeen-Angus breed looks set to continue.

Raymond Kennedy

## DRUMBURN

EST. 1992



### FIRST PRIZE SENIOR COW & RESERVE CHAMPION, **Royal Ulster Show 2022**

Drumcorn Lady Ida U492 by Blelack Duke J262 with her calf Drumcorn Lady Ida Y923 by Solitude Elite V777

JOHN & ANN

1 Bramblewood, Maghaberry, Moira,
Co. Armagh, Northern Ireland
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### Centre records smashed at opening Stirling sale with 38,000gns top

he 2022 Aberdeen-Angus show and sale season set off with a bang at United Auctions in Stirling on Sunday 6th February, when the centre record was smashed twice and prices hit 38,000gns.

Sale day saw the Logan family's 2010 centre record of 28,000gns for Galawater Bentley H495 broken twice.

Topping the day at 38,000gns was the show's intermediate champion Blelack Dean Martin W063 from the Massie family at Blelack. He is one of the last Blelack animals to sell after the herd dispersed in October 2021.

May 2020 born Dean Martin is a rising star by Kilmaluag Eriskay T203 and by a homebred cow, Blelack Diamond Mist U908. Eriskay also sired several of the top lots in the October sale. He headed to his new home in the Scottish Borders with the Tilson family at Wedderlie.

The second top price also broke the previous centre record with a call of 30,000gns for Duncanziemere Jacobite W374 from the Clark family at Cumnock. Jacobite sold in a two-way split to the Ballindalloch and Idvies herds.

Jacobite had already had a good day in the show ring, coming first in his class and reserve senior champion. Jacobite is an April 2020 son out of the 13,000gns Auchincrieve Exodus U285 and by Duncanziemere Jody P108.

The third top at 16,000gns was Alistair and Graeme Fraser's Idvies Pink Prodigy W979. A May 2020 born son of Thrunton Panther S922 and by Idvies Pink Poppy P648, he sold locally after being bought by Robbie Galloway for his Cardona herd.

Realising another five-figure sum was the Wattie family's Tonley Potter W759. He is a July 2020 born son of Tonley Jester Eric S318, who has bred the family several show winners and from Tonley Princess M866. Potter sold for 13,000gns to Daniel Whiteford for his Borewell herd at Scremerston in the Scottish Borders.

Following this was a lot from Owen Tunney's Morpheus herd with Morpheus Kodiak W068. He realised 12,000gns to Norbreck Genetics. Kodiak is an Al-sired April 2022-born bull by the \$200,000 HF Alcatraz 60F and out of The Moss Krispy Girl N221.

Going for 11,500gns was the show's overall reserve and junior champion, the Wattie's Tonley Alba W781. Alba is an August 2020-born bull by Tonley Royal Legend T474, a Rawburn Elysium son and out of Tonley Annie P025. Alba headed to Devon to join the Luxtons herd on the edge of Dartmoor.

Adding to their already good day, the Clark's saw a second bull make a five-figure call with Duncanziemere Mr Bond W388 going for 11,000gns. Mr Bond is a son of Duncanziemere Miss Belinda S213. Mr Bond heads north to Sutherland to join the Henderson's Culrain herd.

A further two lots reached 10,000gns, the first being Eastfield Black Banjo W508 from Ewan Brewis and the family at Lempitlaw. Black Banjo is a May 2020 son of the family's 2019 25,000gns top price purchase Linton Gilbertines Elgin T149 and out of Eastfield Blackbird K157.

The final five-figure bull at 10,000gns came from the Currie family's Kingholm herd in Dumfries. July 2020 born Kingholm Risotto W296, is the embryo son of Quaker Hill Dead Center and is out of Weeton Rosebud M349.

Averages: £6,533 for 95 bulls, up £34 on 2021.



Duncanziemere Jacobite W374 sold for 30,000gns



Idvies Pink Prodigy W979 sold for 16,000gns



Tonley Potter W759 sold for 13,000gns

### Select trade at May Stirling Bull sale

he 2022 May bull show and sale kicked off at United Auctions in Stirling with the show on Sunday 1st of May followed by the sale on Monday 2nd May. Trade was select but was similar to sales in 2018 and 2019, with a total of 29 bulls selling to a top of 7,000gns.

Topping the sale was Idvies Eustace W947, a March 2020 born bull from the Fraser family's Idvies herd at Forfar. Eustace was first in his class and is bred from the Flower line sire Idvies Ferrari S752. His dam is the 2011 born Idvies Euxele L533, a productive daughter of the 24,000gns Lockerly Legolas. Eustace headed off to his new home in Caithness with the Pottinger's at Greenland Mains.



### Idvies Eustace W947

Second top in the sale at 5,200gns was Saville Bluebird W201 from the Medley family. Bluebird is an April 2020 born bull by Weeton Evolution R447 and out of Blelack Bluebird S664 bought by the Medley's from Blelack in 2016 for 6,300gns. He stood second in his class and headed home with the Brown family of the Drumdow herd in Ayrshire.



### Saville Bluebird W201

Following on at 5,000gns was the champion, Retties Field Marshall W130. A May 2020 born son of Retties JFK M195 a bull that has performed well for the herd, with sons up to 14,000gns. Field Marshall headed to his new home with the Ralston's for their Bankeir herd.



### Retties Field Marshall W130

Also going for 5,000gns was Wrae Brave Bomber W395, a May 2020 born bull from Alexander Norrie. Bomber is by Blelack Lord Heathcliff S835 whose dam Blelack Lady Heather L626 has bred sons to 8,000gns. Bomber is out of Wrae Beautiful Bess J141 and headed to Orkney.



Wrae Brave Bomber W395

The final bull at 5,000gns was reserve champion, Idvies Fairfax W990. Fairfax is an October 2020 born bull sired by Thrunton Panther S922. Panther was bought at the 2018 Stirling February sale by the Frasers for 15,000gns. He has produced a number of high value progeny, including the 2021 October sale female champion. Fairfax headed home with Robert Wallace to Ayrshire.



Idvies Fairfax W990

### Selective but solid trade at October Stirling sale



Keirsbeath Kryptonite X575

rade for the October bulls at United Auctions'
Stirling bull sales was selective but solid.

The pre-sale intermediate and overall show champion, Keirsbeath Kryptonite X575 was one of two bulls to reach 10.000 gns

Consigned by Fife breeder Caroline Orr, Kryptonite, which is sired by Linton Gilbertines President and out of a Loganbar Davieboy dam was purchased by Vaughan Farms, Kingsland, Leominster

The second bull to reach 10,000gns was Drumhill Minor Pro X306, consigned by Jonathan and Lisa Doyle from Cookstown, Northern Ireland.

This April 2021-born junior bull had been placed reserve junior champion by the pre-sale judge, lan MacGillivray, Eastfield of Lempitlaw, and will go to work with Gordon Gray of the Ettrick herd, Selkirk.

The Trustees of the late Gordon Brooke sold a second prize Rawburn Luthor son, Gordon Ellanin X639 for 8,200gns to Surrey breeder Jan Boomaars.

Meanwhile, Aberdeenshire breeders Ken and Margaret Howie sold Cairnton Detroit X465 – a third prize bull with an impressive milk EBV of +16 from the same class as the champion – for 8,000qns to Lockerley Estate, Hampshire.



Cairnton Detroit X465

Thereafter, three bulls tipped 7,500gns, the first of which was Mosshall Red Dancer from G and N Taylor, Blackburn, West Lothian

This red coated, March 2021-born son of Mosshall Red Legacy was a first prize winner in one of the two intermediate classes, and had been much fancied, ringside.

The second to reach 7,500gns was one of the winning group of three bred by exhibitor, and reserve senior champion – Drumhill Prime Cut X155. He is a March 2021-born embryo transfer calf, by Drumhill Lord Hatfield, also from Jonathan and Lisa Doyle.



### **Drumhill Prime Cut X155**

The last of the trio at 7,500gns was Lindertis Proud lggy X757, by Rawburn Jingo Eric, from Tom Hopkinson, Kirriemuir, Angus. lggy marked a return to the sale ring for the Lindertis herd, after a considerable spell away.

Meanwhile, Newcastle breeder Alan Lawson, who runs the Hallington herd, had the first of two bulls at 7,000gns. Hallington Principal X732 stood second in his class and was sired by Tonley Kasper U512.

Cumnock breeder Alister Clark sold the second bull at 7,000gns in the form of Duncanziemere Edinburgh X438. He is a May 2021-born junior, which was unplaced in the last class

Lastly, father and daughter duo Andrew and Emma Hodge's Rulesmains Pegasus X489 lived up to its summer show circuit potential, having been placed senior and reserve overall champion, and sold to A Neish for the Rodmead herd in Warminster for 6,500gns.

In total a clearance rate of 55% was achieved and 39 bulls sold to average 5,023gns (£5,274).

### Female breed record smashed at October Stirling sale



Gordon Pole Star X695

new breed record for a female was set when Gordon Pole Star X695 went under the hammer for 40,000gns at the Stirling bull sales in October.

This May 2022-born daughter of Netherallan Peter Pershore E052 boasts some impressive figures, including a +21 milk score.

She sold having been shown at the Great Yorkshire Show, where she stood junior champion.

Put forward by the Trustees of the Late Gordon Brooke in Earlston, Berwickshire, she sold to Cheshire breeder Ken Hodge for his Greenarch herd.

The second top price for females of 15,000gns was also paid for an entry from the Gordon herd – Gordon Black Cherry X638.

An April 2021-born daughter of Rawburn Luthor T495, she had a successful show career during the summer with various wins including the interbreed championship at the Border Union Show. She sold to R Mawer and E Benge, Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire.

In total, the Gordon herd sold 26 heifers to average £5,604.

### **RULESMAINS**



Rulesmains Pegasus X489

Meanwhile, Andrew and Emma Hodge sold 26 lots in a reduction sale from their Rulesmains herd, which is based near Duns in Berwickshire.

Trade was brisk in the sale, which comprised 16 cows with spring-born calves and 10 maiden heifers – and good units were in demand selling to a top of 6,000gns.

