

Salers

Cattle Society
of the UK Ltd

Champion Senior Male 2011



BEESTON HALL CORKY

Champion Senior Female 2011



MANOR LANE AVON

Journal 2012

SALERS

WHITEBOG CONVENER

Sire: Lascar Dam: Whitebog Rosie MGS: Cumbria Fury
Ear Tag: UK502146/401580 A.I. Code: SA0921



CAMacG
June '10

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Secretary

Mrs Liz Wilde, Ball Green Cottage, Well Head Lane, Hubberton, Halifax HX6 1NN

Tel: 07903 626249 Fax: 01422 839170

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Beeston Hall Corky
Salers Champion Male 2011



Manor Lane Avon
Salers Champion Female 2011



RACHEL HALLOS

I was disappointed not to make it to the Royal Balmoral, my apologies to our Irish members. I did however hear excellent reports from our vice-chair Harri Pritchard, the cattle as always was splendid and the hospitality superb.

The Spring sale at Welshpool market attracted higher entries than in the past. It takes time to build a successful sale and we will continue to work with vendors to encourage quality cattle are forward to satisfy customer requirements.

We had a strong display of cattle at, which in my opinion, was one of our most successful Beef Expo events. This year it was held at the Newark county showground, the stand seemed to be the busiest I have ever seen it, these were commercial farmers with genuine interest in a breed that is becoming renowned for its mothering abilities.

The Society also took space with other beef breeds on the NBA stand at the Royal Highland Show, this was done as an experiment to see if it was beneficial. There was mixed reaction but it has to be said that those visiting the stand had done so to discuss Salers. Space at such events is expensive and we need to be sure that it is worthwhile before committing society funds and potentially rolling it out across other events throughout the country, having a healthy number of cattle entered at the show helped as any interested party had opportunity to view the breed and discuss their attributes with breeders.

The Great Yorkshire show, again had a strong entry of cattle forward and special congratulations to the Wallings and new member J T Mitchell & Sons for representing the breed so well and earning Salers the honourable position of reserve Interbreed pairs, Salers also went on to come 3rd in the Interbreed Group. It's good to cause a stir with the other breeds every now and again! It was, however, disappointing to hear that the Salers classes had been cancelled at the Royal Welsh and Royal Cornwall due to lack of entries. Showing cattle myself I fully appreciate the implications of being away from the farm for such a long time but would urge members to try and find a way to make it work, collaborating and sharing costs or stockmen could potentially increase entries

at these shows which are our shop window not just for the breed but the breeder too.

Salers had a stand at this year's Agri-Expo in Carlisle; this was held the week prior to the Premier Sale. Again interest on the stand was serious, with large commercial farmers looking for change, costs are increasing rapidly and the need for a live calf every time is growing. It is the Societies intention to attend as many promotional events as feasible and it is here we will need the support of our members around the country to man stands and share their experiences with Salers with others.

Our annual dinner was once again a sell out, it is always a good social event where breeders new and old can meet and put the agricultural world to rights. The Premier Sale saw that Salers females were very much in demand, we must not take our eye of the ball and guarantee that only quality stock are presented for sale at all times and not allow standards to slip, steps have been taken to ensure the strictest inspection criteria is in place at this and other society sales.

I strongly believe the future of our breed is bright. In our final council meeting of the year, utilising the information collated over the last 12 months, we discussed at length how we are to formulate a promotional strategy to increase the interest in the breed across the country. As a council of management I feel we are strong and able to take the breed to the next level. As I said before we will need the support of our members, no matter how large or small it may be it is always appreciated.

As always I would like to offer my sincere thanks to all those involved in the many events the society has attended over the last 12 months and to our breed secretary Liz whose organisational skills are now coming to the fore and keeping our society well on track.

Salers Cattle Society of the United Kingdom Ltd.

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HAM, Hampton, Mr. W.J. Burrows, 22 Hampton Crescent, No Mans Heath, Malpas, Cheshire, SY14 8DS, 01948 820525
ORT, Orton, Dr. M. Carter, Glenfield Cottage, Sheepy Road, Sibson, Nr. Nuneaton, Warwicks 01827 880169
MAE, Ebnal, Michael Evans, Ebnal Lodge, Gobowen, Oswestry, Shropshire SY10 7BL, 01691 661243 / 07989 308868
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MSW, Morwenstow, Messrs. A.& M. Austin, Stanbury Manor, Woodford, Bude, Cornwall, EX23 9JQ, 01288 331279 / 07813 325141
TRE, Trease, Mr.W.T.G. Benney, Trease, Cury Cross Lanes, Helston, Cornwall, TR12 7QU, 01326 240232
CUR, Curcelles, Mr. & Mrs. J.C. Burdge, Fenswood Farm, Says Lane, Langford, N. Somerset, BS40 5DZ, 01934 852639
EAC, Nodes, Mr. J.B. Carter, Nodes Farm, Northwood, Nr. Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO31 8AD, 01983 292036
MDC, Eastyard, M & D Cowell, Stafford View, 5 Rectory Road, Dolton, Devon, EX19 8QL, 01805 804792
RLG, Rosemellyn, R.C.& L.J. Grist, Rosemellyn Farm, Roche, St. Austell, Cornwall, PL26 8LB, 01726 890608
SHN, Shannon, Mr. E.J. Lowman, The Fold, Pyworthy, Holsworthy, Devon, EX22 6SX, 01409 259178 / 07979 838519
WKF, West Knapps, ADM & DAS Robinson, West Knapps Farm, Wembury Rd, Wembury, Plymouth, PL9 0DG, 01752 402007 / 07733 325440
CSS, Kington, Carol & Steve Simmons, Little Kington Farm, Gillingham Dorset, SP8 5EF, 01747 838756 / 07970 212185
IOW, Hermitage, Mr.& Mrs. N. Smith, Hermitage Dairy Farm, Whitwell, Ventnor, Isle of Wight, PO38 2PD, 01983 730875
FJW, Caerhays, F.J.& C.H. Williams, Caerhays Farms (Arthur Broom), Caerhays Barton, Gorran, St. Austell, Cornwall, PL26 6LY, 01872 501296 / 07974 111372

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Area Rep, CAF, Manor Lane, Mrs. Carolyn Fox, Manor View, Dry Doddington, Newark, Notts, NG23 5JA, 01400 282044 / 07788 105892
BEE, Beowulf, Mr. Arthur Beevers, 2, High Street, Pointon, Sleaford, S. Lincolnshire, NG34 0LX, 07507 894416
DJB, Hockson, Mr. D.J.Brown, 79 Buxton Road, Spixworth, Norwich, Norfolk, NR10 3PP, 01606 898379
BEN, Green's Park, C.B. Farms, Green's Park, Woodend, Towcester, Northamptonshire, NN12 8SD, 01327 861072
SEA, Seawell, P.M. & S.M. Donger, Seawell Grounds, Foxley, Towcester, Northants, NN12 8HW, 01327 860226
CST, Casterton, Richard Lamb, Home Farm, Great Casterton, Stamford, Nottinghamshire, PE9 4AP 01400 282044 / 07850 282982
MIT, Thursford, J T Mitchell & Sons Partnership Trust, Station Farm, Thursford, Fakenham, Norfolk, NR21 0BE, 01328 878265
MPE, Millbank, Mr. Eric Wood & Mrs.Pat Cherry, Skinners Lock Farm, Peashill Lane, Cotgrave, Nottingham, NG12 3HD, 07803 003505
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Royal Ulster Show – 2011

Judge: Harri Pritchard, Wales

The weather did little to dampen spirits in the Salers ring with a strong entry from Northern Ireland's leading breeders. The Air Core sponsored Supreme champion was an outstanding heifer forward from John Elliott and family, Newtownstewart. Drumlegagh Caitlin was making her debut appearance on the show circuit and certainly made quite an impression on Welsh judge Harri Pritchard who described her as "one of the best examples of the breed that he had ever had the privilege to judge". This superior young heifer was sired by the Elliott's stock bull Blason who himself has had an incredible show and breeding career including previous Championship at Balmoral.

In reserve spot was a French imported young bull also presented by the Elliott family. Fanfan is an exciting prospect and should be one to keep an eye on for the future. This entry also collected top honours in the Junior Championship. The same exhibitors enjoyed one of their best days ever at Balmoral notching up a string of prizes including the Pairs competition.

County Armagh breeder George McCall took the red ribbon in the 2 year old heifer class with his very correct home bred Carrick View Flo.

The entry of Salers was of a particular high standard and were a credit to local breeders who ensured that there was a good entry forward in all classes.

Cow, in calf or with calf at foot

- 1st J & EA Elliott, Newtownstewart, Drumlegagh Alliance
- 2nd G T McCall, County Armagh, Carrick View Babette
- 3rd J & EA Elliott, Newtownstewart, Drumlegagh Curieuse

Heifer, born on or before 31st December 2009

- 1st J & EA Elliott, Newtownstewart, Drumlegagh Caitlin
- 2nd G T McCall, County Armagh, Carrick View Ellie
- 3rd J & EA Elliott, Newtownstewart, Drumlegagh Cleo

Heifer, born on or after 1st January 2009

- 1st G T McCall, County Armagh, Carrick View Flo
- 2nd D Boyd, Newtownabbey, Corlurgan Keisey
- 3rd D McClements & Sons, Portaferry, Emerald Amira

Bull, up to 2 years old on day of show

- 1st J & EA Elliott, Newtownstewart, Drumlegagh Fanfan
- 2nd Ballykeel Salers, Rathfriland, Ballykeel Goliath

Bull, over 2 years old on day of show

- 1st J & EA Elliott, Newtownstewart, Drumlegagh Blason
- 2nd P J Maginn, Downpatrick, Lisnamaul Buster

Pair of Animals

- 1st J & EA Elliott, Newtownstewart
- 2nd D Boyd, Newtownabbey

Show Champion, Highways Cup - J & EA Elliott, Newtownstewart, Drumlegagh Caitlin

Reserve Show Champion, Highways Cup - J & EA Elliott, Newtownstewart, Drumlegagh Fanfan

Junior Champion, J & EA Elliott, Newtownstewart, Drumlegagh Fanfan

Junior Reserve Champion, G T McCall, County Armagh, Carrick View Fumel

Wallets Marts Shield for the best home bred animal, J & EA Elliott, Newtownstewart, Drumlegagh Caitlin

Salers Society Cup for the best pair of animals, J & EA Elliott, Newtownstewart, Blason and Drumlegagh Caitlin

Stockman's Cup - Alan Humphreys



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Welshpool Show & Sale 2011

Judge: Richard Tudor - Wales

The Society Spring Sale took place in May at Welshpool Livestock Centre, with 11 pedigree bulls and 9 pedigree heifers put forward. PM & SM Donger presented a good consignment of 5 bulls selling four to an average of £3,700. His two year old Champion bull, Seawell Emilio born 30/03/2009 (Sire: Seawell Bingo, Dam: Amoureuse) fetched 5,000gns and sold to Welsh breeder Mr Thomas, Tyw Hendre, Bangor.



