



THE  
ABERDEEN-ANGUS  
CATTLE SOCIETY

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# Breeding for a sustainable future

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2016



**Johnny C. Mackey**  
Chief Executive

Welcome to the spring newsletter, which covers the salient points of the Society's work over the past few months and some future plans. I'm writing this fresh from a recent trip to Portugal, where senior vice president Alex Sanger and I have been attending the European Angus Forum. It was a superb event taking in a few herds on the mainland and the Azores with our main objective being to pitch the plans for next year's World Angus Forum to the great and good of several countries throughout Europe and beyond. Everyone we spoke to plans to visit next year, so it's looking really positive.

Balmoral Show was a great show for me to catch up with a few breeders across the water and I'm very much looking forward to continuing to do more of that on my inaugural show circuit this summer. Please don't hesitate to come up and say hello, as I'm still very much at the "putting faces to names" stage.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**23RD JUNE 2016**

Royal Highland Show

**6TH JULY 2016**

Livestock Event, NEC

**12TH JULY 2016**

Summer National Show, Great  
Yorkshire Show

**18TH JULY 2016**

Royal Welsh Show

**14TH AUGUST 2015**

Tullamore Show

**31ST AUGUST 2016**

Society Council meeting, Perth

**4TH SEPTEMBER 2016**

All Ireland Championships,  
Royal Meath Show, Trim

**10TH SEPTEMBER 2016**

Stirling sale, including major  
reduction of the Logie herd



## NEW MATERNAL INDEX TO REPLACE SELF REPLACING INDEX

A new maternal index will be rolled out across Breedplan, following the recent Council meeting decision and recommendation by the technical committee. This replacement index for the self replacing index is specifically aimed at selecting replacement females by putting more emphasis on cow traits.

The index is aimed at an Aberdeen-Angus herd breeding calves being weaned at 7-8 months old and replacement females being selected from within the herd.

The index has a greater emphasis on maternal traits such as calving ease, calving ease of daughters, fertility, milk and cow size, while also considering later carcass traits using a pasture based production system.

This index is also suitable for using Aberdeen-Angus sires over mixed breed cows where replacement females are sourced within the herd and it is desired to place extra emphasis on cow selection.

Breeders should also be strongly encouraged to keep an eye on the Terminal Index at the same time to ensure they not only select a better cow, but also get a calf that will be more profitable.

As with all indices, beef cattle producers should use the index to rank potential replacement animals and then consider the component EBVs of those animals in respect to their own breeding objectives. Selection should also consider non-EBV aspects of the animal such as structure and breed character.



## CHANGES TO THE WARREN TROPHY

In order to help with the admin associated with the Warren Trophy, a slight change in the way points are calculated will mean that 12 shows (which are covered in the Review in the Regional Show Results pages for England and Wales) will be drawn from a hat in the office at the end of the summer show season and points will be collected from those shows. The office staff are finding it's increasingly hard to get full results from all shows for this award so this will make it easier across the board. The Warren Trophy for 2016 will be announced at the Winter National Show, Borderway Agri Expo on the 28th October.

Don't forget to send in show results from Aberdeen-Angus classes for publishing on the Society's website to: [chrisie@aberdeen-angus.co.uk](mailto:chrisie@aberdeen-angus.co.uk)



## COMING SOON..... NEW LOOK WEBSITE FOR IRISH ABERDEEN- ANGUS ASSOCIATION



Work is in progress on a new look website for the Irish Aberdeen-Angus Association. The site, which will follow a similar look to the current Society website, will include up to date news from events, shows and sales across Ireland, specific features on pedigree and commercial breeders, as well as information on stock for sale. The site will hopefully be live later in the summer.

## BLACK BEAUTIES SHINE AT NATIONAL YOUNG STARS

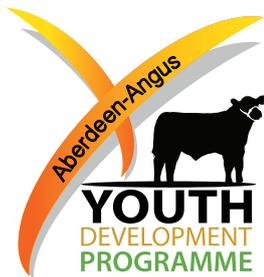
Congratulations to the Black Beauties team who competed at the National Young Stars event in Malvern, Worcestershire in March. The team, which included Mark Wattie, Aberdeenshire, Seonaid McLaren, Perthshire and Gemma Wark, Angus, were kindly supported by H W Angus and Jeremy and Ala Price of the Oakchurch herd and competed in areas such as clipping and presentation, ring craft, stock judging, public speaking, marketing and publicity and gained a credible second place (out of 18 teams from across the UK) in the national competition.



# SIGN UP TO A YDP WORKSHOP TO WIN A PEDIGREE HEIFER FROM THE MOSS

The YDP calendar is packed full of great workshops for the summer and kick started in style at the East of England Showground, Peterborough, earlier in the month with help from the team at the showground and the East Anglia Club. Dates for workshops can be found on the Society's website on the YDP section and anyone interested in taking part in a workshop should contact YDP co-ordinator [Gayle Bersey](mailto:Gayle Bersey); Tel: 07792 777889; Email: [gayle@bersey.fslife.co.uk](mailto:gayle@bersey.fslife.co.uk)

Those who take part in a workshop will automatically be entered in to a prize draw to win a pedigree heifer, kindly donated by Kevin Moores of The Moss herd.



The heifer, The Moss Felucca R323, is an April 2015-born Scholland Wizzard K459 daughter out of The Moss Felicia L052, a female sold to the Rawburn herd of Messrs John Elliot for 7500gns. This is a great opportunity not to be missed for anyone aged 8-24 keen on establishing a herd or adding to a current one.