The best at 6,000gns was Rulesmains Kelly X541 – an April 2021-born heifer by the prolific herd sire, Blelack Lord Heartford T879, who has been influential at Rulesmains. Kelly's dam goes back to the Kinannie line, which is breeding well for Andrew and Emma.

This heifer was purchased by Ben Marsden for his herd based near Clitheroe, Lancashire.

Best of the cows and calves was Rulesmains Princess W387, at 5,200gns. This was a first calver also by Blelack Lord Heartford, who was sold with her heifer calf at foot, and back in-calf to Rawburn Ellington W168.

In total, 26 lots from Rulesmains averaged £2,627 – 16 cows and calves averaged £2,819 and 10 heifers averaged £2,230.

### **RETTIES**

Perthshire breeders Richard and Carol Rettie held a major reduction of their Retties herd to fund the purchase of their own holding.

The offering consisted of 36 lots, comprising 22 cows – most with calves at foot – and 14 heifers.

Trade was good, with the best cow and calf outfit selling to 7,800gns for a 2017-born Billinge Magic Jack Eric daughter and her February born-heifer calf by Retties Lark Royal. The cow sold for 2,800gns to Messrs King for the Langstilly herd in Renfrewshire, while the calf made 5,000gns selling to Brailes Livestock in Gloucestershire.

Second top price among the cow and calf outfits was Retties Pam P286, also selling with a heifer calf at foot by Brailes Fabulous, at 7,500gns.

Best among the heifers was Retties Frances X187, realising 7,500gns. Frances was also a Billinge Magic Jack Eric M176 daughter, whose dam line goes back to the Netherton Frances line.

In total, 36 Retties lots averaged £3,892 – this included 22 cows averaging £3,968 and 14 heifers averaging £3,771.

### BALHELVIE

Four cows with calves at foot made up the draft of females from the Fife-based Balhelvie herd.

The best of this consignment was Balhelvie Jannette Erica U403, who sold with her March-born heifer calf at foot. Jannette Erica is a third calver, sired by Netherton Brave, and sold at 4,000gns for the unit.

In all, the four lots averaged £2,450.



### Strong trade and 9,000gns top at Carlisle's Spring sale

he 2022 Carlisle May Bull Sale realised a high of 9,000gns and saw an 86% clearance with 51 Aberdeen-Angus bulls finding new homes to an average of £4,869.12- up £497 on 2021.

The sale topper was the day's champion, Wensleydale Just Eric X053. This March 2021 born bull from Christopher Timm is by Blelack Ensign L796 and out of Wensleydale Janet Erica S046. He headed to his new home with Daniel Whiteford's Borewell herd at Berwick.

The second top in the sale at 7,000gns was McCornick Dakota W728, a May 2020 born bull from the McCornick Family at Newton Stewart. By the homebred sire, Mccornick Evade R168, Dakota stood third in his class. Evade was also sire to McCornick Panther, who sold for 7,200gns at Stirling in May 2020 and to the baby beef champion at Beef Expo in 2021.

Following on at 6,500gns was the reserve overall champion, Stouphill Buster W339, a May 2020 born bull from the Allen family at Stouphill. Buster was first in his class and stood as senior male champion and reserve overall male champion. Buster is a Rawburn Estonian son and out of Stouphill Blossom P102. Buster headed to Essex with Hull and Partners.

Also selling for 6,500gns was Eilean Preacher W186, an August born 2020 born son of Schivas Jason Eric U630 and out of Eilean Princess S094 from the McSporran family at Innerleithen. Preacher stood first in his class and became reserve senior male champion. Preacher headed to the Scottish Borders with AS Hogg and Partners.

The hammer fell for a final time at 6,500gns for Duncanziemere Extra X437. He is a May 2021 born bull by Auchincrieve Exodus U285 bought at Carlisle in May 2019 for 13,000gns. Exodus is also the sire of Duncanziemere Jacobite W374, who sold at Stirling in February 2022 for 30,000gns. Extra joined the Windyedge herd of Robin Dunlop in Ayrshire.

Next up at 6,000gns was Tonley Emmanuel X801, a February 2021 born bull by Tonley Jester Eric S318 and out of Tonley Emiline T469. Emmanuel was not shown due to Mark Wattie of the Tonley herd being the judge. Emmanuel headed to Kelso with Tom Arnott for the Haymount herd.

A second Tonley bull realised 6,000gns, this time being Tonley Bdandie X802, a February-born bull also by Tonley Jester Eric S318 Bdandie is out of Tonley Belle T423 and headed to the Crook Rise herd.

Aberdeen-Angus females also had a good day, with an average of £1,761.19 for the 28 females sold.

The joint leading female price of 3,200gns went firstly to Duncanziemere Ellen Erica X415, a March 2021 heifer by Wedderlie Black Art V000. She stood second in her class and headed to the Yearsley herd of Adrian Johnson.

Also selling for 3,200gns was Rulesmains Egrebe X520, a March 2021 heifer by Duncanziemere Judge R170. Egrebe stood first in her class and headed to Castle Douglas with H and N Armstrong..



Wensleydale Just Eric X053



McCornick Dakota W728



Stouphill Buster W339

### Southern Spring show and sale at Worcester tops at 4,500gns

ast April, the Aberdeen-Angus Society's southern show and sale at Worcester attracted a select, if not large entry, with a cross selection of bulls, cows, calves and heifers.

As always, buyers were discerning in what they chose in the bull section, whilst the pre-show overall champion Warrenho Jet Eric W881 from AE and CR Bishop was unsold.

The third prize winner Glympton Lord Hamish W341 from Glympton Farms Ltd, took pole position in the sale levelling at a creditable 4,500gns.

The long trip south for David Evans, Three Bridges, was not unrewarded when his second prize winner Three Bridges Portman W836, sold to a brisk demand reaching 4,300gns.

A smart third prize winner from P C Stovold and Son Rosemead, Mr Borris W292, found favour from the buying contingent and was knocked down at 3,000gns.

Melview Farming entered a quality female consignment in the sale and achieved a top price in that section when

their notable show cow Oakchurch Duchess R212 sold for 2,800gns. She had a string of wins on her belt, including female champion at the Devon County Show and being a member of the interbreed champion group of three at the Royal Three Counties Show.

The female champion, a red maiden heifer Rosemead Red Jessica W283 from P C Stovold and Son, enjoyed some spirited bidding and was eventually sold at a level 2,000gns.

On the commercial side, auctioneer Clive Roads said the trade for Angus cross steers and heifers remained electric! "Our biweekly sales always contain a strong percentage of Angus cattle from both beef and dairy herds with literally, and no exaggeration, an "army" of strong buyers for finishing units of all sizes. There is simply not enough Angus cattle to meet demand.

"Even in these testing times, the Angus can punch above its weight as an economical producer, leaving margins that would be hard to match," he added.

### Aberdeen-Angus bulls sell to 4,400gns twice at Dungannon

here was a strong demand for pedigree Aberdeen-Angus bulls at the Breed Society's December show and sale in 2021, hosted by Dungannon Farmers' Mart.

Prices reached a ceiling of 4,400gns twice, with auctioneer Trevor Wylie confirming that ten bulls sold to average  $\pm 3,570$  per head – an increase of  $\pm 1,024$  on 2020 when four lots levelled at  $\pm 2,546$ .

First-time exhibitors Andrew and Zara Clarke from Tynan, County Armagh, had a day to remember, clinching the supreme championship award and a joint top bid of 4,400gns. The August 2020 born Tynan Charles W071 TSI 44 SRI 60 was the youngest bull in the catalogue, and is bred from the herd's sole cow, Drumgar Lodge Corona U203 – bought privately in 2019 from neighbouring pedigree breeder Brian Anderson.

Tynan Charles is one of the first sons of the Rawburn Boss Hogg N630 son, Elliot Bravo T452 to sell at auction. Scottish-bred Elliot Bravo is ranked in Breedplan's top one percent of the breed for milk +32, terminal sire index 55 and self-replacing index 80. He was purchased by the Foyle Food Group for its High Genetic Sire Scheme, an initiative aimed at encouraging Aberdeen-Angus Quality Beef Ltd producers to use superior genetics. Semen is available to AAQB members in Northern Ireland.

The pre-sale show was judged by Alwyn Armour from the Woodvale Herd in Dromara, County Down. Tynan Charles was snapped up by James Thompson from Culmore, County Londonderry.

Also on Mr Thompson's shopping list at 4,400gns was the third placed Loughans Moaning W591 TSI 34 SRI 44 bred by former Ulster and Irish rugby ace Rory Best, and his father John, who run a 60-cow herd at Poyntzpass. Born in March 2020, he was sired by the Rawburn Boss Hogg N630 son, Rawburn Jagger Eric R094, and is out of a home-bred dam by Prospect Lord Jake M412. This bull won the junior and reserve male championships at Balmoral Show in September, and was placed third in his class at the Dungannon sale.

The father and son team of Neville and Ivan Forsythe, Moneymore, sold three bulls from their long-established Coltrim prefix to average £3,675 each. Leading the Coltrim offering at 3,700gns was the reserve supreme champion Coltrim Ellipse W272 TSI 39 SRI 46. Sired by former stock bull Schivas Captain Black U656, this March 2020 born entry was bred from the Curragh David J513 daughter, Coltrim Evana N625 – one of 32 cows in the herd, awarded third place in the large herd section of the NI Club's annual competition. Coltrim Ellipse W272 was Bull Calf of the Year in the 2020 herd competition, and sold to Alan Watson from Cookstown.

Next best at 3,600gns was the fourth placed Island Farm Faro W611 bred by Cookstown herd owner Kevin McOscar, who sold three bulls to average £3,010 each. Born in January 2020, Faro was sired by Rawburn Bannockburn T628, and is bred from the privately purchased Rawburn Felicia T496 – one of 30 cows in the County Tyrone-based herd. Ranked in the breed's top one percent for terminal sire index 57, and self-replacing index 71, he was bought by Harry Wilson from Victoria Bridge, Strabane.



Supreme champion and joint sale leader at 4,400gns was the sixteen-month-old Tynan Charles W071 bred by Andrew and Zara Clarke.



Leading the Neville and Ivan Forsythe's Coltrim offering at 3,700gns was Coltrim Ellipse W272.