Pedigree Bulls averaged 2,626gns, Heifers 1,987gns, Cows and Calves 2,000gns, Cross bred heifers £868

Results

Bulls, born before 1st April 2009

- 1st PM & SM Donger, Seawell Emilio
- 2nd PM & SM Donger, Seawell Exclusive
- 3rd PM & SM Donger, Seawell Earl

Bulls, born on or after 1st April 2009

- 1st Aled Jenkins, Mock Connor
- 2nd PM & SM Donger, Seawell Elias
- 3rd DI & HM Rogers, Coland Cedric

Cows

- 1st DI & HM Rogers, Coland Verena
- 2nd Rigel Pedigree, Rigel Barcelona

Heifers

- 1st Rigel Pedigree, Rigel Millie
- 2nd Rigel Pedigree, Rigel Dauphine
- 3rd S & R Hallos, Beeston Hall Colette

Male Champion

Seawell Emilio

Reserve Champion

Mock Connor

Female Champion

Rigel Millie

Reserve Female Champion

Coland Verena

Overall Show Champion

Seawell Emilio

Overall Show Reserve Champion

Rigel Millie



Salers Breed is ideal for Moorland Family Farm

There is said to be a shortage of young people in farming, but not where the Robinson family is concerned with youngest son 18-year-old Jonathan finishing his A levels then taking over the day to day management of the family's 304ha (750 acre) moorland farm near Settle, North Yorkshire.



In many ways it is a case of the family story coming full circle as his father, Alec Robinson, was brought up at Cowside Farm also as the youngest of four brothers and took over after each of his elder brothers had been helped to start farming on their own account.



The family farming operation is now based at New Hall, Staveley, near Kendal, Cumbria – a 161ha (400 acre) upland farm about 122m (400ft) above sea level and also runs the hard upland unit of

Cowside Farm, Settle rising to 305m (1,000ft) above sea level. In addition they have 300 sheep gates on Ingleborough and Clapham commons.

Jonathan is also following in the footsteps of his elder brother, 23-year-old Martin, who has day to day responsibility for New Hall. Brother Daniel is a kitchen fitter; while their other brother, Philip, is studying REALM (Rural Enterprise and Land Management) at Harper Adams University College and is hoping to have a career in sporting estate management. The other member of the family team is Alec's wife, Mandy.

The two farms are run as one business with Martin in charge of all the New Hall stock and, now, Jonathan in charge of the Cowside stock. This, says Alec, now means he can concentrate on the office side of the business.

Current stocking are about 160 pure Salers suckler cows plus in-calf heifers and some 140 Charolais and Salers sired store cattle. The sheep enterprise is based on 300 Swaledale ewes and 500 home bred North Country Mules.

Jonathan said: "I decided that I wanted to do my A levels, then finish and come straight into farming. Most people going to university were looking for a year off, but I liked the range of jobs and challenge of farming.

"The farmhouse and old buildings will need some renovation and we may convert the old traditional barns into two holiday cottages. I am probably more of a people person than my brothers so I think that would work well.

"I have done my trailer driving test and can take various

courses as and when they are needed. This is far better than being stuck in an office and there is always plenty to do on a farm.

Asked what he is looking for out of farming, Jonathan's answer is simple: "To make money" but it is equally clear that he is deeply committed to farming as a way of life.

Away from the farm Jonathan does a large amount of sports including rugby, football and hockey and was in The Lakes School rugby and hockey teams. He is also keen on clay pigeon shooting.

Father, Alec, will take a step back but will always be on hand to help and advise Jonathan.

"Cowside is not an easy farm both because of the terrain, but also I built up the farm by buying pieces of land as and when they became available making for a relatively fragmented unit.

"Against that the whole farm is under the HLS environmental scheme and there are a number of SSSIs so the payments for these help provide a financial cushion for the farm business.

"As part of the agreements we use our Salers cattle for conservation grazing at Cowside during the summer, bringing them back to New Hall for winter housing," said Alec.

Like so many farms in Cumbria and West Yorkshire the present farming system was developed in the aftermath of the 2001 foot and mouth epidemic.

Alec said: "First and foremost this is a commercial farming business and we have no ambitions for pedigree breeding although there are pedigree cattle in our suckler herd

"I went on the internet to look for a suckler cow that would meet our needs and found some American Salers sites and, among other things, noted that the Salers had one of the widest pelvic widths of any breed making for extremely easy calving. As I looked further we noted that the Salers was an upland breed and ours are upland farms then saw Salers at the Great Yorkshire Show and decided this was the breed that would suit our needs."



"We also found that the Salers were easy to manage which was also important for us and went on to buy two complete herds. By sheer luck we happened to see Salers grazing with a Charolais bull and saw that this cross produced the type of calves we needed.

"We calve about two third of the cows in May with the rest in early June. This works well for us in that the cows calve outside on good grass which suits the Salers breed

and means calving does not start until lambing is over,” said Alec.

“About 30 of our best Salers females are bred pure to produce replacement heifers and the remainder go to the Charolais. All the cattle are in-wintered on slats or cubicles from about mid-November through to late April depending on conditions. Winter feed is purely home grown silage plus minerals. The farms produce both silage and hay for home feeding.



“Apart from any retained for breeding, all calves are over wintered and sold each spring at about 10 months old. Last year our bull calves sold through Skipton to average £830. Our heifers mostly go through Kendal market and averaged £660 last year. Apart from silage, the calves for sale have a little bought in beef ration to help them reach the best condition for the sale ring. We have used Dugdale’s feed for over 30 years.

“Simply our markets like Charolais cross Salers beef store cattle and have regular buyers for them. We look at EBVs when selecting Charolais bulls that will give us calves with high growth rates. While we do like some size in our Salers cows, first and foremost we are looking for cows that are

genetically capable of producing strong calves with plenty of growth.

“When we were looking for beef dams we did think of composites which also have a lot of figures behind them and could have suited our system, but felt they just did not offer the size of calves we needed for our market,” he said.

“Both our farms are very much livestock rearing farms well suited to store cattle and sheep production. We do not finish cattle simply because of the logistics and cost of buying in feed and straw, both of which are expensive. We have always believed that is cheapest and best to take animals to their feed than to bring feed to the animals. With Jonathan on board, we now hope to build cattle and sheep numbers a little over the next few years.”

Alec added: “We feel strongly that it is important to encourage young people to come into farming and to make provision for succession in our own business. Equally it is important the next generation should be able to make their own decisions about their futures.”

Alec’s wife, Mandy Robinson has earned a formidable collection of medals and award for long distance running including four London Marathons and has gained a place in this year’s New York marathon. Apart from enjoying the challenge of the races she has raised large amounts of money in sponsorship for RABI.

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"Poldean Vince"

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"Cleuchhead Zebra"

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Royal Highland Show 2011

Judge: Graham Fishlock, Wareham

Farmstock Genetics young heifer Cumbrian Hyacinth 456 (Sire: Jaguar, Dam: Upperland Hyacinth 373) caught the judge's eye at this year's show, winning as Best Junior Female, Junior Female and overall Show Champion. The heifer born 31/08/2009 was bred by B Walling, Farmstock Genetics, Selkirk. Rob Livesey had a successful show with Cleuchhead Zebra a young bull to watch out for in the future. Zebra's sire Poldean Vince was show champion in 2010.



Champion - Cumbrian Hyacinth 456

Results

Female, born on or after 1st January 2010

- 1st J & S Manners, Seamore Filmstar
- 2nd R & K Livesey, Cleuchhead Mhairi 10th
- 3rd G McClymont, Cuil Daisy

Female, born on or between 1st January and 31st December 2009

- 1st Farmstock Genetics, Cumbrian Hyacinth 456
- 2nd W Davison, Drumlegagh Claire
- 3rd Farmstock Genetics, Cumbrian Vermille 463

Female, born on or after 1st January 2008

- 1st G McClymont, Cuil Violet
- 2nd G McClymont, Cuil Talula
- 3rd W Davidson, Poldean Uddy

Bull, born on or after 31st March 2010

- 1st R & K Livesey, Cleuchhead Zebra

Bull, born on or between 1st January and 30th March 2010

- 1st R & K Livesey, Cleuchhead Zenith
- 2nd J & S Manners, Seamor Finbar
- 3rd G McClymont, Drumlegagh Duke

Bull, born before 31st December 2009

- 1st R & K Livesey, Poldean Vince
- 2nd P & M Donger, Seawell Eclipse

Show Champion (Swardsman Perpetual Trophy)
Farmstock Genetics, Cumbrian Hyacinth 456

Show Reserve Champion
(Salers Bell) – R & K Livesey, Cleuchhead Zebra

Champion Female (The QET Perpetual Trophy)
Farmstock Genetics, Cumbrian Hyacinth 456

Champion Male (the Rumenco Perpetual Trophy)
R & K Livesey, Cleuchhead Zebra

Champion Junior Female (The Lochdougan Trophy)
Farmstock Genetics, Cumbrian Hyacinth 456

Champion Junior Male (The Cuil Claret Jug)
R & K Livesey, Cleuchhead Zebra

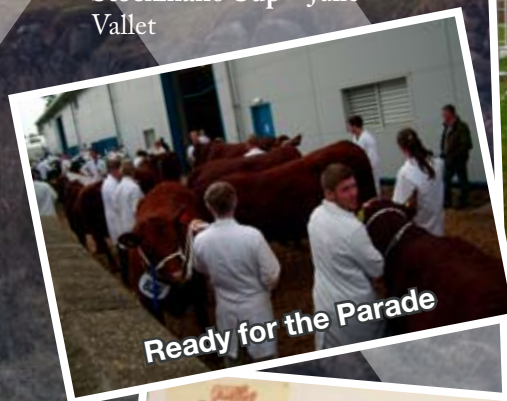
Best Pair of Animals

R & K Livesey, Cleuchhead Zebra and Cleuchhead Zenith

Best Group of Animals

R & K Livesey, Poldean Vince,
Cleuchhead Zenith & Mhairi
9th

Stockman's Cup – Julie
Vallet



Ready for the Parade



Judge: G. Fishlock



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Beeston Hall Beatrice

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Great Yorkshire Show 2011

Judge: John Elliott – Northern Ireland

New society member J T Mitchell & Sons from Norfolk had a fantastic show with a young bull bred by PM & SM Donger from Towcester, Northants. Seawell Franko, born 11/01/2011, Sire Vicomte, took Junior Bull, Junior Champion, Male Champion and overall Show Champion.



Champion - Seawell Franko

The society also enjoyed success in the interbreed groups, coming third in the Interbreed Beef Group with Beeston Hall Corky, Manor Lane Avon, Hampton Ivy and Rigel Trinket. Then came in reserve champions in the Blythwood Continental Beef Pairs with Seawell Franko and Cumbrian Vermille – this was a welcome surprise for all exhibitors and much celebration took place!

Results

Bull, born before 1 January 2010

- 1st S & R Hallos, Beeston Hall Corky
- 2nd Rigel Pedigree, Rigel Harry

Bull, born on or after 1 January 2010

- 1st J T Mitchell, Seawell Franko
- 2nd J & S Manners, Seamore Fitzultra
- 3rd Rigel Pedigree, Rigel Noble

Cow, born on or before 31 December 2008, in milk or in calf

- 1st C A Fox, Manor Lane Avon
- 2nd A Gowthorpe, Felin Dolly

Heifer, born on or after 1 January 2009

- 1st Rigel Pedigree, Rigel Trinket
- 2nd Farmstock Genetics, Cumbrian Hyacinth
- 3rd W J Burrows, Hampton Ivy

Heifer, born on or after 1 January 2010

- 1st C A Fox, Manor Lane Diva
- 2nd S & R Hallos, Beeston Hall Dena
- 3rd S & R Hallos, Beeston Hall Dido

Group of Three (L'Anson Trophy)

S & R Hallos, Beeston Hall Farms

Pair of Animals (Jock Watson Trophy)

S & R Hallos, Beeston Hall Farms – S: Poldean Taffy

Salers Breed Champion (Rigel Pedigree Cup)

J T Mitchell, Seawell Franko

Salers Reserve Breed Champion

(K W Alternative Feeds Cup)

C A Fox, Manor Lane Avon

Salers Junior Champion (Salers Cattle Society Cup)

J T Mitchell, Seawell Franko

Salers Reserve Junior Champion (Dennis White Cup)

Farmstock Genetics, Cumbrian Hyacinth

Champion Male – J T Mitchell, Seawell Franko

Champion Female – C A Fox, Manor Lane Avon

Polled (Arthur Beevers Cup)

Farmstock Genetics, Cumbrian Vermille

Stockmans Cup

Sam Hallos, Beeston Hall Farms



Pairs Team



Manor Lane Avon



Group Team

There is always a danger in policy to become desk/meeting bound and to find myself distanced from what matters - what's happening on farm. With this in mind I



Rob and Penny

cleared my diary for the day, left the warmth and security of the office and headed off to meet with Rob Livesey (NFUS Livestock Chairman) on his home ground. I was keen to talk to him about his experiences of how policy affects his business, his passion for what he does and his concerns for the future of Scotland's farming industry.