## NEW PUBLICITY MATERIAL LAUNCHED

Keep an eye out at shows and events in 2016 for the new look publicity material.

The Society's communications manager Chrissie Long is always on the look out for commercial feature leads, so if you know of anyone who would make a good feature for any of our publications let her know by emailing [chrissie@aberdeen-angus.co.uk](mailto:chrissie@aberdeen-angus.co.uk) or calling 07495 555393.



## INTEREST BUILDS FOR WORLD ANGUS FORUM 2017

Interest for next year's World Angus Forum is fast gaining momentum and registrations for the event are now fully open. Johnny Mackey and Alex Sanger presented the package to an international audience at the European Angus Forum in Portugal where it was well received. Sponsorship is building and the Society and organising committee are indebted to those who have already come on board, including (at the time of writing) MacPhie of Glenbervie, Watsons Seeds, Caisley, Identigen, Brewin Dolphin, Harbro and several breeders who are generously covering the costs of their visits'.

To briefly summarise the programme and whet your appetite for attending, the tour kicks off on the 16th June at the Rosemead herd in Surrey before moving off on a five-day tour of England, including the Summer National Show which will take place at the Royal Three Counties Show, Malvern, as well as visits to a further nine herds. The Forum then moves in to the six-day Edinburgh-based leg including the world secretariat meeting, herd visit to Fordel, welcome reception, Royal Highland Show, Gala Dinner and technical conference with the theme "From consumption to conception."

Delegates will have a few options within this leg including a three-day programme available in Ireland from Saturday 24th June to Monday 26th June (back in time for the Gala dinner), which will include the All Ireland Show at Newry and visits to the Liss and Gigginstown herds.

Alternatively, delegates can stay in Scotland and visit the Mosshall herd, Mosshall and the SRUC research facility at Easter Howgate and then attend the conference. The Forum concludes with a six-day tour of Scotland taking in visits to 10 herds, as well as an exhibition put on by the Highland Club at Dingwall Mart, before finishing at Netherton and H W Angus on Sunday 3rd July for the youth programme final and a dinner.

Register now at [www.worldangusforum2017.com](http://www.worldangusforum2017.com) and keep an eye on the same site for details of the full programme or follow the action on Facebook and Twitter @ World Angus Forum. The Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society last hosted a World Forum in 1977, some 40 years ago, so don't miss your chance to attend this one.

## SOCIETY DNA WORKING GROUP

It was agreed at the November 2015 Council meeting and announced in the winter newsletter that all calves entering the Herdbook from January 2017 would have to be tested for sire verification and myostatin status, provided the tests could be undertaken at an acceptable cost. This was reviewed at the March 2016 Council meeting and it was agreed that this initiative would not go ahead at present until all the options and cost benefits had been fully investigated. Council believes that there are significant potential benefits to be gained from DNA testing and have since formed a technical working group to review the options available.

On receipt of the DNA working group's recommendations, Council will consider whether enhanced DNA testing, above the present requirements, would provide tangible benefits and how this could be implemented at an acceptable cost. This decision will be subject to review as necessary going forward. Council would like to thank members for the feedback received and will continue to keep members informed of progress on this topic.

**TAGGING UPDATE** – please check online under members notices to read an update on the Society's tagging policy.

## ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

In order to reduce costs in the office and to try and streamline the availability of Society communications, following newsletters will be issued as PDF files for download on the website only. If you still require to have your newsletter posted, please email Laura Stewart [laura@aberdeen-angus.co.uk](mailto:laura@aberdeen-angus.co.uk)

## FROM THE SALE RING

Sales for pedigree Aberdeen-Angus males and females have been strong to date this year. Well done to those breeders who have supported official Society sales, here's a few of the sale highlights so far:



**TONLEY EVOR P044**, from Neil and Mark Wattie, overall champion and top price of the day in Stirling in February selling at 24,000gns to the Carlhurlie herd



**BLELACK JURY ERIC P384**, from Neil and Graeme Massie, overall champion, top price and joint centre record at Stirling for a May sale, selling for 10,000gns to the Newton Muchalls herd.



**OAKCHURCH DONNA R221**, from Jeremy and Ala Price, selling for 4000gns at Worcester in April to the Foggie herd.

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
to Jim Jack of the Strule herd  
on winning the Irish  
Aberdeen-Angus Association's  
Presidents Award.



## OLD GLENORT WINS BALMORAL SHOW

Well done to James Porter of the Old Glenort herd, Lisburn, Northern Ireland, on clinching the breed championship at Balmoral Show this month with his senior bull, Haughton Levi P105. Bred by Whittaker Farms and purchased for 20,000gns in Stirling last October, Levi is by



Hallington Evo L333. Reserve honours went to Alan Morrison with his two year old heifer Drummeer Blackbird P455. Full coverage from Balmoral and championship results from the summer show circuit can be found on the Society's show news pages at <http://aberdeen-angus.co.uk/news/show-and-sales/>

## DATA PROTECTION

Please note that when you are asked to renew your Society membership next January, you will effectively be agreeing to having your membership details published on the Society's website and associated Breedplan database. If you feel you would like to opt out of this agreement, you will need to contact the Society office when you renew your membership, but please bear in mind nobody will be able to access details of you or your cattle which could have a negative impact on your sales of breeding stock.

## PRE-SALE VENDORS CHECKLIST

Vendors at official Society sales are reminded to look at the pre-sale checklist, which is available to download from the website (see breeder resources section on the home page), to ensure all the relevant health and management checks have been carried out well in advance of the sale.