Andrew Hamill exhibited the third placed Loughans Moaning W591 sold at 4,400gns for Rory and John Best, Poyntzpass.



Nigel Fields exhibited the fourth prize Island Farm Farop W611 sold by Kevin McOscar, Cookstown, for 3,600gns.

### Woodvale bull tops Dungannon Aberdeen-Angus trade at 4,200gns

here was a steady trade for Aberdeen-Angus bulls and females at the Society's February show and sale, held at Dungannon Farmers' Mart last year.

Prices peaked at 4,200gns and 4,000gns, with auctioneer Stephen Redmond confirming a 90% clearance and 11 bulls selling to level at £3,485. Heifers sold to a top of 2,750gns, and six sold to average £1,951.

Topping the trade at 4,200gns was the reserve male champion Woodvale Trigger W797 TSI+36 SRI+49 bred by Alwyn and Carol Armour and Sons, Dromara, County Down. Born in August 2020 he was sired by Keirsbeath Karma S538, and is the first son bred from the Oak Moor Mr Paul S311 daughter, Woodvale Tidy Bee U311. Highest bidder was Henry Reid from Omagh, County Tyrone.



Topping the trade at 4,200gns was the reserve male champion Woodvale Trigger W797 TSI+36 SRI+49 bred by Alwyn and Carol Armour and Sons, Dromara, County Down

Second highest price of the day at 4,000gns was paid to the Matchett family – Nigel, Gail, Sarah and Sam from Portadown, who sold three bulls from their noted Birches herd to average £3,500 each.

Selling at 4,000gns to Geoffrey Hawthorne, Armagh, County Armagh, was the first placed Birches Lord Hudson W255 TSI+34 SRI+47. This April 2020 entry is a son of the herd's former stock bull Cheeklaw Emlyn P480 – All-Ireland champion, and reserve Balmoral champion in 2017; while his dam is the home-bred Carrigroe Fred daughter Birches Lady Hilda T452.

Cheeklaw Emlyn P480 was also behind the breeding of the Matchett family's second placed Birches Lord Horace W277 TSI+34 SRI+48. This one was bred from the Carrigroe Fred daughter Birches Lady Hilda S194. Born in May 2020, he came under the hammer at 3,600gns, selling to SJ Orr from Downpatrick, County Down.

James Porter, Gillhall Estate, Dromore, County Down, sold four bulls from his noted Old Glenort prefix to average £3.334 each.

Leading his line-up at 3,900gns was the first prize winning Old Glenort Electric W324 TSI+27 SRI+38. This March 2020 bull was sired by the home-bred Old Glenort Ethan S246 – a son of 14,000gns herd sire The Moss Quebec K027. His dam is the Netherton Kentucky daughter, Schivas Ermiss T520. Buyer was dairy herd owner Robert Anderson from Dungannon.

The third placed Old Glenort Edmonton W265 TSI+30 SRI+36 sold for 3,500gns to Messrs M and B Stephens, Carryduff. This March 2020 entry was sired by the 2017 Balmoral supreme breed champion Carlhurlie Epic P021, and is out of a home-bred dam by Cardona Jewel Eric M826.

County Monaghan judge Cathal Flynn awarded the male championship ribbons to the June 2020 Home Farm Edge W507 bred by Fintan Keown, Belleek, County Fermanagh. Sired by Westellen Diego M734, he is out of Home Farm Ebony Stunner S087 – a daughter of the three times All-Ireland Aberdeen-Angus champion Rosemead Karona J957.

The champion was snapped up by Patrick Quinn from Kircubbin, County Down, for 3,500gns.



Home Farm Edge W507 bred by Fintan Keown, Belleek, County Fermanagh took the champion title and sold for 3,500gns

Leading the female offering at 2,750gns was the second placed Richhill Missie W827 bred by Robin Lamb and Sons, Richhill, County Armagh. This fourteen-month-old heifer was sired by the 40-cow herd's former stock bull Weeton King Lear, and is out of a home-bred dam by Aynho Rossiter Eric B125. Buyer was pedigree breeder Frank Morrison, owner of the Cluntagh herd based at Crossgar, County Down

Next best at 2,100gns was the Lamb family's May 2020 Richhil Ellen Erica W746. She was sired by the home-bred TC Freedom 104 son, Richhill Bailiff U895, and is out of Richhill Ellen Erica U987 – a daughter of Weeton King Lear R452, second placed stock bull in the NI Aberdeen-Angus Club's 2019 herd competition. This one sold to Messrs Patton from Kinawley, Enniskillen, County Fermanagh.

### **Drumhill leads Aberdeen-Angus** trade at 5,100gns and 5,000gns

ommercial suckler producers and dairy farmers were out in force to secure stock bulls at the native breeds show and sale, held at Dungannon Farmers' Mart last April.

There was a steady demand with Aberdeen-Angus bulls reaching heights of 5,100gns and 5,000gns. Following a complete clearance auctioneer Trevor Wylie confirmed that 11 bulls came under the hammer to average £3,847 each an increase of £400 on the 2021 sale.

Topping the trade at 5,100gns was the male champion Drumhill Junior Eric W993 TSI+40 SRI+43 bred by Jonathan and Lisa Doyle, Cookstown. Born in June 2020, he was sired by the home-bred Nightingale Proud Jake G405 son, Drumhill Lord Hatfield R532 ET - 11,000gns intermediate and supreme Stirling champion in October 2016.

His dam is the Rawburn Lord Ross C216 daughter, Rawburn Joyful Erica H772, one of the herd's foundation females and still going strong at fourteen-years of age. The male champion attracted numerous admirers and bidders, and was sold to Messrs DJ and JS Hatrick from Londonderry.

Drumhill Lord Hatfield R532 ET was also behind the breeding of the reserve male champion Island Farm Blackboy W751 TSI+43 SRI+50, bred by Kevin McOscar from Cookstown. This July 2020 entry was bred from the Tonley Jose Enrique N957 daughter, Blelack Blackbird S830, and sold for 4,400gns to Ivan Swaile from Rock, Dungannon.



Nigel Fields exhibited the reserve male champion Island Farm Blackboy W751 bred by Kevin McOscar, Cookstown. He sold for 4,400gns.

Jonathan and Lisa Doyle also secured a bid of 5,000gns for the third placed Drumhill Quintin W026 TSI+44 SRI+54. Another by the home-bred Drumhill Lord Hatfield R532 ET, he was born in June 2020 and is bred from Nightingale Queen Lois N699 - one of 50 cows in the herd. Buyer was Gary Young from Castlederg.

Kevin McOscar sold the fourth placed Island Farm Mattie W725 TSI+40 SRI+55 for 3,800gns. Born in April 2020, he was bred from the Abberton Eminem M285 daughter, Goulding Missie S810. This one was snapped up by Bill Henry from Cookstown.

The February 2021 Home Farm Lord Harley X592 sold at 3,900gns for Fintan Keown from Belleek. Sired by Intelagri Matteo, his dam is the Relaghan Noel daughter, Home Farm Lady Helena U286 - one of 10 pedigree and 25 commercial cows at the County Fermanagh-based farm. This second prize bull was a heifer's calf and sold to dairy farmer James Arthur from Templepatrick.

The Matchett family's noted Birches prefix sold three bulls to average £3,115 each. Leading their line-up at 3,500gns was the first bull into the sale ring, Birches Lord Jackpot W163 TSI+25 SRI+30. Born in April 2020 he is by the herd's former stock bull, Carrigroe Fred, and is out of the Bunlahy Philip K248 daughter, Birches Lady Jenny N317. Buyer was dairy herd owner Robert Anderson from Dungannon.

Samantha Allen, and nephew Allen Shortt, sold the first placed Crew Lord Henry X065 TSI+29 SRI+31 for 3,300 gns. This January 2021 entry was sired by Rawburn Lord Ross C216, and is out of the Wedderlie Blackbox J935 daughter, Mogeely Lady Hazel M224.

The female champion was the yearling heifer Minran Missie X267 bred by Gordon and Rachel Elliott from Derrygonnelly. Sired by Rawburn Black Bush S420, she is bred from Goulding P Missie 902, and sold for 1,200 gns to T Trouton from Dungannon.

Frank Moore, Newtownabbey, sold the four-year-old cow Crieve Bronagh's Bonnie U685 for 3,000gns. This second calver was sired by Carlhurlie Forthex S129, and is out of a home-bred dam by Old Glenort Evolution L295. Included in the price was her February-born bull calf by Crieve Desperate Dan V711. Buyer was S Moore from Derrynoose, County Armagh.

(f) (9) (0)



### Why Aberdeen-Angus is fit for the future



Number 1 - The number 1 breed and brand in the red meat sector, spear-headed by leaders at the forefront of the industry



**Versatility** - The traits available with Aberdeen-Angus genetics are a great fit for all suckler and dairy herds. The cattle are adaptable to suit your farm business



Strong demand - Aberdeen-Angus cattle command a premium price. This is not going to change as the breed's demand continues to grow



Money well-spent - Aberdeen-Angus allows for a mediumsized cow with a high weaning percentage, meaning more kilograms weaned for every pound spent



High growth rates - A perfect blend of production, quality and fertility paired with unrivalled growth rates



Hardiness and efficiency -The breed is adaptable to any

environment, converting low cost grassland to a very high quality end product



Meeting market requirements

- There is no other breed in such demand that is as easily finished at the correct weight



Longevity - Good longevity ensuring optimal payback on your investment



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**Great maternal traits - Easy** calving, calf vigour and milk yield. Aberdeen-Angus cows possess unbeatable maternal attributes



Futureproofing your operations -A breed society that works as hard as you do to produce beef fit for the

### **Females dominate the Summer National at Norfolk**

berdeen-Angus breeders from across the country flocked to the Royal Norfolk Show in June for the breed's Summer National Show.

The fixture was judged by Brian Clark, from the Ayrshirebased Duncanziemere herd, who awarded the top titles

The overall and female champion was three-year-old cow Tonley Lady Heather V591 from Aberdeenshire breeders Neil and Mark Wattie.

By Blelack Evermore J231, and out of Blelack Lady Heather N202, she was shown with her Februaryborn heifer calf, which is sired by the 12,000gns Duncanziemere Jetstream.