What I found was a typical warm farming welcome (thanks Kath) and a greater understanding of Rob's passion for the land and his livestock. Rob truly believes in what he does and has found a balance within his business of practicality and enjoyment. He sees beyond his own business and wants Scotland's farming industry as a whole to remain strong and vibrant.

———— The journey to Firth farm ————

In 1991 Rob left the family farming business to become a farm manager on a large estate in Ayrshire. He describes his time there as 'an interesting experience as a 30 year old in charge of 14 men', but an experience that no doubt taught him a lot. In 1998 he got the tenancy of Firth farm, where he and Kath have since built up their business. They started with 550 Acres, 1,000 ewes, 50 spring calving cows and 120 acres of grain. In the 13 years since they began, the grain acreage has dropped slightly, the ewes have gone up a little to 1,110 and he now has almost 90 calving cows. They have taken on more rented grazing and managed to buy 30 adjoining acres on which they have built their house.

———— Passion for Pedigree ————

Within that time the sheep business grew for a while but they have since reduced their numbers in favour of growing the cattle business. Rob says that 'the sheep drive the business whilst the cattle have been more of a past time and interest'. Over time they have moved more into breeding pedigree cattle, selling breeding cattle and trying to maximise value.

Rob admits that he finds the pedigree side very satisfying and is pleased that his two sons also share this interest. It has allowed them to get more interested in the 'fun element', as he calls it, showing and presenting pedigree livestock at the sales, 'once you start to get some success at it, it starts to become very satisfying'. Rob cut his teeth on showing cattle when he worked as a farm manager, showing Galloways, but admits that they, and he, were not very successful at that stage.

Rob's decision to use and breed Saler cattle came from previous experience on his family's farm where they kept Galloways. Following a 'disastrous' experiment crossing them to Simmentals they came across Salers and were attracted to their mothering traits. They have not looked back since and Rob's family remain strong supporters of the breed.

Despite his interest in the pedigree side, Rob remains firmly focussed on the commercial side with economic performance more important than the show ring. This however does not seem to have tempered his success, if the rosettes in the hallway are anything to go by. Rob puts much of his success to having got involved in the breed early, managing to access some of the better bloodlines as a result, and managing to build up a good understanding of the breed early on – 'luck' as he humbly puts it.

———— Impacts of policy ————

Rob admits to having some concerns over the future of cattle as a whole but is all too aware of the volatility that exists within agriculture and that is, as he sees it, 'one of agriculture's greatest problems'. He warns against the dangers of 'jumping too soon. If the pundits are saying you should get rid of your cows it is probably the last thing you should do because in 3 years time you may wish you hadn't.' He cited the recent turbulence in the cereals sector where it was hardly worth growing only a few years ago compared to the prices available just now.

Unfortunately with cattle it is not so easy to turn the tap on and off in response to price. Beside which as he says 'it is important to enjoy what you are doing. In farming you are unlikely to get wealthy but if you have a system and a quality of life that you enjoy and gives you satisfaction, even if you could make more elsewhere, you can still be happy.'

Recent years have been fairly positive for Rob, resulting from the rising value of his breeding stock on the cattle side and with the sheep holding their own as well. 2001 was his low point, the year of FMD. With the bottom falling out of the sheep market in terms of prices the farm experienced serious losses, 'the Chancellor made damn all out of us that year and it was extremely depressing to realise how vulnerable we are to the export market. The sheep industry is completely reliant on the export market to remain healthy.'

Rob believes the worry for all sectors is the volatility in cost, especially for raw materials – fuel, fertiliser and now feed. Rob takes some comfort in that with the rise in feed costs at least some sectors of the industry are benefiting. 'Fuel and fertiliser price hikes, however, benefit no one. Fuel costs are a problem for the general public, as well as farmers, eating in at their disposable income and having a long-term affect on what we produce. We produce a

product of choice, high quality and high value, we are not trying to feed the lower end of the market and we need an affluent society to buy our product if we are to remain profitable and in business.'

Sheep EID

After a top up from the teapot, discussion moves onto Sheep EID, something close to my heart as it takes up much of the livestock committee's discussion time too. Rob has tried hard on his farm to make the system work for him to yield benefits for the business but admits

Monitor farm scheme

In addition to being involved in NFUS, Rob has also been involved in the monitor farm scheme and believes that he gained a lot through his involvement, both personally and for his business. His involvement forced him to be far more focused on the details of his business and some of the 'bits and pieces' he picked up from other farmers attending the open days have proved as beneficial as some of the best expert advice he received.

that he cannot see how it will help in the short term. 'All the management systems that we were told would make life easy for us just create a whole lot of work. Collecting additional data is only useful if you use it. Spending an hour in the office every night collating data, that may deliver long term benefits, but they are hard to

see. No one has developed a system that is farmer friendly, it's all too complicated.' However, Rob will be watching with interest how the ScotEID project develops. He believes that there is potential from the database although he remains concerned about some of the promises being made and its ability to deliver on them.

Despite his negativity towards the matter, Rob supports the approach Scottish Government has taken over EID and believes the proactive attitude of NFUS has been a benefit. His biggest concern? Cross compliance. 'Trying to account for every sheep on the farm is almost impossible, and doing it as a legal requirement will have no benefit to human or animal health. Farmers are getting no benefit, or increase in price for all the hassle they are having to go through, it is just heaping costs on for no real return.'

In Rob's mind the big win for the future in terms of sheep EID will come if we can get rid of the need to tag animals before they leave the holding. It will be a significant benefit to those in more extensive systems and those that home breed. He believes there is merit in this argument, but can see no benefit to traceability in tagging animals that don't move.

BVD

One of the 'hot' issues for the livestock committee is currently BVD and Rob is extremely positive about the BVD initiative. He sees it as a bold move, one that has been talked about for a long time but there have always been reasons found not to do it. Rob gives a lot of credit to Nigel Miller in having the courage to pursue this initiative.

Rob has experienced first hand the devastating effect that BVD can have, having experienced an outbreak in his previously naïve herd. As a result of his experience Rob has been in a cattle health scheme for some time and receives a premium for his cattle as a result. He believes that all producers should act against BVD and not bury their heads in the sand. In his own words 'there are currently only two types of herds in the UK, those that have BVD and those that are going to get it - for the first time we have a chance to change this. Not to act on BVD impacts on the industry as whole, placing your neighbours and customers all at risk.'

And NFUS?

In speaking to Rob about his business and the effects of policy on the farm I had to ask him his thoughts on NFUS itself and how he feels about his involvement in the organisation. Rob told me that he has enjoyed his time with NFUS, he feels it 'helps keep his brain active'. He really enjoys the level of debate that takes place, especially on issues where you can get to the heart of the matter and have an influence. He has particularly enjoyed the CAP reform debate and is grateful for many of the members within his region who have come up with some great ideas to take forward as part of this debate.

Rob believes that there are some great people involved with the organisation. 'The staff makes a good team and keep NFUS a people organisation, which is important.' He worries that NFUS sometimes misses out on the best people in farming as they are often the busiest and simply don't have the time to give. There is no easy answer to this and, like many other organisations, we face a big challenge in getting those busy people involved and prepared to take on roles. Rob mentions that something to think about is the often overlooked benefit of involvement, the feeling of 'fellowship'. Farming can be a lonely profession and the benefits of belonging and sociability that can come with being a part of it should not be ignored.

Many thanks to Rob and Kath for their time and hospitality. I have returned to my desk feeling renewed and excited about the passion and enthusiasm that exists at the heart of Scotland's farming industry.



Rob's farm - feeding Saler's and Saler crosses

Penny Johnstone NFUS (National Farmers Union Scotland) published in the NFUS Farming Leader in March 2011.

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Annual Show of Salers Cattle, Castle Douglas 2011

Judge: D Watson, Banchory

A full show ring preceded the annual sale at Wallets Marts, Castle Douglas. The judge had a difficult job, especially as this event attracts many stalwarts of the Salers breed, However as the saying goes, if the Judge can please himself and the winner then job done!

Bulls, born January to December 2009

1st W J Davidson, Poldean Bill
2nd S & R Hallos, Beeston Hall Corky
3rd A MacKenzie, Whitebog Emperor

Bulls, born January to February 2010

1st J Sleigh & Sons, Tolquhon Ceasar
2nd J & S Manners, Seamore Friartuck
3rd PM & SM Donger, Seawell Faroh

Bulls, born March 2010

1st G A McCall, Carrick View Fred Astaire
2nd PM & SM Donger, Seawell Fitzroy
3rd Rigel Pedigree, Rigel Noble

Bulls, born April to September 2010

1st R & K Livesey, Cleuchhead Zebra
2nd J & EA Elliott, Drumlegagh Douglas
3rd PM & SM Donger, Seawell Ferguson

Females, born January to December 2009

1st J & Ea Elliott, Drumlegagh Corissa
2nd Farmstock Genetics, Cumbrian Jaconde 457
3rd Farmstock Genetics, Hampton Buttercup

Females, born January to March 2010

1st Rigel Pedigree, Rigel Marquise
2nd R & K Livesey, Cleuchhead Corolle 10th
3rd J Pirie, Chapelpark Derry

Females, born April to September 2010

1st J & S Manners, Seamore Fairlady
2nd J & EA Elliott, Drumlegagh Dalinda
3rd A Jenkins, Mock Delia

Champion Junior Male

Cleuchhead Zebra

Reserve Champion Junior Male

Drumlegagh Douglas

Champion Senior Male

Poldean Bill

Reserve Champion Senior Male

Tolquhon Ceasar

Champion Male

Cleuchhead Zebra

Reserve Champion Male

Drumlegagh Douglas

Champion Junior Female

Seamore Fairlady

Reserve Champion Junior Female

Drumlegagh Dalinda

Champion Senior Female

Drumlegagh Corissa

Reserve Champion Senior Female

Cumbrian Jaconde 457

Champion Female

Drumlegagh Corissa

Reserve Champion Female

Cumbrian Jaconde 457

Overall Champion of the Show

Drumlegagh Corissa

Overall Reserve Champion of the Show

Cleuchhead Zebra

Best Pen of Commercial Cattle

G McClymont



Cattle Health Schemes & Herd Health

by Susan Duthie BVMS PhD CertVR MRCVS

CHeCS

Recently, a survey carried at bull sales found that the vast majority of purchasers consider health status to be very important when buying breeding stock. Increasing numbers of herds producing replacements for sale are joining a health scheme to help them to find out their herd health status and to reduce the risk of sale animals carrying disease. CHeCS (Cattle Health Certification Standards) is the regulatory body for cattle health schemes in the UK and Ireland and currently provides guidelines for control and rules for accreditation for four diseases: BVD, Johne's disease, IBR and leptospirosis. All cattle health schemes licensed by CHeCS follow the same rules and accreditation programmes.