The reserve overall champion title went to the reserve female champion - Weeton Blackbird V519 from Brailes Livestock, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire.

This three-year-old cow is by Rawburn Boss Hogg N630, and out of Blelack Blackbird T853. She was shown with her February-born bull calf at foot.

Meanwhile, the male champion prize was awarded to March 2019-born bull Glympton Riley V261. By Shadwell Earl P773, he was put forward by Glympton Farms Ltd, Woodstock, Oxfordshire.

The reserve male champion title went to February 2021-born bull Rulesmains Pegasus X489, by Carruthers Gilbert S977, from Andrew Hodge, Duns, Berwickshire.

Other special prizes awarded included the junior champion and yearling female champion titles to Blelack Princess Carina X125 from Mike and Melanie Alford, Cullompton, Devon. She is a May 2021-born daughter of Kilmaluag Eriskay T203, and was purchased for 30,000 gns at the Blelack dispersal sale in 2021.

The reserve junior champion prize went to Rulesmains Elegent X527 – a March 2021-born daughter of Blelack Lord Heartford T879 – from Andrew Hodge. She also took home the reserve yearling female champion award.

The calf champion prize went to the heifer calf champion - Tonley Lady Heather Y927 from Neil and Mark Wattie. She is the February-born heifer calf of the overall champion.

The reserve calf champion award went to the bull calf champion - Brailes Black Bruce Y233 from Brailes Livestock. This is the February-born son of the reserve overall champion, and he is sired by Brailes Fabulous U023.

The reserve heifer calf champion was awarded to Rosemead Jessica Y448 from Messrs P C Stovold & Son. Godalming, Surrey. She is a February-born daughter of Bosullow Porthtowan V488.

Bull born on or before 31 December 2019

Female born on, or before, 31 December 2018, and due to calve in 2022

Female born in 2020 with first natural calf at foot

Heifer born between 1 January and 31 March 2021

Heifer born between 1 April and 31 July 2021

Heifer calf born between 1 August and 31 December 2021

### **Yearsley herd reduction tops** 7,800gns for cow and calf outfit

■he Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society's fifth annual autumn pedigree sale at Skipton Auction Mart in November included a major reduction on behalf of Adrian and Penny Johnson's Yearsley herd, which saw them top the sale at 7,800gns with a cow and calf outfit.

Sold separately and making 5,600gns was the June 2019born Liley Red Designer daughter, Yearsley Royal Lady V355, the last heifer out of their Old Wall Royal Lady H663 dam. She sold in-calf to McCornick Kapaldi to A and J M Taylor of Mosshall, Blackburn. Her March 2022 heifer calf, Royal Lady Y427, also by Kapaldi, followed her mother to the same purchaser at 2,200gns.

The Johnsons have been breeding Angus cattle at Clarence House Farm since 1987. Next in the money for the family was a pair of sisters from the Eston Anne family, which both made 4,000gns. First up was Yearsley Eston Anne Y417, a January 2022 daughter of Balmachie Jack Eric, out of a Rawburn Boss Hogg-sired dam, Yearsley Eston Anne T271, who sold to the Ainsworth family in Lancaster.

A second Eston Anne out of the same dam, this time the previous year's calf, the January 2021 McCornick Pathfinder daughter X388, in-calf to Rawburn Bannockburn, sold north of the border to I and A Burgess in New Abbey, Dumfriesshire.

Yearsley Eston Anne T271 was sold earlier in the sale and, at 3,800gns, made her way to John Elliot's Rawburn herd in Kelso.

The Johnsons also sold another cow and calf outfit at 3,600gns when Yearsley Royal Lady U302, a Boss Hogg daughter out of a Haymount Willinger dam, together with her Pathfinder bull calf at foot, went to Richard Gratton in Kirkby Misperton.

Opening the sale for the Johnsons was their March 2020 bull, Kapaldi, bred by Martin McCornick, who farms near Newton Stewart, the son of Rawburn Echester purposely acquired for his easy calving. He sold for 3,000gns, going to Northern Ireland with M Tighe of Batterstown in Co.

The Johnsons' 47-stong consignment, including calves, sold to an overall average of £2,164.

The fixture also featured the annual production sale on behalf of the local Airedale herd of South Craven father and son breeders David and Josh Isherwood, Lane Bridge Farm, Kildwick.

Topping their consignment at 5,000gns was Airedale Kinannie T539, a September 2017 twice-calved daughter of Weeton Ephos, bred from the same Rawburn prefix family and sold seven months in calf to Weeton Black Brooke to Oakamoor Angus in Haxby, York.

Other Isherwood sales at 2,000gns-plus included one at 2,800gns, this for a fully homebred June 2020 cow and mother of one, Airedale Pastelle V637, sold in-calf to Shadwell Finnigan X262. The Isherwoods, who continue to run Isherwoods Butchers in Kirkgate, Silsden, where Angus meat from their Airedale herd remains everpopular, achieved an average for seven successful sales

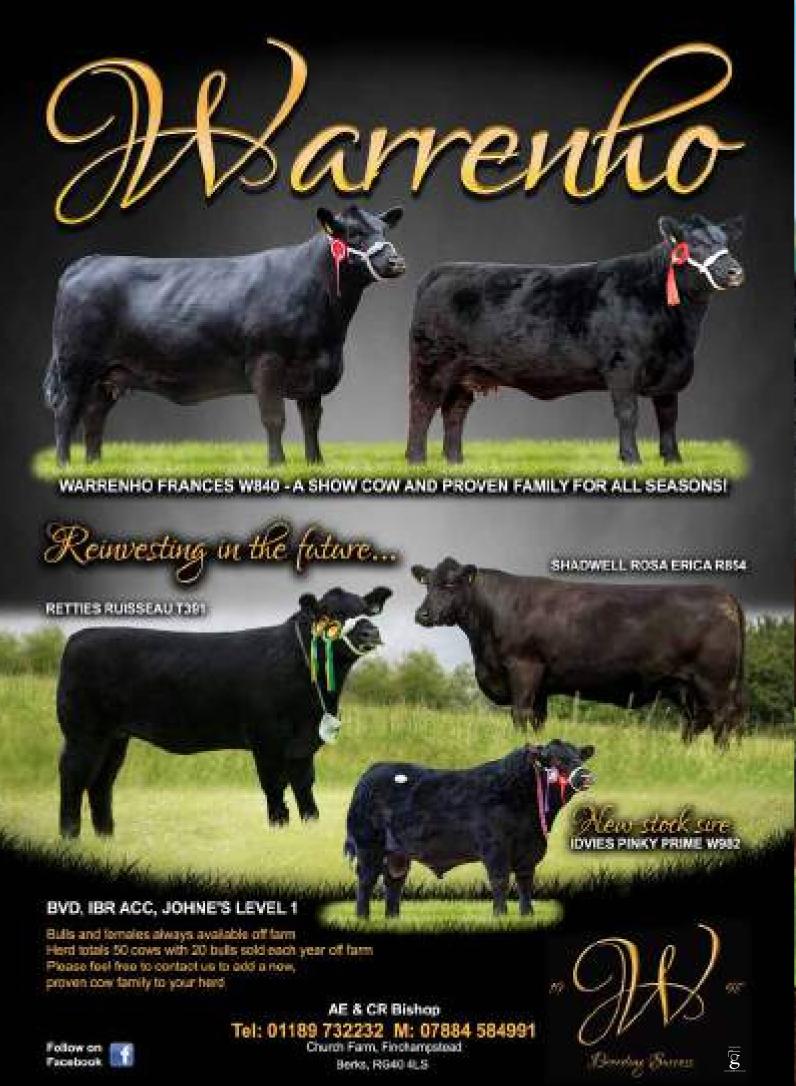
Averages (65-head): Aberdeen-Angus heifers, £1,900; cows in-calf £2,702; cows with calves, £2,703;

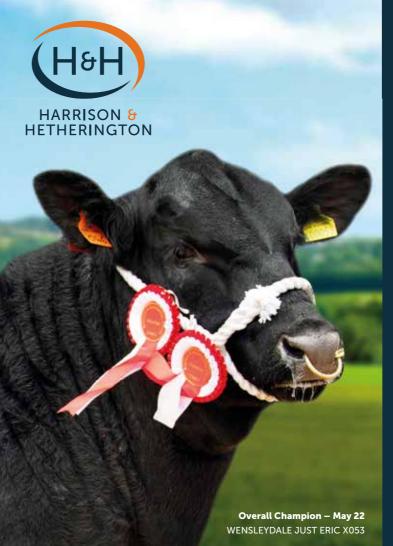


Adrian and Penny Johnson's Yearsley Royal Lady, which claimed top price of 5,600gns at CCM Skipton's annual Aberdeen-Angus breed highlight



The Isherwood family's 5,000gns top price Airedale Kinannie at CCM Skipton's annual Aberdeen-Angus breed highlight





### **ABERDEEN ANGUS**

**SALES 2023** 

Saturday 20th May Spring Show and Sale of Bulls & Females

Friday 29th September Autumn Show and Sale of Bulls & Females

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### **HW Angus Matrons sale tops** at 6,500gns

n in-calf heifer topped the HW Angus Matrons sale when she went under the hammer for 6,500gns.

The special sale of stock from the Dunblane-based herd was held at Harrison & Hetherington's Borderway Mart in Carlisle in October.

Leading the charge at 6,500gns was November 2020-born in-calf heifer, HW Blackbird W248. By HW Evander S051, and out of HW Blackbird R501, she sold in-calf to HW Mr Equilibrium W202 to D & M Lowes & Sons, Barningham, Richmond, North Yorkshire.

Messrs Lowes also paid the next best price of 6,200gns for the last female in the ring - HW Annie X557.

She is a September 2021-born ET daughter of the \$54,000 Millah Murrah Nugget and out of HW Annie R538.

The next best price of 5,000gns was paid three times.

The first at this price - selling to Cheshire breeder Owen Tunney for his Morpheus herd - was six-year-old cow HW Blackcap May S087. She is an ET daughter of the \$285,000 SAV Harvester 0338 and her sons have sold to £5,000.

The next at 5,000gns was five-year-old cow Netherton Blackbird T875, by Rawburn Boss M554. She sold, in-calf to HW Evander S051, to Thor Atkinson Steel Fabrication, Ulverston, Cumbria.

The final lot at 5,000gns sold to DE & RL Rowbotham for their Row herd in Penwernhir, Ceredigion. This was February 2021-born heifer HW Kandy X272, by Rawburn Bannockburn T628, and scanned in-calf to HW Main Event X74.

Thereafter, 4,800gn was paid three times.

This was for: HW Erica Floss U447, and her May-born heifer calf HW Erica Floss Y650, selling to D & M Lowes & Sons; HW Precious Pollot Y633, selling to Shane McKiernan, Cavan, Ireland; and HW Fleur V704, selling to Caroline Orr, Halbeath, Dunfermline.

The averages were: 59 cows served and/or suckling, £3,244.32; 32 served heifers, £2,789.06; one maiden heifer, £2,520; four heifer calves, £2,310; and four bulls, £3,465.

### Greenacres heifer is 'Top Lass' at Aberdeen-Angus calf show

n impressive show with some phenomenal and well-turned-out animals was how Scottish judge Nicola Howie described the NI Aberdeen-Angus Club's annual calf show, held at Dungannon Farmers' Mart last November.

The event attracted more than 70 calf and young handler entries, with strong competition in the young handler classes.

Top place in the junior section went to Jasmine Parke from the Coolermoney herd, Strabane. The intermediate class winner was Joe Mallon from the Swatragh-based Knockoneil herd; while Sam Matchett, Birches herd, Portadown, was the winner of the senior handling class.

Star of the show, winner of the heifer calf championship and the supreme overall title, was the seven-month-old Greenacres Top Lass Y201 ET, bred by new breeders Noel Willis and son Daniel from Portadown.

The father and son team established the Greenacres herd in 2020 with advice from a good friend and fellow pedigree breeder, Brian Anderson (Drumgar Lodge). Foundation females and embryos were purchased from the HW and Netherton herds, owned by William McLaren in Perthshire, and the Mosshall Herd in West Lothian. The Greenacres prefix currently comprises eight black and Red Angus females.

The 2022 calf show winner resulted from an embryo from Netherton Top Lass T879 ET and the Al sire Netherton Americano M703.

Glenbrae Red Miss Kayo Y477 ET, bred by William and Jane Dodd and sons Jamie and Lewis from Saintfield, took the reserve heifer calf and the reserve supreme championship awards. The eight-month-old heifer was sired by Mosshall Red Evolution 353 ET and was out of Gannon Red Miss Kayo S697 - one of 25 females in the herd.

The Parke family's Coolermoney herd dominated the yearling championship line-up.

Coolermoney Ruth X086 was the yearling champion, while her herd mate Coolermoney Eric X145 collected the runnerup plaudits.

Born in March 2021 and sired by Rawburn Jagger Eric R094, Coolermoney Ruth X086 was no stranger to the limelight, having won the overall reserve award at the NI Aberdeen-Angus Club's summer championship at Clogher in July. She was bred from Coolermoney Rachel V913 - one of seven

The July 2021 Coolermoney Eric X145 was sired by Rawburn Black Bush S420 and bred from Cloghogmill Emma R244. The judge described him as a flashy young bull, full of

Tullybryan Lord Jono Y455 scooped up the bull calf championship, a ten-month-old Stouphill Bomber T182 son bred by Fiona Troughton, Ballygawley. His dam, Tullybryan Lady Jonelle S884, is one of 10 breeding females in the herd.

Winning the reserve bull calf championship was the fivemonth-old Home Farm Erne Y802 bred by Fintan Keown, who runs a herd of 10 pedigree and 30 commercial cows at Belleek. A son of Haymount War Smith R578, he is out of Home Farm Ebony Stunner S087.

The award for the champion pair of calves was won by Dartrey Delleric Y162 and Dartrey Diane Erica Y151, bred by NI club chairperson Hylda Mills, Scarva. These March 2022born heifers were by Mosshall Red Junior Eric U911.

The Matchett family claimed the reserve award with Birches Bell Y911 and Birches Lord Jacob Y767.



Heifer calf champion and supreme overall champion Greenacres Top Lass Y201 ET bred by Noel and Daniel Willis, Portadown, and exhibited by Matthew Cochrane. Adding their congratulations are sponsor A J Mills from Alexander Mills, Benburb and Scottish judge Nicola Howie.



Reserve yearling champion was Coolermoney Eric X145 shown

(f) (9) (0)



### The Aberdeen-Angus Advantage

Easy calving reduces the potential for empty days thanks to less interventions





Low birthweight and easy calving means greater calf survival, increasing productivity







Short gestation means more days in production and more milk in the tank







Easy fleshing cattle can be finished from forage reducing expensive concentrates

Up to 25p/kg premium price on offer worth up to £80/head on a 330-kilo carcase



### Memorable day for Ballindalloch team at Black Beauty Bonanza

■he North East Aberdeen-Angus Club's 23rd annual Black Beauty Bonanza sale at Thainstone Centre proved a memorable day for event sponsors, Ballindalloch Home Farms, when they took home a throng of championship titles.

The Ballindalloch herd is owned by Guy Macpherson-Grant and managed by husband-and-wife David and Susan

Leading the way with the yearling heifer championship was Ballindalloch Pam X619, a 21-month-old daughter of Ballindalloch Earl N397, with the reserve yearling bull championship going to the similarly-aged Ballindalloch Mr Punch X628, a son of Varis Punch V133, who is destined for the bull sales at Stirling this February.

Under the watchful eye of the day's judge Alistair Clark of the Duncanziemere herd in Ayrshire, the pair went on to stand reserve for the award for the best pair of home-bred yearlings.

The herd also stood reserve for the heifer calf championship with Ballindalloch Fleur Y662, by Wedderlie Timaru M594, and chalked up another first prize with heifer calf, Ballindalloch Miss Paloma Y658, also by Varis Punch.

The long journey from Fort William proved worthwhile for Ewen Cameron, whose sole entry, the April-born bull calf, Kilmallie Juggernaut Eric Y389, by HF Rebel 53Y, added to earlier show successes last year. This included the

championship at Lochaber Show, male champion and reserve overall at Agri Expo at Carlisle, and junior male and reserve overall junior champion at the Stars of the Future show at Stirling

Yearling bull champion was Tonley King Paco X812, from father-and-son, Neil and Mark Wattie, Mains of Tonley, Alford, who also stood reserve for the yearling heifer championship with Tonley Annie X855. Both are sired by the stock bull, Tonley Jester Eric S318, and together carried off the award for the best pair of home-bred yearlings.

Other first-prize rosette winners included Stephanie Dick, Westeron, Stirling, with Stephick Emlie Y258, by Retties JFK M195. This went on to win the heifer calf championship and the bull calf, Shadwell Fleetwood Mac Y298, by Shadwell Evolution T003, reserve junior champion at the Stars of the

Border breeder John Elliot, through the Trustees of the late Gordon Brooke Estate, took the reserve bull calf championship with Gordon Profit Y814, and with a third prize heifer calf, Gordon Pole Star, Y763, also the award for the reserve best pair of home-bred calves. Both were sired by Cheerbrook Profit V138.

The best pair of home-bred calves came from the Cardona herd at Doune of Scotbeef managing director Robbie Galloway, with Cardona Ermus Y254, and the third prize bull calf, Cardona Jeweliot Y99, both by Stouphill, Mr Peroni.











### Stephick calf dazzles buyers at Black Beauty Bonanza by topping 10,000gns

solid trade was realised at the inaugural Black Beauty Bonanza Elite female sale in November when seven lots sold to average £4,530 and topped at 10,000gns.

The sale was managed by the North East Scotland Aberdeen-Angus Club, Dowbiggin Marketing and ANM Group at Thainstone, and realised a 59% clearance rate.

Sale topper was Stephanie Dick's January-born calf Stephick Emilie Y258, which is sired by Retties JFK and out of Stephick Emilie V563, a daughter of the 14,000gns Weeton Diamond Mine. Emilie Y258 was crowned heifer calf champion in the Black Beauty Bonanza Show earlier that day. She sold south to D Cooke, Blackrod, Bolton, who had travelled up especially to purchase her.

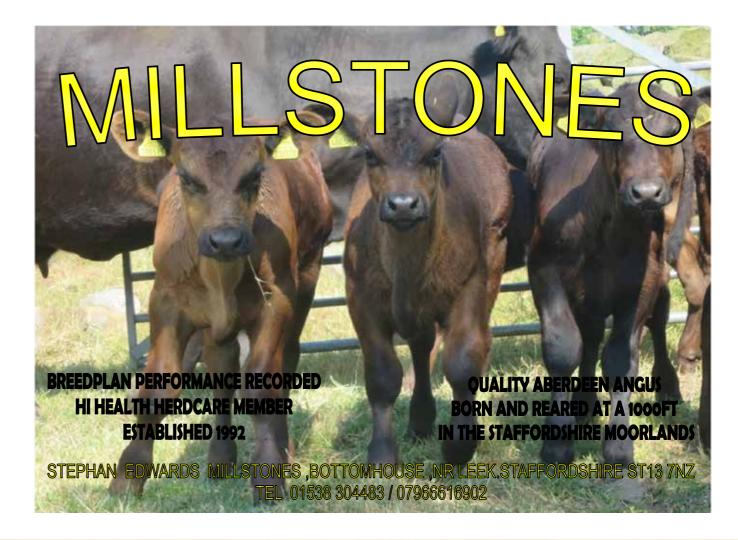
Neil and Mark Wattie, Mains of Tonley, Alford, received 5,200gns for their third prize-winning heifer calf Tonley Ester Y928. This March-born youngster is backed by one of the most prolific cow families at Tonley and is also the daughter of the renowned sire Tonley Jester Eric. Her maternal grandam has produced sons to 13,000gns, 10,000gns and 7,000gns. The buyer was AN Calcott

and Son, the new Aberdeen-Angus breeders at Blelack, Dinnet, near Aboyne.

Hugh and Cara Thomson from the Tynet Aberdeen-Angus herd near Insch, reached 4,000gns for a February-born heifer calf Tynet Duchess Y116. She is the first daughter of Thrunton Poldark to sell from the herd and is out of the famous Duchess cow family. She was placed third in a large class of heifers earlier in the day. She sold to J Elrick, Kiltry Knock, Alvah, Banff.