Individual testing & Herd accreditation

BVD and Johne's disease are the diseases which generate most interest, but it is also important for vendors to be aware of the IBR and leptospirosis status of their herds, firstly to reduce any losses associated with these diseases, and secondly to allow a suitable control programme to be developed. For BVD, IBR and leptospirosis, the health status of sale animals can generally be determined by individual testing; this should be done within 3 months of sale to reduce the chance of an animal's status changing by the time it is sold. However, a benefit of herd accreditation is that individual animal testing prior to sale is no longer necessary. Johne's disease is different from the other diseases (see below) as animals infected with Johne's frequently test negative, so testing individuals before sale is of negligible value.

BVD

BVD (bovine viral diarrhoea) is a viral infection which causes problems with fertility and increases the severity of calf pneumonia and diarrhoea outbreaks. If BVD is present in your herd, it is reducing profitability, so it makes sense to get rid of it. If you don't have BVD, only a small amount of testing is required to show you are clear; this is an annual check test. For a check test, 5 unvaccinated homebred youngstock of 9-18 months of age from each separately managed group on the farm are tested. If they are clear, nothing further is required until the next calf crop is 9 months of age. Two clear check tests on subsequent calf crops allow a herd to have BVD-free status.

PI (persistently infected) animals are the main source of BVD infection. PIs are born infected, remain infected for life and constantly shed virus. Although they can seem healthy for a while, they die prematurely and should be culled from the herd as soon as they are identified. Whilst they remain in the herd, PIs are a major source of infection for other animals. All breeding stock for sale, if not from accredited herds, must be tested to ensure they are not PIs. In herds where disease is active, or where there is contact with neighbouring cattle, the breeding herd should be vaccinated against BVD.

All animals for sale must also be vaccinated; it is particularly important that pregnant females are vaccinated prior to service, to prevent them giving birth to a PI. Bulls must also be vaccinated prior to service to reduce the risk of them carrying the virus.

Johne's disease

Most animals that develop Johne's disease as adults are thought to have been infected as calves.

The bacteria, Map (*Mycobacterium avium paratuberculosis*), which causes the disease, hides away in infected cattle for a number of years, and the tests currently available cannot detect infection if an infected animal has not yet developed antibodies to Map (the blood test) and is not shedding Map (the dung test). For this reason, a whole herd screen is necessary to determine the likelihood of an individual being infected. A whole herd screen is carried out on all animals of 2 years and over in a herd.

Infected herds are likely to have positives in a whole herd screen. The greater the proportion of positives, the higher the risk there is that animals sold from that herd are infected, even though they test negative at the time of sale. Three clear consecutive annual herd tests allow a herd to gain accreditation. Management issues, including calving hygiene and calf rearing must be addressed in infected herds to control the disease and reduce the infection of young stock. It is important that reactors are removed from the herd as soon as they are identified, although this may be to an isolation facility until it is practical for them to be culled. Their calves should not be retained for breeding as they are at a greater risk of being infected than calves from dams that repeatedly test negative.

In the CHeCS rules, herds screening for Johne's are currently defined as being 'accredited' (3 or more clear herd screens), 'qualifying' (1 or 2 clear herd screens) or 'screening and eradicating' (infected animals identified). In the near future, the definition of herds will change so that more emphasis is placed on controlling and preventing the introduction of disease. The new herd definitions will be:

Level 1 - 'monitored free'. Level 1 herds have the same status as currently accredited herds. The number of years that a herd has been at level 1 will be given. For Johne's disease, level 1 herds are considered to be the lowest risk source of replacement stock.

Level 2 - 'qualifying'. Level 2 herds will have passed one or two qualifying annual tests; after three clear consecutive tests, they will progress to level 1.

Level 3 - 'disease reduction programme with less than 3% of reactors at the annual test'. Level 3 herds are carrying out an annual herd screen and have a control programme in place, agreed with their own vet, with the aim of controlling Johne's disease in the herd.

Level 4 - 'disease reduction programme with more than 3% of reactors at the annual test'. This level is the same as level 3, but with a greater number of reactors in the herd screen. For level 3 and 4 herds, the number of years a disease reduction programme has been in place will be given.

Level 5 - These herds are either not carrying out herd screening or do not have suitable control programme in place. For Johne's disease, level 5 herds are considered to be the highest risk source of replacement stock.

IBR

The virus that causes IBR (infectious bovine rhinotracheitis) is similar to the one that causes cold sores in people; once

cattle have been infected, they remain infected for life and can shed the virus when stressed. When infected animals are sold, they can be responsible for taking the virus into uninfected herds. IBR is a respiratory disease, and can be a component in calf pneumonia outbreaks.

The virus is also responsible for a reduction in milk yield and fertility in adult cattle. In herds where the disease has been present for a while, symptoms are less dramatic, although the virus can underlie respiratory signs in young or new animals.

To determine your herd's IBR status, cattle are screened for antibodies to the virus to look for evidence of infection, although any vaccinated animals in the herd will also test positive. It is not unusual for vaccinated added bulls or calf pneumonia vaccines containing IBR to hinder the route to accreditation. To gain accreditation, all cattle older than 12 months have to be tested on 2 occasions between 1 and 12 months apart and all results have to be negative. Accredited herds must take precautionary measures to ensure the disease is not introduced. This includes preventing nose-to-nose contact with cattle of unknown status and quarantining and testing any cattle brought on to the farm. Marker vaccinated animals are allowed in accredited herds when it can be shown that all antibodies to IBR have come from marker vaccine. These animals have to be tested by a 'marker test' rather than the standard test.

If testing shows there is evidence of widespread infection, a vaccination programme should be considered to reduce the shedding of virus by infected animals. Marker vaccination is recommended as this allows differentiation between animals that have antibodies due to vaccination from those that are infected. Remember that any animals with antibodies to IBR, including marker vaccinated animals are not allowed for official semen production or for export.

Leptospirosis

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease associated with infertility and abortion in cattle and can cause disease in people. Bacteria are spread in the urine of infected animals and can contaminate water supplies; piped water supplies are recommended for health scheme cattle. Sheep can be a source of the bacteria and co-grazing should be avoided where possible. A whole herd test, looking for exposure to infection, is carried out on all animals of 2 years and over and any animals aged 12-24 months that are intended for breeding. Two clear herd tests for leptospirosis 6 to 12 months apart allow accreditation. There is no marker vaccine for leptospirosis, and unfortunately, as animals can harbour the bacteria after infection, animals with antibodies are not allowed in accredited herds but CHECS have recently introduced a 'monitored free' programme which may be appropriate for these herds. Bulls are frequently vaccinated against leptospirosis and many herds have clear screens apart from a small number of added animals.

HiHealth Herdcare

The cattle team at HiHealth Herdcare are here to help you determine the health status of your herd, The health scheme provides guidelines on the best way to deal with diseases, if present on the farm and the team can guide you through the steps required to pursue accreditation if you are free of disease. Members can opt to display their herd status on the HiHealth Herdcare website and in society sales catalogues. Herd accreditation and individual test results are displayed on bull sales certificates. Please contact David K^y (Cattle Health Scheme Manager, Edinburgh office) or any of the veterinary team on 0131 440 2528 or Karen Tait (Deputy Cattle Health Scheme Manager, Orkney office) on 01856 878293 for further advice.



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GESTATION TABLE - COWS

Find date of service in upper line
Figure below indicates date calf due

Jan	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Jan
Oct	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Nov
Feb	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28				Feb
Nov	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			Dec	
Mar	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Mar
Dec	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Jan
April	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	April	
Jan	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Feb	
May	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	May
Feb	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Mar
June	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	June	
Mar	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	April	
July	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	July
April	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	May
Aug	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Aug
May	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	June
Sept	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Sept	
June	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	July	
Oct	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Oct
July	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Aug
Nov	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Nov	
Aug	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Sept	
Dec	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Dec
Sept	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Oct

Castle Douglas Premier Show & Sale Report 2011

Increase demand for both pedigree and cross-bred heifers ensured a buoyant demand for the top end of cattle forward at the annual sale at Wallets Marts, Castle Douglas where bulls sold to 7800gns, pedigree heifers peaked at 7000gns and commercial yearling heifer stirks hit a top price of £1380.

“Pure bred and Salers cross cows are such an easy care breed and they’ve got a terrific temperament” said Jonathan Wright, who together with his father Alex, are one of the breed’s biggest fans, having bought 10 cross-bred heifers at the sale to add to their expanding herd of 100 predominantly home-bred Salers cross cattle at Pinmore Mains, Girvan. “You don’t chase Salers if you want to move them – they follow you if you shout on them. Salers cows have just got such great udders, the calves, even Charolais cross calves out of them, get up and suck within a matter of a couple of hours and they never get mastitis. They’ve also got great feet and legs and last forever because they never have any problems calving. On average we calve one a year.

It was Pinmore Mains that bought the second top priced pen of commercial heifers at £1360, a pen of four 12-15month



Packed ring

old cross-bred heifers from Graham and Colin McClymont, Cuil, Palnure, Newton Stewart, who also sold the champion pen, a similarly aged pen of five heifers that made £1380 purchased by the presale judge David Watson, Darnford, Durris, Banchory. The McClymont’s sold 57 heifer stirks at £1058, Andrew McConchie, Mains of Penninghame, Newton Stewart selling 50 heifers at £950. Top priced commercial heifer at £1420 was a single 17-month-old pedigree heifer from WJ Davidson, Poldean, Moffat.

Leading the pedigree trade at 7800gns was PM Donger’s Seawell Fitzroy a 20 month old bull by the nine year old French bred stock bull Trafalgar, which has bred several bulls that have sold for in excess of £5000 complete with a former Paris Show champion, and has since been sold privately to Andrew Sleight for his pedigree herd at Newseat of Tolquhon, Tarve, Ellon. Fitzroy, from a herd of 160-cow pedigree Salers herd that runs alongside 280 pedigree Charolais at Seawell Grounds, Foxley, Towcester is out of French bred cow Arnica, an Emissaire daughter. He sold to JT Mitchell, buying for his expanding Thursford pedigree Salers herd at Station Farm, Thursford, Fakenham, Norfolk and to cross over the bottom end of his Simmental herd. The exact same genetics were behind Mr Donger’s Seawell Finnegan, a similarly aged bull purchased by former society chairman Alan Howatson, for commercial use at Risk, Minnigaff, Newton Stewart.

NFUS livestock convenor Rob Livesey and wife Kath, who run 80 pedigree Salers cows at Firth, Lilliesleaf, Melrose, were also in the money with bull sales at 6800gns and 4000gns. The dearest of the duo Cleuchhead Zenith, brought out by stockman Neale Cockburn, is by imported bull, Valentin, which has bred sons to 8000gns and 7200gns, and out of



Start em young!

Cleuchhead Mhairi 3, by Campsmount Nairn. The buyer of this 19-month-old bull was commercial producer, John Martin who also runs a few pedigree females at Swinlees, Dalry, Ayrshire.



Next amongst the bulls was a 4500gns call for J & S Manners, Seamore Friartuc, a rising two year old son of French sire, Ultra, out of Coland Wise lass from Deanfoot, Denholme, Hawick. Placed second in his class at the pre sale show he heads down to Devon, being knocked down to RL Toop, Gnatham Barton, Yelverton, Plymouth.