Two animals reached the 3,000gns mark. First in the money was Neil and Mark Wattie's 29-month-old heifer named Tonley Emily W770. Scanned due to calf in April to Gretnahouse Krack Light W221, she is another by Tonley Jester Eric, out of a Rawburn Edge-sired dam. She sold to Peterhead with A M Henderson, Yonderton, Hatton.

The other at 3,000gns was January-born Mosston Muir Ivy Y431 from Alan Rennie, Guthrie, Forfar, which stood second to the heifer calf champion in her class earlier in the day. Sired by Balmachie Ranald, and out of Mosston Muir Ina, she sold across the water to C McBrien, Enniskillen, Fermanagh, who was buying online.



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### Breed records smashed at awardwinning Shadwell herd dispersal

he complete dispersal of the multi-awardwinning pedigree Shadwell Aberdeen-Angus herd based in Thetford, Norfolk, saw record breed averages for in-calf and maiden heifers and a standalone high of 22,000gns.

Craven Cattle Marts and Stirling-based United Auctions, in conjunction with the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society, joined forces to stage the much-anticipated fixture at Skipton Auction Mart in North Yorkshire. This was purposely chosen for its central UK location, creating widespread interest from Angus breeders nationwide.

The sale comprised predominantly females – proven breeding cows, in-calf and yearling heifers. In addition, many cattle by top-notch Shadwell sires were included in the sale, along with embryos.

Undoubtedly the stars of the sale with a 28,000gns price tag were a herd favourite, Shadwell Lady Heather P738 and her January 2022-born heifer calf, Lady Heather Y292. Heather P738 is a 2014 daughter of Te Mania Berkley B1, out of the Netherallan Peter Pershore EO52bred Lady Heather M572, a full sister to the 25,000gns Blelack Lord Hildalgo and the 16,000gns Blelack Lady Heather G769. The outfit headed home with JM Steele in Duns on the Scottish Borders.

Lady Heather P738 herself made her mark when two of her daughters also went under the hammer at exceptional selling prices. First up and making 11,000gns was Lady Heather W176, a January 2020-born daughter of Haymount War Smith R578. Scanned in-calf to Evolution, she joined online bidder Joe O'Mahoney, in Kilpatrick, County Westmeath, Ireland. He secured 21 successful purchases for Tillingdale ULC, home of the Gigginstown herd of Aberdeen-Angus cattle, which he manages.

However, it was her second daughter, Lady Heather X250, by the prolific Evolution, who really caught the eye. She sold for the day's top call for a standalone entry of 22,000gns when going to Michael and Melanie Alford, Foxhill Farm, Devon.

From another renowned female line and consistent family, Shadwell Blackbird R797, soared to 10,000gns. The 2015-born mother of five is one of the few daughters in the herd by the £40,000 Rawburn Black Hawk L261 (by Lockerley Legolas), out of a home-bred Peter Pershore dam. Scanned in-calf to Evolution, she travelled north of the border to Forfar with A and J Adam.

Her bull calf son, Shadwell Black Magic X281, by Evolution and one of the picks from the 2021 autumn calf crop, was also offered for sale separately, selling for 14,000gns to another Scottish buyer, Aberdeenshire's NA Wattie, the outfit together netting 24,000gns.

Another mother and son outfit, this time from the Evora family, were sold separately, jointly making 20,000gns. The dam, Evora UO55, a four-year-old daughter of Rawburn Fast Ball P844, is out of Evora J443 (by Muirhall Total Deal).

The mother of two scanned in-calf to Evolution fell to a 15,000gns bid from the Isherwood family's local Airedale pedigree Angus herd in Kildwick. Her second calf, an October 2021-born bull, Shadwell Earthquake X288, another well-bred Evolution son, made 5,000gns when going to W and R Dunlop in Lanarkshire.

Outfits from the Blue Belle line were also in ready demand. Hitting 9,000gns was the October 2016-born Idvies Eland daughter, S934, bred out of a Peter Pershore dam. In-calf to Evolution, she joined Porter Farms in Lisburn. Northern Ireland. Her 2021 son, Shadwell Bravado, again by Evolution, sold separately for 8,000gns, going to Ireland with M Irwin, of Omagh, Co Tyrone.

A member of the Shadwell show team, Pam T941, female champion at the Great Yorkshire Show as a yearling heifer in 2018, was also keenly contested at the ringside. By Idvies Eland, she sold with her third calf at foot, the January-born Evolution son, Shadwell Power House, for 14,000gns to Messrs Mawer and Benge in Woodhall Spa.

Averages: Cows in-calf, £6,021; Heifers in-calf, £9,400 (new breed record); Heifer stirks, £4,830; Maiden heifers, £10,500 (new breed record); Cows and calves, £6,253; Bull stirks/calves, £5,378; Stock/senior bulls, £7,350; Intermediate bulls, £2,100,



The day's top price of 28,000 gns went to Shadwell Lady Heather P738 and her January 2022-born heifer calf, Lady Heather Y292



Selling for 22,000gns was Shadwell Lady Heather X250

### **Tonley Lady Heather lands supreme Great Yorkshire Show title**

he long journey south was worthwhile for Aberdeenshire breeders Neil and Mark Wattie when they lifted the breed championship title at the Great Yorkshire Show last July.

The father-and-son duo, who run the Tonley herd near Alford, took the top title with their three-year-old cow Tonley Lady Heather V591 and her February-born heifer calf.

Tonley Lady Heather is by Blelack Evermore J231, and out of Blelack Lady Heather N202. Her heifer calf is sired by the 12,000gns Duncanziemere Jetstream.

The pair impressed the judge, Northumberland breeder Dallas Allen, who runs the Stouphill herd near Alnwick.

Mr Allen awarded his reserve breed championship title to three-year-old cow Weeton Blackbird V519 from Brailes Livestock in Gloucestershire.

She stood second in her class to the champion and is by Rawburn Boss Hogg N630, and out of Blelack Blackbird T853.

### The other main prize-winners were:

Junior champion - Gordon Pole Star X695 (ET) from the Trustees of the late Gordon R Brooke, Earlston.

Reserve junior champion - Rulesmains Elegent X527 from Andrew S Hodge Esq, Duns, Berwickshire.

Female champion - Tonley Lady Heather V591 from Neil A Wattie Esq, Alford, Aberdeenshire.

Reserve female champion - Weeton Blackbird V519 from Brailes Livestock, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire.

Male champion - Glympton Riley V261 from Glympton Farms Ltd, Woodstock, Oxfordshire.

Reserve male champion - Rulesmains Pegasus X489 from Andrew S Hodge Esq, Duns, Berwickshire.



### 'Extra Flash' gives heifer the edge in Angus Championship at **Balmoral show**



Supreme Aberdeen-Angus champion Woodvale Delia X867

flashy heifer bred by the Armour family from Dromara won the junior and supreme overall Aberdeen-Angus championships at the 153rd Balmoral Show last year.

This was the family's second successive Balmoral breed title in eight months, having won the supreme award with junior cow Woodvale Miss Annie U436 at the September 2021 show.

Scottish judge Brian Clark from the noted Duncanziemere herd, based at Cumnock in Ayrshire, tapped out Woodvale Delia X867 from the six contenders in the championship line-up at Balmoral Park.

Bred by Alwyn and Carol Armour and sons Lee, Craig and Adam, this fourteen-month-old heifer was sired by the 15-cow herd's former stock bull Oak Moor Lord Ivanho U419. Her dam, Woodvale Delia T101, was sired by the 24,000gns February 2016 Stirling breed champion Tonley Evor P044.

Aberdeen-Angus Championship Presentation. Pictured L-R Judge, Brian Clark, Adam Armour, Cathy Holmes, John Henning, Hannah Annett, Aberdeen-Angus Society CEO Robert Gilchrist, Marks and Spencer Representative

Alwyn Armour said: "I bought the maternal grandam Carlhurlie Delight N959 for 3,500gns at Carlhurlie dispersal sale at Stirling in 2016. She was in-calf to Evor, and the result was the heifer's dam, Woodvale Delia."

Judge Brian Clark said: "This heifer is very correct and was an easy winner. She is sweet and feminine and has that little bit of extra flash."

Taking the reserve championship title was the four-yearold cow Drumcorn Lady Ida U492 from John and Ann Henning's herd at Moira. She was one of three Drumcornowned first prize winners competing in the championship.

By the Al sire Blelack Duke J262, the reserve champion is out of the home-bred Drumcorn Lady Ida M895. She was shown with her February-born heifer calf at foot. The calf is one of the first progeny from the herd's 4,000gns stock bull Solitude Elite V777 ET, himself a first prize winner at the

First-time exhibitors William and Jane Dodd, and sons Jamie and Lewis, from Saintfield, won the reserve junior and best of opposite sex to the champion awards with the homebred Glenbrae Red Mayerick X164.

This fourteen-month-old bull was sired by Mosshall Red Evolution P353, and is out of the Scottish-bred Gannon Red Mary S654, one of 15 pedigree cows in the herd founded in 2012.

The Dodd family also won the prize for the best pair of Aberdeen-Angus cattle. The winning duo were Glenbrae Red Maverick X164 and Glenbrae Red Prince X083, both March 2021-born sons of Mosshall Red Evolution P353.

Neville and Ivan Forsythe, Moneymore, secured the Thompson's award for the best pair of heifers. The winners were Coltrim Lady Jane X585 and Coltrim Jemma Erica X633, April and May 2021 daughters of Coltrim Javier Eric U911.