The couple were also to the fore amongst the females, securing the second top price of 5200gns purchased by Norman Lawrence, Blackpotts, Auchnaggatt, Ellon. Also selling at this level was junior female champion Seamore Fairlady, a 19month old heifer by Seawell Beau – a President son, out of Rigel Pippa, a Sagitaire daughter bought here four years ago for 2500gns.

Leading the heifer trade at 7000gns was the female champion and supreme overall, Drumlegagh Corissa, a two-year-old daughter of French bred bull Blason, from Northern Ireland breeder John Elliott, Drumlegagh, Newtown Stewart. A half sister to last years champions, which sold for 5400gns, she is out of the Precieux sired show heifer Drumlegagh Unic, and sold served to the French bull, Cesar. The buyer was relatively new breeder, Geoff Wilson, an antiques dealer who also trades in conservation building products at Hillsborough Road, Dromore, Co Down.

John Pirie, who runs just nine pedigree Salers cows alongside five pedigree Limousin females in his 62 herd commercial cow herd at Chapelpark, Kingussie, Invernesshire, also came up trumps with a 4800gns sale for Chapelpark Derry, a 21month old daughter of the imported sire Turbulent, a bull owned by Thomas Kelly, out of Farr Marion, which has bred sons to 3000gns. The buyer was Welsh pedigree breeder and vice chairman of the society Harri Pritchard, Llywn Gwynn, Gwynedd.



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Castle Douglas Dinner 2011

Once again the annual presentation dinner took place at the Douglas Arms, Castle Douglas. We had another sell out event, with all corners of the UK represented.

We enjoyed the piping in of the beef, which once again was supplied by the McClymont's. We enjoyed an excellent meal and thanks go to the staff at the Douglas Arms who had endured a change of a management just the week before our visit.

Judge David Watson from Darnford, Durris gave an excellent speech incorporating his thoughts on the cattle put forward in the show ring. He was pleased with the quality of animals coming through the sale and had definitely noted a few of interest! He also entertained with stories of Salers, members, farming and the farming community.

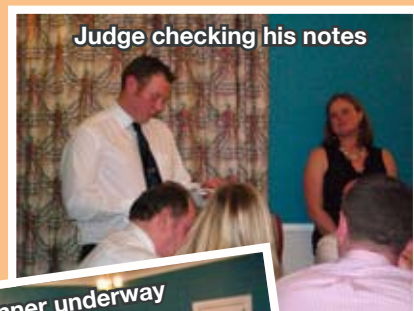
Chairman, Rachel Hallos gave an inspiring speech on her vision of Salers and their future; She gave us lots to think about and we all look forward to seeing hills and valleys full of red cattle!

It all added to a wonderful evening with friends and colleagues.

The presentation from the show took place and everyone showed much appreciation for the efforts taken to produce cattle of such quality (show results are in the Castle Douglas Report).

Our sponsors for the event – Farmers Guardian, represented by Steph Denny and Natural Stockcare, represented by Tom Stevenson then took the reins for the presentation of the Animals of the Year 2011; this is decided based on points accrued for showing throughout the season. At the end of the show season these points are tallied and in appreciation of the time, effort and expense of attending shows awards are presented. This year awards were given as follows

These animals are represented in images on the front and back cover of this Journal



Champion Senior Male of the Year
(Salers Cattle Society Trophy)
Beeston Hall Corky – S & R Hallos

Champion Senior Female of the Year
(Salers Cattle Society Trophy)
Manor Lane Avon – C A Fox

Champion Junior Male of the Year
(Quaich Cup)
Fanfan – J & EA Elliott

Champion Junior Female of the Year
(Silver Salver)
Manor Lane Diva – C A Fox

WHITEBOG SALERS



3 Homebred Bulls

Typical example of Bulls bred at Whitebog



Whitebog Ensign.
champion at Stirling Oct 2011



Whitebog Exotic.
champion at Stirling Feb 2011

Young Bulls available for sale

ALISTER MACKENZIE

Whitebog, Fortrose, Ross-shire IV10 8SW

Tel/Fax: 01381 620006 Mobile: 07999 834549

Email: bertie@millbuie.plus.com - Web: www.whitebogsalers.com

Stirling Bull Sales – 2012

Judge; Robert Milne, Inverurie

A good day was had at the Bull Sales in Stirling on 8th February, with bulls in the ring averaging 4,000gns and heifers 1,800gns

The top price bull at 5,600gns was Whitebog Fantastic, owned and bred by the Mackenzies from Fortrose. Born 31/3/2010 this bull was sired by Bijou and was born from a home bred cow Whitebog Claire. An impressive animal put forward by Alistair and family, and bought by pedigree breeder J & S Manners, Hawick, Roxburghshire.

The top price heifer at 2,100gns was Seamore Fantastic born 24/4/2010 from James & Sophie Manners, bought by Forthill Farming, Brechin, Angus. Another Seamore heifer Seamore Faberge was well on the way to a good price at 2,800gns, but as an impressive two year old, who came in as Female Champion, the Manners decide to take her back home.

The Male Champion came from the Rigel Pedigree herd – Rigel Hotspur born 17/10/2009, Sire: Casimir, Dam: Rigel Horizon – made 4,800gns in the ring.



Results from the ring

Bull, born on or between 17 October 2009 and 4 April 2010

- 1st Rigel Pedigree, Rigel Hotspur
- 2nd P Boyd, Drumaglea Yeoman
- 3rd A MacKenzie, Whitebog Fantastic

Bull, born on or after 5 April 2010

- 1st R & K Livesey, Cleuchhead Zoro
- 2nd Rigel Pedigree, Rigel Mars
- 3rd Farmstock Genetics, Cumbrian Camelot

Heifer, born on or before 8 April 2010

- 1st J & S Manners, Seamore Faberge
- 2nd Rigel Pedigree, Rigel Liga
- 3rd Rigel Pedigree, Rigel Prima Donna Poll

Heifer, born on or after 9 April 2010

- 1st J & S Manners, Seamore Fantastic
- 2nd J & S Manners, Seamore French Rose
- 3rd Farmstock Genetics, Cumbrian Veritable 499



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Manor Lane Salers

CAROLYN FOX

MANOR VIEW, MANOR LANE, DRY DODDINGTON, NEWARK, NOTTS NG23 5JA
TEL: 01400 282044 OR 07788 105892

**MEMBER OF HI-HEALTH SCHEME FOR
IBR, LEPTO, BVD & JOHNES. 4 YEARLY TB AREA**



MANOR LANE SPIRIT
2010 SALERS CHAMPION SENIOR
FEMALE OF THE YEAR



MANOR LANE AVON
2011 SALERS CHAMPION SENIOR
FEMALE OF THE YEAR



SEAWELL FRANKO
NEW HERD STOCK BULL

2011 SUPREME CHAMPION SALERS GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOW AND ALSO ONE OF THE PAIR
WINNING RESERVE IN THE BLYTHEWOOD INTERBREED BEEF COMPETITION.

Salers Cattle Society makes positive moves on herd health

It is good to hear that the breed is taking positive moves to reduce the chances of BVD being transmitted with cattle sold at society sales. This endorses the view that farm businesses cannot afford health issues if they are to maximise output.

Sellers of pedigree animals must embrace herd health and this will gain them a reputation as breeders and sellers of stock that will thrive. For Salers, a breed with solid maternal credentials, it is of vital importance.

Any disease which reduces the production capacity of a herd is unwanted. With the current buoyancy of the beef industry it is critical that performance is maximised.

Is testing for BVD enough to satisfy the growing market place for Salers cattle? Probably not!

As well as BVD many breeders are now testing for Johne's and commercial suckler herds are increasingly aware of the need to try and source bulls and females from Johne's accredited herds.

Johne's disease in a herd will have various effects on production - all costing you money.

1. Declining cow condition impairs fertility resulting in barren cows or failure to take the bull quickly.
2. Poor milk yield resulting in calves that grow slower than their herd mates. If the cow has to be culled when calf is 3 or 4 months old the calf will suffer a further set back.
3. Death or culling of cows/bulls at a young age. This will increase the herd replacement cost per head.
4. Lighter calves at weaning, more stressed and more prone to a pneumonia outbreak.

The disease can hit herd productivity in many different ways and the disease is spread from herd to herd through trading of infected animals.

Johne's screening involves a whole herd test with blood sampling of all animals two years of age and older on an annual basis. The results from the health scheme, and in discussion with the herd's own vet, will determine if animals have to be culled as a result of high blood antibody readings. It is recommended that animals with positive readings are culled.

If you have seen clinical disease in your herd (i.e. animals wasting and scouring) it is probable that on a herd test there will be more animals that test positive, even though they look in good condition. However remember that animals in good condition are worth good money in the cull market. A thin cow will be worth little. If a bull is lost after working one season the cost per calf on the ground will be very high.

As well as the animals which test positive there will be a number which may be infected but will initially test negative.

In effect it can take several years to gain accreditation for Johne's. Under CHeCS rules three clear tests at annual intervals are required for accreditation.

If aiming for accreditation what measures should be taken to reduce the risk?

- As calves are most susceptible to infection attention to cleanliness at calving and in the early stages of life is critical – Keep Cows Clean and free of faecal material.
- Keep water troughs, bowls, feed troughs, etc clean.
- Avoid the use of colostrum from unknown sources.
- Do not buy a foster cow to suckle (unless from accredited sources).
- Do not spread farmyard manure or slurry on ground to be grazed.
- Reduce the rabbit population on the grazing.
- If buying replacements, isolate for up to 70 days, blood test and do a faecal culture.

Johne's disease is showing increasing incidence in UK cattle herds and it is critical that all herds, especially those selling breeding stock, join a CHeCS approved health scheme and try to eradicate the disease from the herd. This applies to commercial as well as pedigree herds of cattle.

More details on Johne's and also BVD, IBR and leptospirosis can be found on our website www.cattlehealth.co.uk.

It is good to see the Salers Cattle Society of the UK taking positive steps and I welcome more society members in to the Premium Cattle Health Scheme.

Ian Pritchard
Health Scheme Manager
March 2012

SAC Consulting Premium Cattle Health Scheme **SAC**

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- BVD
- IBR
- Leptospirosis

CHeCS licensed / all tests ISO 17025 accredited

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- Provide health assurance for your customers
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www.sac.co.uk/pchs

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By Dick Bradley, Irish Livestock Consultant
To Jean - Luc Kress Of KBS Genetics



Cogent

Sire: Cumbrian Champ (poll)

Dam: Cumbrian Joconde (poll)

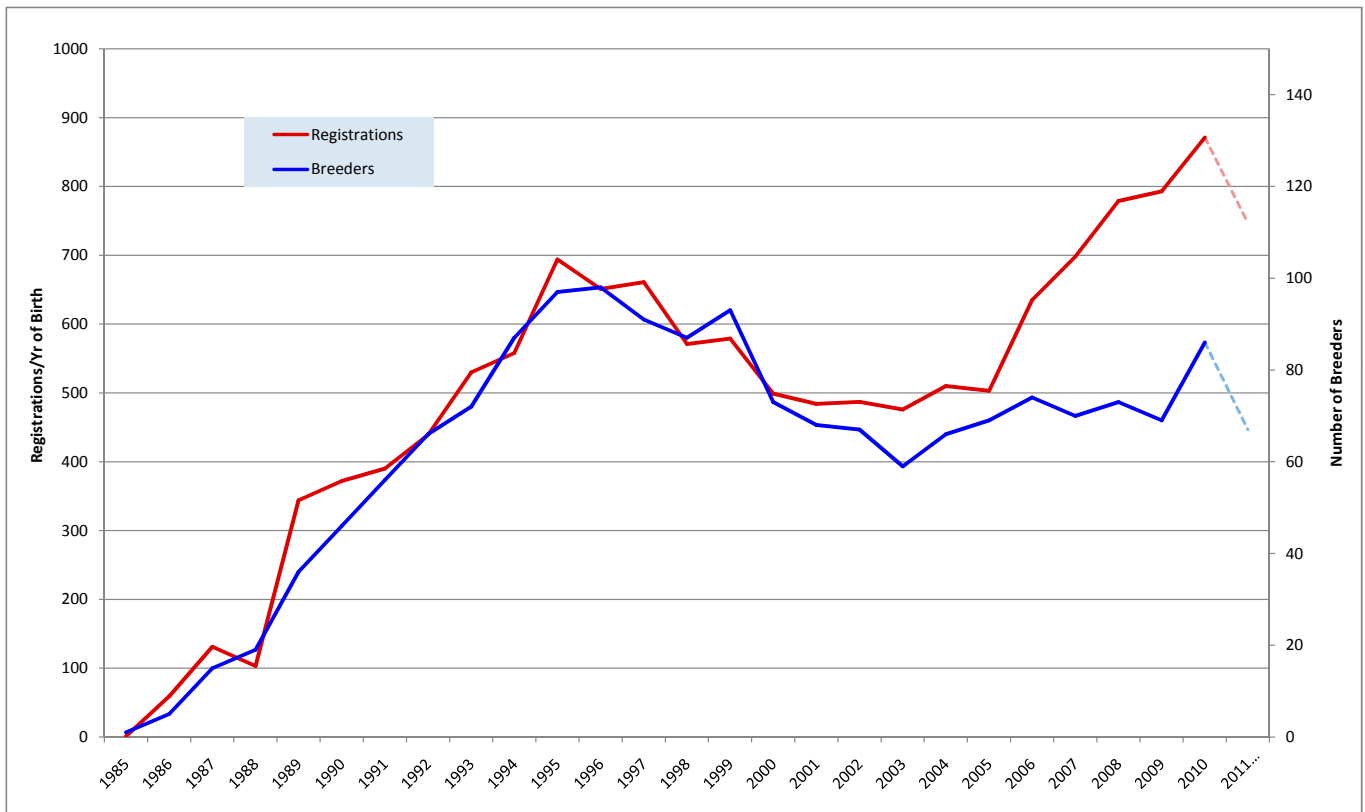
Farmstock Genetics, Over Whitlaw, Selkirk, TD7 4QN

Tel: 01750 21281 Tom Mob: 07870 869822 Email: twwalling@aol.com

Positive Trends in Registrations and New Breeders

The UK Salers Society Herd Book is a terrific source of information on the progress that the Salers breed is making in the UK, and specifically about the growth of the pedigree herd. The chart shows the trend on the number of pedigree registrations and also the trend in the number of breeders submitting registrations.

Registrations of UK Bred Animals and Number of Breeders
(by year of birth of registered animal)



Data summarised from UK Herd Book as of 1st-Oct-11
(excludes Rep of Ireland breeders)

On a technical point, as our database does not hold the date when a registration is made, all the trends are necessarily based on the date of birth of the registered animal. Also, for a few years in the late '90s, prior to forming their own Herd Book, breeders in the Republic of Ireland registered cattle in the UK Herd Book. For consistency, these registrations have been stripped out.

It is a pleasure to report that the number of registrations is growing strongly at approximately 10% per year, and has been for some years.

This is made up of a very strong growth in heifer registrations, but only a modest growth in pedigree bulls being registered. Currently three times as many heifers are being registered compared to bulls.

The number of breeders has recently made a significant step up, following a long period where the number has been static at around 70 breeders. 14 new breeders registered calves for the first time in 2010, which is the largest influx since the mid '90s. Typically, approx 50% of paid up members register calves in any year. Also, historically each breeder has registered 6-7 calves each year. More recently this has increased to an average of 10-11 calves per breeder.

Another very positive finding is the strongly increasing trend in the number of new dams, which topped 300 in 2010 for the first time, having been around 150-180 new dams per year for many years. It is worth pointing out that despite the outstanding longevity of a Salers cow, that on average, each cow only contributes 3 registered calves in her life time. One third of dams only ever have one registered calf, and only 25% have 5 or more registered calves. This implies a great opportunity to increase the number of registrations from the existing cow herd.

At the request of a member, an analysis of the source of the sires being used was carried out. This revealed that around 40% of registered calves are by imported sires (mainly from France), and also that another 40% were by a sire that the breeder had bred themselves. This leaves only 20%, or only 1 in 5 stock bulls, where a UK breeder has registered calves by a bull bred by another UK breeder. Perhaps this partly explains the more modest growth in registrations of bulls noted above.

In summary, data from our Herd Book reveals very good news in respect of increasing number of registrations and of new breeders, and also some key areas where growth can be accelerated.

It's Time To Change!

You Need Salers For

Easy Calving – Prolific Stock Bulls – Good Foragers
Milky Mothers – Longevity – Good Growth Rates

Can You Afford Not To Change?

Society Sales Take Place

February – Stirling,

United Auctions – Tel: 01786 473055

May – Welshpool

Welshpool Livestock Centre – Tel: 01938 553438

May – Castle Douglas

Wallets Marts – Tel: 01556 502381

November – Castle Douglas Premier Show & Sale

Wallets Marts – Tel: 01566 502381

All Cattle At Society Sales Are Tested & Vaccinated Against BVD

We Are Strongly Recommending All Members Join A CHeCHS Health Scheme



For information on the breed or for details
on shows and sales :

Contact The Secretary

Liz Wilde – Tel: 07903 626249

secretary@salers-cattle-society.co.uk

or check out our website www.salers-cattle-society.co.uk

Salers

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The Watsons at Darnford by Eddie Gillanders



The genetics of one of the largest beef suckler herds in the North-east of Scotland.

The Salers breed is having an increasing influence in the genetics of one of the largest beef suckler herds in the north-east of Scotland.



Host farmer, Pete Watson (front right with microphone), assisted by Harbro regional sales manager, David MacKenzie (left)

Farmer, Pete Watson, who runs the 1440 acres farming enterprise with sons, David, Adam and James, told 200 visitors attending an open day on his farm at Darnford, Durris, near Aberdeen, that

he plans to replace the Continental cross cows in his 420-cow herd with Salers in the future to reduce the workload during calving in the spring.

“We have been running Continental cross cows up to now but we are planning to switch to Salers over the next few years,” he said. “The Salers cross cows we have at present are very easy calving with good maternal instincts and plenty of milk.”

All the cows in the autumn-calving section of the herd are now being crossed with Salers bulls and the heifers retained as replacements to calve at two-and-a-half years of age, again to the Salers bull.



Visitors gather round for the charity auction

“The Salers cows are more economical to keep and their calves by the Charolais bull grow every bit as well as calves from our Continental cows,” said Pete. “We are confident that the Salers cows will last a lot longer and give us two or three more calves in their

The Charolais is used as a terminal sire and prices of up to 8500 gns have been paid to secure top sires with fleshing and growth potential.



The 200 visitors attending the open day at Darnford toured the farm in tractors and trailers to view the Salers cows

lifetime, without calving difficulties or fertility problems.” Steers from the Darnford herd are marketed to a local abattoir at around 22 months at 360-420kg deadweight and heifers at around 19 months to give a carcass of 300-350kg.

“It’s all about profitability and we aim for the top end of the market,” he said. “We try to keep costs down by feeding what we can grow on the farm along with arable by-products and draff (distillery by-product).”

The only protein purchased is wheat dark grains (Invercrombies) from feed merchants, Harbro Ltd, who arranged the open day and also formulate the rations which are mixed on the farm.



This impressive group of Salers cross heifers were much admired by visitors to the Darnford open day

150 acres is cut twice for silage and cropping includes 450 acres spring barley and 58 acres wholecrop.

The open day also included a visit to the farm of Pete’s brother, Andrew, at Glasslaw, Stonehaven, where their eldest brother, Jim, conducted a charity auction and raised £2233 for the Aberdeen-based cancer support organisation, CLAN.

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Darnford extends to 815 acres and a further 485 acres of seasonal grazing is rented over the summer along with 150 acres rented for cropping to make up the 1440-acre enterprise. A total of

150 acres is cut twice for silage and cropping includes 450 acres spring barley and 58 acres wholecrop.

The open day also included a visit to the farm of Pete’s brother, Andrew, at Glasslaw, Stonehaven, where their eldest brother, Jim, conducted a charity auction and raised £2233 for the Aberdeen-based cancer support organisation, CLAN.

A GUIDE TO BULL BUYING

The purchase of a stock bull represents an investment in genetic material that will have a major impact on the financial performance of the herd.

Calves sired by bulls with superior breeding are capable of improving herd gross margins by £40 to £60/calf and in self-replacing herds a bull's genes may continue to be expressed for over 20 years, so it is important to invest wisely.

It is imperative that beef producers know how to:

- Assess a bull's genetic potential
- Ensure the right genetics are purchased to meet the needs of the farm and the market
- Optimise the use of the bull over several seasons, by selecting for reproductive fitness and ensuring it is structurally sound
- Understand how to utilise these genetics within purebred and crossbred breeding programmes

By following these steps producers can identify bulls that:

- Produce more progeny
- Produce calves that are born easily
- Produce faster growing progeny

Breeding Role	Important
Terminal Sire - progeny finished for slaughter	Calving ease and birth weight 400 day growth, muscle depth, muscle score and fat depth
Terminal Sire - progeny sold at weaning	Calving ease and birth weight 200 day growth
Sire of dairy calves – progeny sold at 48 hours	Gestation length, calving ease and birth weight
Sire of dairy calves – progeny finished for slaughter	Gestation length, calving ease and birth weight. Muscle depth and muscle score
Maternal Sire – female progeny retained for breeding purposes	Birth weight, 200 day milk, Calving Interval, Maternal Calving Ease, Early Maturity and 200 day growth
Sire for mating to maiden heifers	Calving ease, birth weight and 200 day growth rate

- Produce progeny with desirable carcass traits that meet market specifications
- Produce more productive female replacements

Traits of Interest for Beef Producers

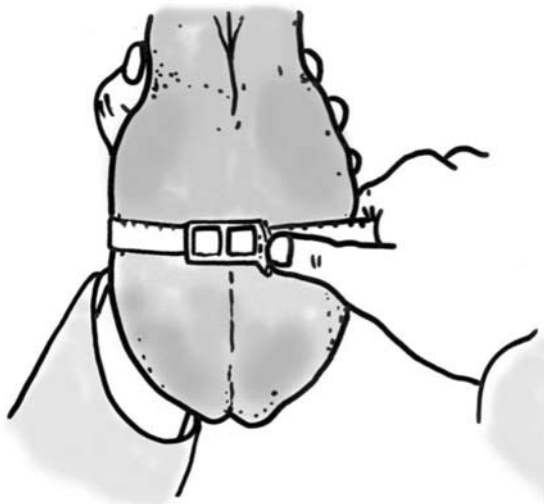
Bull Fertility

One of the most important attributes of a bull is his fertility, because infertile bulls are a major source of economic loss. There are a number of steps that a bull buyer can take to minimise their chance of purchasing a bull with poor fertility.