Reserve supreme Aberdeen-Angus champion was Drumcorn Lady Ida U492

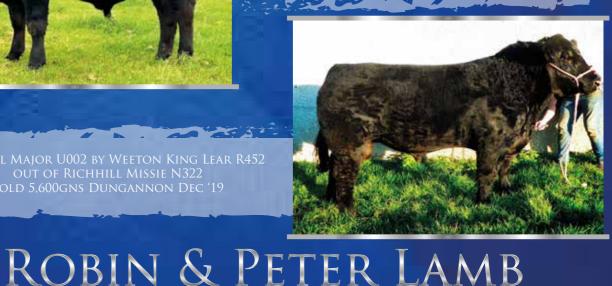


Aberdeen Angus





Richhill Rockafella Y321 Sired by Rulesmaines Knox W359 and by a Rosanna cow



5 TIMES WINNER OF BEST COW FAMILY (ROSANNA) BEST FUTURITY HEIFER (BLACKBIRD) - 2019

Bulls and heifers for sale





### Princess Caroline lands top prize at Winter National

March-born heifer was crowned overall champion at the Aberdeen-Angus Winter National Show at the Borderway Agri Expo in Carlisle last October.

The special winter breed show, sponsored by Scottish meat processor Stoddart's, was judged by Fraser Cormack from Jedburgh in the Scottish Borders.

Mr Cormack awarded his overall championship prize to the overall junior and heifer calf champion – Foxhill Princess Caroline Y167 from Devon breeders Mike and Melanie Alford.

She is a March-born daughter of the 28,000gns Blelack Princess Caroline T867, out of Kilmaluag Eriskay T203.

Meanwhile, the reserve overall champion prize went to the reserve junior champion and bull calf champion.

This was Kilmallie Juggernaut Eric Y389 from Ewen M Campbell Esq, Steall, Fort William. He is an April-born son of HF Rebel 53Y, out of Kilmallie Jury Erica S036.

The senior champion and reserve prizes went to other entries from the Alfords. The champion in this section was the 22,000gns Shadwell Lady Heather X250 – a January 2021-born daughter of Shadwell Evolution T003, out of Shadwell Lady Heather P738.

Reserve went to the 32,000gns Blelack Princess Carina X125, bought as a five-month-old at the Blelack dispersal in October 2021. She is a May 2021-born daughter of Kilmaluag Eriskay T203, out of Blelack Princess Carina U972

The other leading prizes were:

Yearling bull champion – Gordon Pistol Pete X751 (ET) from the Trustees of the Late Gordon R Brooke, Earlston, Berwickshire.

Reserve yearling bull champion – Gordon E Type X640 from the Trustees of the Late Gordon R Brooke.

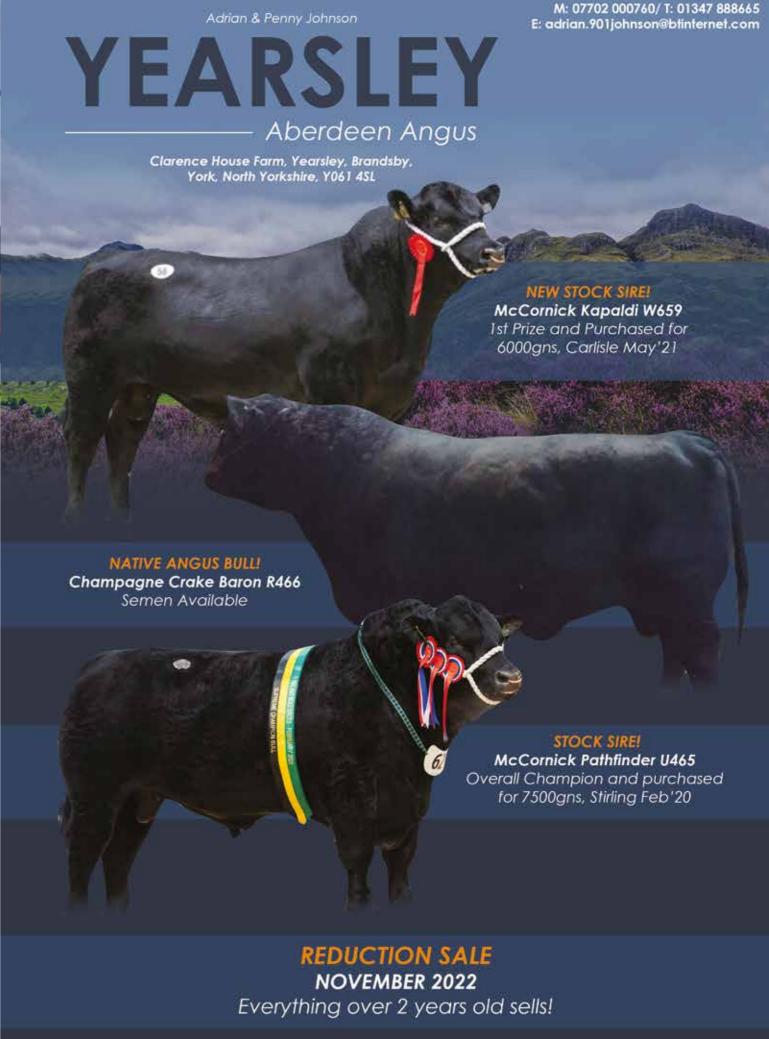
Heifer with calf champion – Warrenho Frances W840 from Messrs A E & C R Bishop, Wokingham, Berkshire.

Yearling heifer champion – Shadwell Lady Heather X250 from Mike and Melanie Alford.

Reserve yearling heifer champion – Blelack Princess Carina X125 from Mike and Melanie Alford.

Reserve bull calf champion – Shadwell Fleetwood Mac Y298 from Stephanie Dick, Stirling.

Reserve heifer calf champion – Dunanziemere Edwina Y460 from A Clark & Sons, Cumnock, Ayrshire.





### Rodmead heifers lead the charge at Devon County Show

emales led the charge taking the Aberdeen-Anguschampion and reserve titles at the Devon CountyShow.

The overall champion award went to Rodmead Priba X026 from Warminster breeder Angus Neish's Rodmead herd.

Priba is a January 2021-born daughter of Blelack Evorats S677, out of Rodmead Pribaby T815. She took the breed championship award after being crowned female champion and best yearling bred by exhibitor.

Her herdmate – Rodmead Ebony X033 – took the reserve overall champion title. She is a February 2021-born daughter of Blelack Evorats S677, out of Rodmead Ebony L636.

Meanwhile, the award for the best group of three went to Somerset breeder Lucy Pulsford, who runs the Wiveliscombe herd. Her winning trio were: Wiveliscombe Delarose R014; Wiveliscombe Distinction of Aurora W027; and Wiveliscombe Donald X033.

Donald also landed the champion male award and prize for the best bull bred in England. The individual class results were as follows:

Cow in-milk, or in-calf, born before 1 January 2020

1st - Wiveliscombe Delarose R014 from Miss L Pulsford

2nd - Wiveliscombe Dame Rosabelle U203 from Miss L Pulsford

Heifer born in 2020

1st – Wiveliscombe Distinction of Aurora W027 from Miss L Pulsford

Heifer born on, or after, 1 January 2021

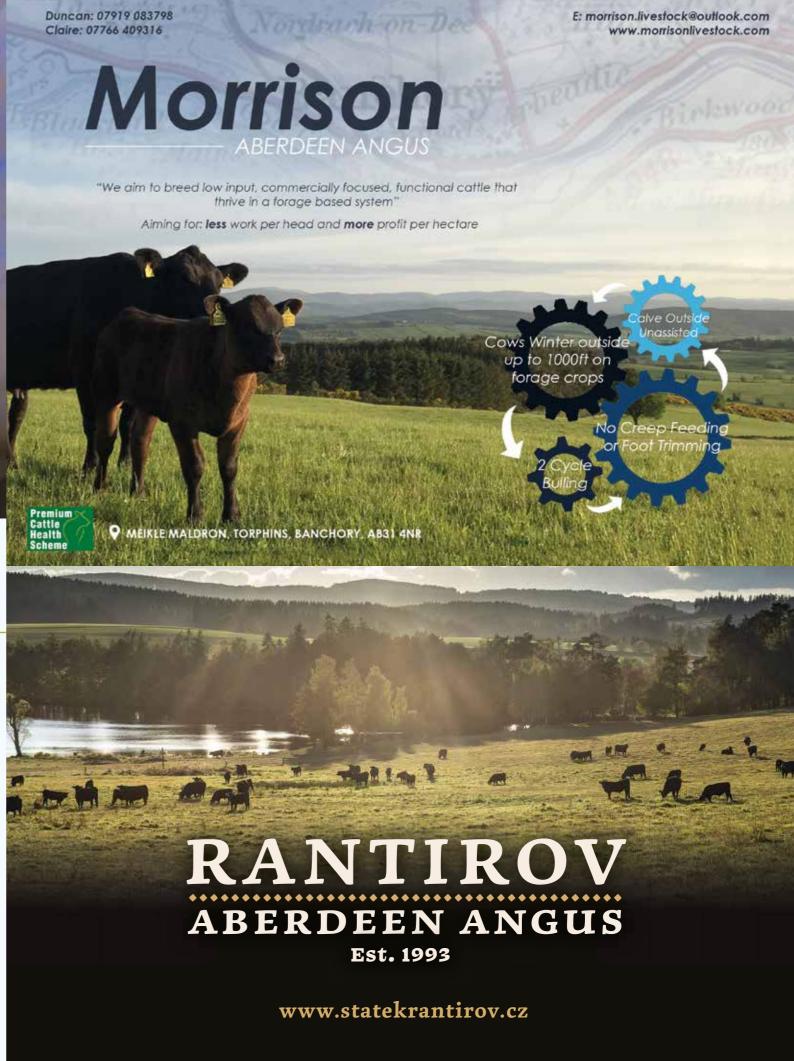
1st - Rodmead Priba X026 from Angus Neish

2nd - Rodmead Ebony X033 from Angus Neish

3rd - Oakmoor Wella from Oakmoor Angus

Bull born on, or after, 1 January 2021

1st - Wiveliscombe Donald X033 from Miss L Pulsford



### Stouphill Quorum takes top honours at 2022 Royal Highland Show

he Allen family of Stouphill had plenty to celebrate at last year's Royal Highland Show. The family swept the boards with overall and female championships with Stouphill Quorum T208 and male champion with Stouphill Murphys Prince W301.

In front of a packed ringside, judge Alistair Cormack drew Quorum out of a great line up of Aberdeen-Angus cattle on the day. Quorum is a November 2017-born cow by Duncanziemere Jigsaw N087, out of Duncanziemere Jody J318.