These include checking:

- Scrotal size and tone
- Structure of sheath and penis
- Semen quality
- Bull behaviour – such as libido and serving capacity
- Structural soundness

Testicle size is important as it will have a direct influence on daily sperm production and hence mating load. A positive genetic relationship also exists between the scrotal size of a stock sire and both the fertility and age at puberty of their female progeny. Great care should be taken when measuring testicle size to avoid operator injury. To measure the scrotum, restrain the bull in a crush and stand behind it. With one hand draw the testicles to the bottom of the scrotum, with finger and thumb around the side of the scrotum, rather than between the testes. With the other hand, loop a tape around the widest point of the scrotum and take the measurement. Specialist equipment to measure scrotal circumference is available through certain stockists. Scrotal circumference will be influenced by the age of the animal, its breed and body condition score.



Measuring Scrotal Circumference

Structural Soundness

For a bull to actively seek out cows for mating and mount them, it needs to be physically fit and possess good locomotion. Bulls with suboptimal locomotion tend to be sub-fertile and require culling at a younger age.

The conformation of the hind limbs in a working bull is of paramount importance, as they have to support the bull's weight during mating. More bulls are culled for problems with their hind limbs than

for any other structural condition. If the bull feels leg pain during mating it will influence his libido.

Common faults in cattle include limbs that are sickle hocked, post legged, bowed legged and cow hocked.

Bull Buyers Checklist

Structural Soundness

- Legs
- Feet
- Locomotion
- Temperament
- Scrotal Size
- Scrotal Firmness

Genetic Potential (depending on your priorities)

- Calving ease / birth weight
- Milking ability
- Growth rate
- Carcass attributes

Other

- Health status of the herd and individual bull
- Body condition score and pre-sale management
- Genetic relationship to your cows (to avoid inbreeding)

Excerpts from Bull Buyer's Guide
www.hccmpw.org.uk

The FAI herd at Oxford is based on robust, long lived, polled Salers, with a proven record for producing meat from grass. Maiden heifers & young bulls available.

Call David Crutchley on 07890 984096 for details

PREENBANK SALERS



OUR NEWS

In calf heifers by ONLEY APOLLO look to have real potential.

Very good yearling heifers and bulls by PREENBANK CASSIDY (A POLDEAN ROBBIE son out of a very thick traditional GABRIEL daughter). Also by COLAND BEN - (A COLAND SUPERMAN son out of a CLEUCHHEAD cow line).

Belgian Blue and Charolais AI calves now being born, to show what Salers can really do!

Calves due from SEAWELL FRANCO (VICOMTE son/ VANTAL cow line),

and SEAWELL FRAZER (VICOMTE son/ BAFOIL cow line).

(Both bulls with a great pelvis width and strong structure).

And also PREENBANK HUSTLER (son of ONLEY APOLLO, out of one of our consistently good female lines).

NEW FOR 2012

DRUMLEGAGH DOUGLAS - Reserve Junior and Reserve Male Champion, Castle Douglas 2011. BLASON son out of a PRECIEUX daughter. Bull with real growth for age. Good depth of flesh.

A true Saler type that will hopefully leave backends like this!

WITH BEEF WHERE IT MATTERS

MILK into MEAT into MONEY



'MORE BEEF LESS GRIEF'

Progeny from CORY SCOTTY who had a tremendous influence through the herd.

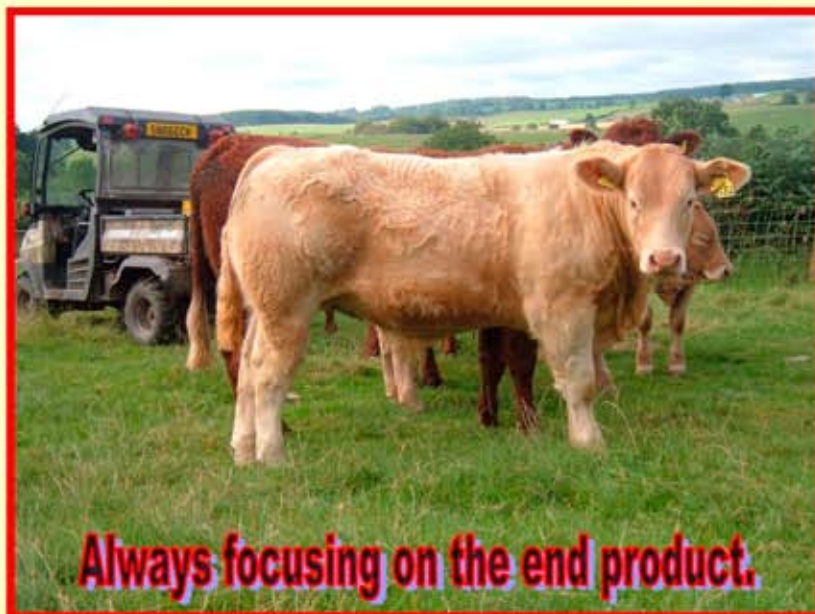
**Why not come and see for yourself - a warm welcome as always.
Bulls and females usually for sale.**

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Alisdair_davidson@hotmail.co.uk

WWW.POLDEAN.COM



**Stock Bull Drumlegagh Austin
in his working Clothes**

**"COME & SEE US AND OOR
CATTLE AT HAME"**

Selection techniques and performance improvement in the suckler herd.

A View from William Haire – 2009 Nuffield Farming Scholar



WILLIAM HAIRE

THOMAS HENRY
FOUNDATION AWARD
(Crumlin, Co Antrim)
'Modern selection techniques
in the pedigree beef herd'

William is a pedigree and commercial beef farmer who also specialises in show preparation. William is a member of the RUAS and the National Beef Association NI Council.

I farm in partnership with my parents and uncle on the hills to the west of Belfast City. The farm rises from around 750 to almost 1200 feet on both northerly and southerly aspects, with the soils ranging from heavy loams to deep peats. We farm 220 acres, 180 of which we own, the balance taken on short term lets.

The farm is all grass with approximately 60 acres improved and the remainder of moorland and high organic matter land all designated "Severely Disadvantaged".

After spending five years working for a national feed company after agricultural college, I returned to work on the family farm. During this time I have had the chance to work in Canada and the USA learning about their production and marketing policies. Over this time we have made massive improvements within our own herds adopting many North American management principles. We have been using Embryo Transfer (ET) successfully to introduce new families to our herd and improve traits where we felt weaknesses existed.

Whilst I have been involved in showing cattle for most of my life and been lucky enough to have a great deal of success along the way both with our own and other breeders cattle, I have become increasingly concerned that pedigree breeders are more and more detached from the "real world" of cattle production and the requirements of the modern processing and retailing sectors.

Producing cattle that look good simply isn't enough given the traditional pressures e.g. inputs, being exerted on suckler beef profitability, before we start to consider the implications of environmental protection, water shortages, spiralling energy costs and copious amounts of regulation and red tape that are either here or just around the corner.

The purpose of my study is to investigate modern selection techniques used to make better breeding decisions that can lead to improvements in efficiency, performance, profitability and the lifestyle of beef producers in the UK. I visited three countries I consider to be progressive and actively developing techniques that drive genetic improvement in their national herds to secure the long term future of their beef industries. All these countries are spending considerable amounts of levy, private and public funds on research into all aspects of the beef supply chain.

Primarily I set out to learn more about Estimated Breeding Values (EBV's) and the factors that contribute to their generation and use at farm level; to learn more about the new science of Genomics and its use for selection and management.

I looked at other aspects of breeding stock selection including performance measures, recording systems, information use and knowledge transfer.

I found it invaluable to meet the scientists carrying out research and developing new ideas but more importantly to meet the cattle producers using the techniques within their herds to ensure they have a long profitable future producing beef.

USA

I spent five weeks in the USA, throughout the "Great Plains" of the mid west travelling through Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Oklahoma. I visited a heifer development business, feed yard, several leading cattle breeders and commercial ranches as well as State extension offices/ universities, public and private research organisations and the largest ball of string in the world!

The passion beef producers have for what they produce is immense. The dominant farm businesses in the regions I visited were cattle and grain producers. Whilst I set off expecting all the countries cattle producers to use Estimated Pedigree Differences (EPD's – their equivalent to EBV's) as second nature, I soon discovered that this was untrue. Here too there is much scepticism, but those that have committed to their use have done so extremely well. There is still a long way to go, a lot of which is related to the advancing age of ranchers and the strong traditional values many still hold. Having said that, many large scale commercial ranches are using modern technology along side the traditional ranching and cowboy skills passed down from generation to generation.

One thing that struck me very quickly was their use of the term "breeding programme". Whilst many had simply the goal of weaning as many calves as possible, most had a clear idea of what they were trying to achieve and were taking the necessary steps to do so. Plenty of impartial advice is available which, given the rural location and agricultural dependence, was available not only on a one to one basis but regularly on farm visits, television, radio, the internet and many group events.

There is generally good acceptance of Artificial Insemination (AI) and the benefits its use brings. Breeders are open to the use of modern breeding techniques to accelerate the rates of genetic gain, including controlled synchronisation, ET and cloning. Unfortunately the danger of single trait selection has become apparent, where breeders and bull buyers have become obsessed with certain traits allowing the development of fatal genetic abnormalities such as "curly-calf" syndrome affecting the Angus breed.

The beef cow herd is dominated by the Black Angus and Hereford breeds and all are pure beef breeding with no dairy influence.

New Zealand

I spent three weeks in New Zealand, concentrated in the North Island. Once again I visited pedigree and commercial beef and dairy herds and sheep flocks, research organisations, universities and of course the Hunterville Huntaway Shemozzle, celebrating the NZ Huntaway dog.

NZ is a country that left me troubled on my departure. It has some of the best cattle and cattle producers in the world, amazing grassland management skills and a beautiful landscape, where the livestock are farmed very much in tune with the environment. What I couldn't understand is the way they under-sell the products they produce. It seems that their pride in being a low cost producer has taken them to the point where they cannot make meat production pay.

Leaving the extensive grazing and intensive grain finishing systems of the USA and arriving to see extensive and intensive grass based grazing and finishing systems of NZ brought a whole new set of demands for the cattle and a change of business attitude. There is again a split between those that use EBV's and those that don't, which came as a big surprise given the NZ farmer's attitudes to productivity and innovation. Some of the best examples of the use of EBV's that I saw during the entire trip were here, where massive improvements had been made through laying clear goals and applying high levels of selection pressure (culling).

The attitude to underperforming cattle here is extremely ruthless and part of the reason the country has eliminated many of the problems

we find acceptable here in the UK such as poor fertility, temperament and calving difficulties. As with the UK, dairy based suckler cows are the norm, but NZ has the advantage of having a Friesian based dairy industry, bringing fewer of the reproductive and management problems associated with the Holstein breed. The dominant suckler cow cross is Hereford followed by Angus.

Australia

I spent three weeks in NSW and Victoria including a full week in the Armidale area, the hub for beef production knowledge in Australia, the home of the Beef Co-operative Research Council (Beef CRC), Breedplan (the largest performance recording company globally) and many breed societies, researchers, extension groups and companies.

After getting over the initial size of the country, the next obvious contrast was the distinct lack of water. Once again the innovation of the grassland farmer here has meant that they have adapted their systems and the breeds they use to suit the resources they have available. Surprisingly here too I came across the same feelings about performance recording with breeders either loving or loathing EBV's.

One of the really exciting observations which all beef scholars return from here with was the MSA carcass grading system. I, like my predecessors came back to the UK wondering how we can continue to accept selling finished cattle on a system which doesn't truly reward us and more importantly disappoints our customers because of inconsistent eating quality, potentially driving them to other protein sources.

The cows are predominately Hereford bred followed by Angus and other British breeds, with Angus, Hereford and Charolais the dominant terminal sires in the temperate zones. Bos Indicus dominate the tropical conditions in Northern parts of Australia, but more commonly crossed with British breeds to produce better quality carcasses.