It was a day for females, with Tonley Lady Heather V591 from the Wattie family taking the reserve champion title. Lady Heather is a January 2019-born cow sired by Blelack Evermore J231, and out of Blelack Lady Heather N202.

Male champion Stouphill Murphys Prince W301 is a March 2020-born bull sired by Logie Defiance T774 and out of Stouphill Marsala Pearl P097. Reserve male champion went to Tonley Ronald X800 from Brailes Livestock. Ronald was purchased as a calf at the Tonley reduction sale in October 2021 for 7,000gns. He is a January 2021born bull sired by Tonley Jester Eric S318, and out of Tonley Rosebud U581.



Overall and female champion Stouphill Quorum T208



Male champion Stouphill Murphys Prince W301

Female, born on or between 1st January and 23rd June 2020 with

### Female, born on or between 1st January and 23rd June 2020

### Female, born on or before 31st December 2018

### Bull, born on or between 1st January and 31st December 2020

### Bull, born on or before 31st December 2019

WD Allen, Stouphill Stouphill Murphys Prince Brailes Livestock, Tonley Ronald X800

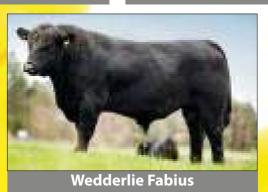








Wedderlie Prince Dime



### AND COWS





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2023 CATALOGUES **AVAILABLE** SOON



### 'Exceptional' red bull claims honours at Aberdeen-Angus Northern Ireland Summer Championship



Judge and President of the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society Angus Stovold with William Dodd and son Jamie with their supreme champion Glenbrae Red Maverick X164

ast year, the Northern Ireland Aberdeen-Angus
Club held its Summer Championship at the 102nd
Clogher Valley Show.

Breed Society President Angus Stovold from the 160-cow Rosemead herd in Surrey judged the annual show, attracting spectators from the UK and Ireland.

Claiming the supreme overall championship was the senior male champion, Glenbrae Red Maverick X164, bred by William, Jane, Jamie and Lewis Dodd from Saintfield, County Down. This sixteen-month-old bull was sired by Mosshall Red Evolution P353, and is out of the Scottishbred Gannon Red Mary S654.

Founded in 2012, the 15-cow Glenbrae herd made its show ring debut at Balmoral last year, with Red Maverick claiming the reserve junior and best of opposite sex to the champion awards. The first-time exhibitors had a super 2022 show season, chalking up a number of accolades, including the breed championships at Saintfield and Antrim shows.

Adrian and Graeme Parke's eight-cow herd, which dates back to 1996, secured the reserve supreme and junior female championships with the home-bred Coolermoney Ruth X086. First time shown, this March 2021-born heifer was sired by Rawburn Jagger Eric R094 and is bred from Coolermoney Rachel V913. Coolermoney won the NI Aberdeen-Angus Club's best small herd award in 2021, with Coolermoney Ruth X086 taking the prize for the best heifer calf.

Claiming the junior male championship was Old Barr Pitter Patter Y493 bred by Caolan McBrien from Enniskillen. Almost five-months-old, this calf is one of five March-born ET calves by Idvies Eric S735, bred from the herd's foundation female Idvies Pinky Promise R709. This calf was crowned Ulster champion at Armagh Show in June.

The second-placed bull calf Coolermoney Lord Harry Y167 from the Parke family secured the reserve junior male championship. Sired by the home-bred Coolermoney Rufus W016, this six-month-old calf was bred from Mogeely Lady Hilda N241.

Neville and Ivan Forsythe's 30-cow Coltrim herd, established 94 years ago, won the reserve junior female championship with Coltrim Lady Jane X585. This fifteenmonth-old is a daughter of the home-bred bull Coltrim layier Fric U911

James Porter's Old Glenort herd, which comprises 60 pedigree cows, won the senior female and reserve senior male championships at the one-day show. His award-winning female was the seven-year-old Cardona Jewel Eric M826 daughter, Old Glenort Edwina R616, shown with her fourth calf at foot, a heifer by Carlhurlie Gentilex S124.

The reserve senior male champion was James Porter's four-year-old stock bull Blelack Dakota U898. Sired by Netherallen Peter Pershore E052, he was supreme champion at Stirling in October 2019.

Fermanagh breeder Fintan Keown took the reserve senior female honours with the two-year-old heifer Home Farm Lady Helen W522. She was sired by Haymount War Smith R578.

Commenting on his champions, Angus said: "The supreme and reserve overall champions are tremendous animals that could compete anywhere. I've attended many shows this year, and I haven't seen a better bull. He is exceptional and caught my eye the minute I saw him. This young red bull is the complete package, oozing breed character, good width and conformation, a great loin, and super legs and feet."





### Bye - Laws (1st November 2022)

- 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 Deoxy Ribonucleic Acid (DNA) profile of the service sire has been lodged with the Society. Furthermore, from 1st January 2019, all pedigree bull calves eligible for entry into the Herd Book must have a DNA sample taken, sent to and received by the Society for sire verification where a valid SNPS profile is available for its sire, and Myostatin tested 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, 50 k SNPs profiled, Myostatin tested, and sire verified where a valid SNP profile is available for its sire. 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 byelaw 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 60 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 60 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 60 days of birth can be registered up to 6 months age from 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 60 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 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
- 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 preputial orifice and up to and including the scrotum).

- 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:

- i. Increased development of the hindquarter, accentuated in appearance by a groove between the major muscles and a rounded ham appearance.
- ii. Thick, open shoulders
- iii. An unusually wide, stretched stance with the front and hind legs extended, generally creating a swayback appearance.
- iv. Lean, trim appearance often with a cylindrical middle and tucked
- v. Fine bone.
- vi. Short tail.
- vii. Small testes.
- viii. 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: Arthrogryposis 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
  - i. 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 Byelaw 10 ©.

If 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.
  - c. 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
  - 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 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 Al and the subsequent sale and use of the collections. For avoidance of doubt the following three categories are recognised by the society.
  - i. 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.
  - ii. 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.
  - iii. 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 byelaws regarding Herd Book Registrations must be complied
- 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.
- c. 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
- 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.
  - c. 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 ear tag 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.
  - c. 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.
- c. 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.
- c. 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, Byelaw 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:-

i. 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 eliqible 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 eartagged 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 subcommittee 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.
- 4. 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.
- 5. 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.

- 6. Prize money will be forfeit on any prize-winning animal which is not sold in the official Pedigree Sale.
- 7. Any Female which has been used as a donor for Ovum Transplant purposes must be declared.
- 8. Any Female which has had a Caesarean operation must be declared.
- 9. Retention of ova must be declared.
- 10. Bull semen retention must be declared.
- 11. 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.
- 12. 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.
- 13. 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.
- 14. All animals entered for Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society Sales must come from herds which are members of a registered CHeCS health scheme and must have been testing for BVD and Johnes Disease for a minimum of 12 months. Sale animals must have an individual pen card that displays all relevant test results and current vaccination status supplied by the CHeCS accredited health scheme provider.
  - a. All animals must be individually blood tested no more than 3 months prior to the sale for BVD antigen unless coming from a herd which has accredited status. Accredited herds do not need individual animal tests.
  - b. All females whether from an accredited herd or not must be vaccinated against BVD to provide cover for the relevant period (ie, the sale date) relating to the type of vaccine. The vaccination date must be submitted to the relevant health scheme provider when the pen card is requested. It is recommended that the herd's vet be consulted on the vaccination of male sale animals.
  - c. Animals testing antigen positive (PI) for BVD will not be accepted for
  - d. All animals must have a risk level for Johnes displayed on the pen card and this must be a minimum level 4.
  - e. The pen card must display the date of the last TB test and the testing interval (or completed as 'TB exempt' where applicable). The box must not be left blank
- 15. The use of drugs is totally banned, as undernoted:
  - a. Preparation for Sale.

Any drug which would affect weight for age, conformation, or growth of hair.

b. 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.

16. 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:-

- a. that the request is made in writing to the Society Office within one calendar month of the date of the Sale.
- b. that the tests are carried out at the Purchaser's expense.
- c. that the sire and dam are alive, and the vendor has access to the parents if they are not in his ownership.

17. 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.

- a. All bulls must have a nose-ring.
- b. Certificates of Pedigree must accompany each entry.

18. 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.
- 4. 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.
- 5. 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.
- 6. 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.
- 7. 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 there-on 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.
- 8. 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.
- 9. 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.
- 10. 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.
- 11. 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.

12.

- 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.
- 13. 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 bye laws, the vendor must state if registration is permissible at the expense of the purchaser.



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- 14. 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)
- 15. 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.
- 16. 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.
- 17. 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.
- 18. 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  $\pm$ 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. GENERA

- 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 Arbiter or Arbiters to be appointed failing agreement between or amongst the parties, by the Auctioneers. The decision of the Arbiters 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.aberdeenangus.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 here under

- (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 subcommittee 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.

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October 2022 Aberdeen-Angus BREEDPLAN																	
Name/ID	Calabo East (III)	Gandy) East DING	Contrator Langua		_	重 回 関 臣	日前日日	_	No.	Size (uni	Carcasa M Drai	Marie Marie Avez Marie	Ent Depth Immo	Harian Heart Vising Chil	曹	Termosi logica	Self Fortancing
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Breed Avo. E8Vs for 2020 Born Calves	-1.1	+0.3	+0.5	+3.2	+47	+72	+89	+83	+12	11.1	+57	44.1	-1.4	112	+0.2	+34	+45

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TE MANIA

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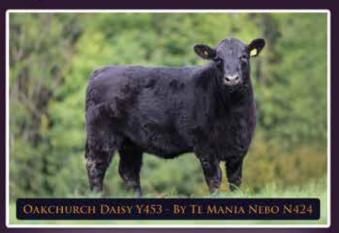
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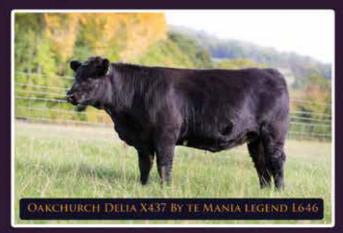


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### **PEDIGREE HOUSE**

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**BREEDPLAN AND PEDIGREE CATTLE SERVICES** 

### **Helena Stewart**

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