Conclusions

It quickly became apparent that selection tools are not the only element involved with performance improvement and without clearly defined breeding goals in a breeding plan it is difficult to make progress. The main problem beef producers face in this country is the strong traditional ethos and a lack of willingness to do anything different. That's not to say tradition is all wrong, but with some modernisation we could combine our traditional values with modern production practices thus improving farm efficiency.

The levy bodies in all three countries, National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) in the USA, Meat & Wool NZ (M&WNZ) and Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) play many roles within their countries. All provide representation for their members to policy makers, commission research with levy funds, and conduct promotion both domestically and in overseas markets. Interestingly they have taken the lead in many contentious issues before external organisation step in, such as the NCBA establishing the Nationally accepted Quality Assurance scheme.

The main customer base for each country is quite different, from domestic consumption, commodity export to premium exports all have benefitted from the use of performance recording to influence the changes needed to help them adapt to market requirements.

The level of education about breeding and genetics is much greater overseas at all levels than here in the UK and is something that ought to be easily addressed by the levy boards and agricultural colleges.

We have become so busy treating the solutions we have forgotten what the problems were. We need to get the basics right with the cattle we produce in terms of fertility, reproduction, maternal characteristics, feed efficiency, hardiness and temperament as these are the traits that make money before we turn to the cosmetic traits

currently demanded by the industry that cost us money or reduce our ability to make a profit.

EBV's are vital to developing a UK beef industry capable to survive 21st century challenges. Traditional visual selection, whilst serving its purpose for many years, provides no proof of the animal's genetic capabilities and is more an indication of good feeding than good breeding!

Genomics is a very young science but is evolving at an amazing rate. It is unique in that not only is the science developing but also the analytical tools and knowledge needed. The markers (SNPs) used in the cattle tests cover a variety of traits that are difficult to measure due to age at collection or low prevalence in the population.

Ultimately improvements can be made by using very simple records produced on farm containing information collected routinely at minimal expense through the use of a comprehensive breeding plan.

Recommendations

- The responsibility to improve the genetic potential and performance of the British beef herd rests with the whole production and supply chain.
- An efficient flow of information and co-operation between all elements of the supply chain to ensure everyone is aware of what is needed and what they can potentially achieve.
- It is essential to know the businesses physical and financial performance so breeding decisions can be made that are relevant to the business.
- Producing a breeding programme which combines information collected within the herd and from external sources is needed in every herd to get and keep breeding decisions on track.
- Performance recording works and is vital for beef producers intending to stay in business! The disdain with which many breeders, pedigree and commercial, hold against EBV's is unfounded, outdated and holding back the entire industry.
- Bull buyers need to alter their buying practices and seek out the performance recorded individuals that will fulfil their requirements and get away from the "calf-getter" mentality.
- One of the main factors restricting the profitability of beef production in the UK is the EUROP grading structure, as it is encouraging inefficient production systems on farm and a product which frequently fails the consumer.
- Pedigree breed societies need to modernise their structures and take a proactive approach, developing stronger links with the commercial sector directing their breed more on economically relevant traits than show ring gimmicks.
- An increase in the value of levies collected on livestock transactions and the establishment of a National organisation representing cattle and sheep producers across the devolved regions using the MLA model.
- There is a tremendous amount of information and independent advice available from organisations such as CAFRE, EBLEX, QMS and HCC to help make better decisions so take advantage of it whilst it is still free and available!
- We need to keep cattle which suit our farm environment instead of making the farm suit the cattle.

Over the last 60 years, the Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust has provided over 800 people - with a background in agriculture, its associated industries and the rural community - the chance to travel to expand their knowledge and understanding.

SOUTH WEST SALEERS BREEDERS

AREA COUNCIL MEMBER
MALCOLM LIGHT

T: 01837 871203 M: 07968 270134
E: malcolm.light@virgin.net

Shannon Salers

T: 01409 259178

High Health Scheme Member

Kington Salers

T: 01747 838756

Morwenstow Salers

T: 01288 331279

High Health Scheme Member

Ashbury Salers

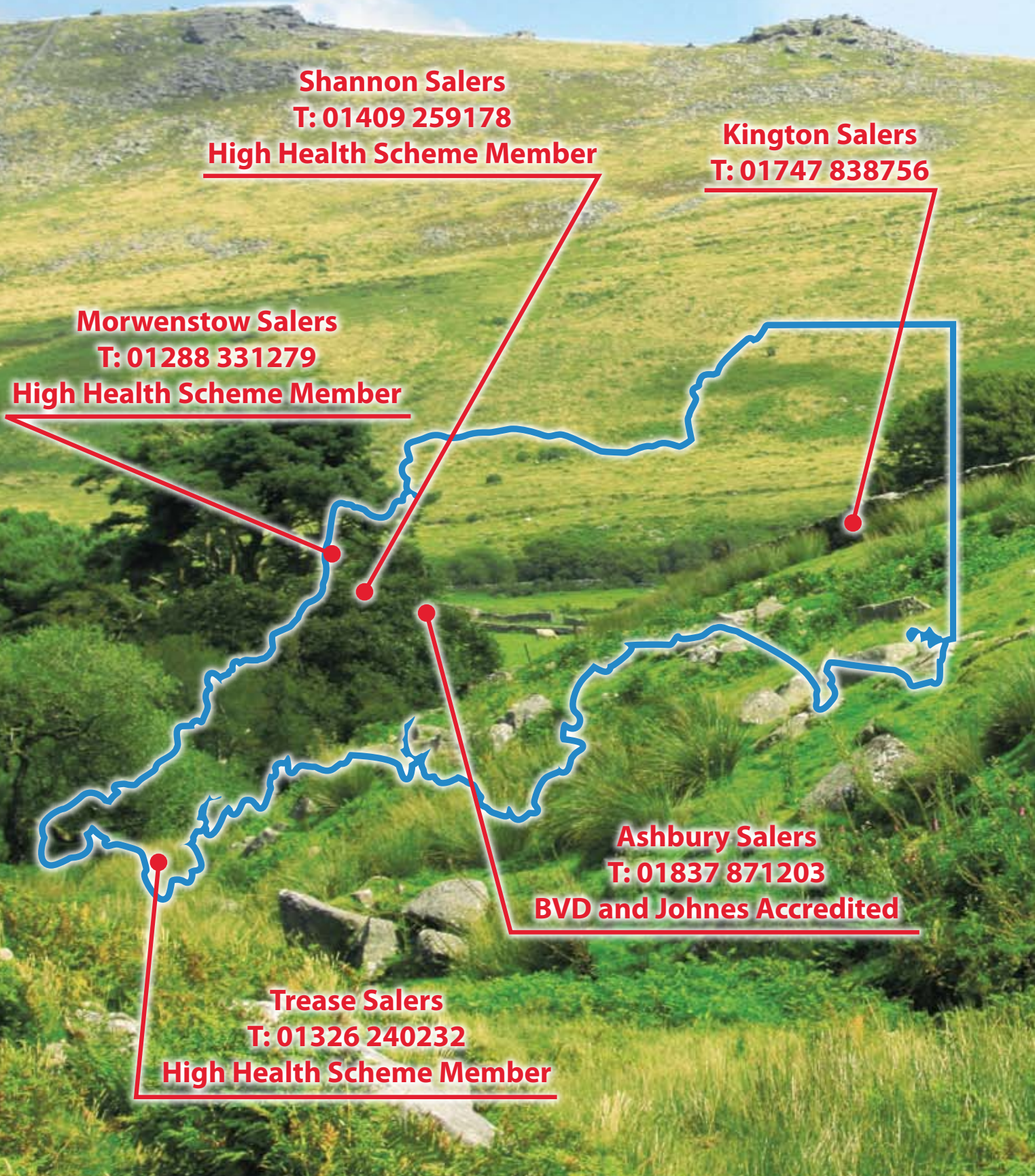
T: 01837 871203

BVD and Johnes Accredited

Trease Salers

T: 01326 240232

High Health Scheme Member



Alternative Bedding Materials

Numerous bedding materials for livestock are available but their cost and effectiveness varies. Straw is typically the bedding material of choice for the majority of farms, however, its availability and cost is now becoming a concern. Changes in farming policy have reduced the amount of cereals grown in the UK. Consequently straw is a much less available commodity than it once was. In addition, for arable farms, new cereal varieties and straw shorteners have reduced straw yields whilst high nutrient prices have meant that straw is seen as a valuable bi-product that can be chopped and ploughed back into the land. In some areas of Eastern England, straw is increasingly being sought for use as a biofuel. This reduction in cereal straw availability combined with high haulage costs has meant that livestock farmers in low cereal growing areas are looking for alternative materials for bedding their livestock.

Alternative bedding material should be scrutinised carefully and the following should be considered:

1. Will it keep my animals dry and clean?
2. Will it maintain a healthy environment - are my animals healthy?
3. Will it provide a comfortable, safe bed for my animals?
4. Is it readily available?
5. Is it cost effective?
6. Can I store it easily?
7. Can I compost the resulting manure?
8. Can the resulting manure be applied to land?
9. What effect does the subsequent manure have on the land and future crop growth?

	Cost 2010	Availability	Absorption	Benefits	Animal Health	Disposal
Straw	£45-75/t	Widely	Moderate	Abundant	Mould spores	Easily composted and spread
Woodchip	£40-80/t	Widely	Low	Abundant	Must be below 30% mc	Composted for 2-3 yrs
Paper	£10-80/t	Widely	Low to high depending on product	Liming effect, abundant, cheap depending on product source	May cause teat scald using lime ash	May clump and cause difficulty spreading, may increase nitrogen requirement
Pea Haulm	£60/t	Limited	Low	Palatable- forage	Animals become wet and dirty quickly	Easily composted and spread
Oilseed Rape Straw	£40/t	Limited	Low	Clean and dust free	Very stinky material	Easily composted and spread
Canary Reed Grass	Cost of growing and baling	Limited	Moderate	Can be grown and harvested using conventional machinery	Mould if not dried correctly	Easily composted and spread
Miscanthus prepared bedding Bales ex field	£15/t higher than straw	Limited	High	Clean dust free High yielding crop	Non Moulds if not dried	Easily composted and spread
Bracken	Baling	Niche	Moderate	Cheap, warm	Potentially carcinogenic	Easily composted and spread
Rushes	Baling	Niche	Moderate	Cheap		Easily composted and spread

Not all bedding material has been covered in the table. Other bedding materials are available.

Bedding materials should be comfortable to lay on, non-abrasive, non-slippery, highly absorbent of water and urine, and display low levels of environmental bacterial.

Animal health and welfare are a high priority when assessing a bedding material. Animals kept in poor environmental conditions will have impaired growth rates and often exhibit higher disease incidence. Therefore it is essential the material is chosen with animal welfare in mind.

When considering bedding materials remember to consider its absorbency, animal health and welfare, disposal, costs and availability. Care should be taken with the chosen bedding material so that contaminants e.g. nails, heavy metal, glass, plastic are removed to avoid injuries and fatalities. There are a few products that cannot be used for bedding material e.g. poultry litter, recycled rubber, glossy paper, woodchip produced from wood that has had chemical preservatives or glues. These materials may have a negative effect on the health of the animals and on the soil if the used bedding is applied to the land. It is illegal to spread recycled rubber on the land.

A number of adjustments can be made to reduce the amount of bedding required:

- make buildings well ventilated to reduce moist air to keep bedding dry

- a scraped (concrete) feed area which is cleaned out a few times a week will considerably reduce bedding requirements since the majority of dung and urine is excreted while feeding
- ensure no water from gutters and water troughs get into the bedding
- place water trough by scraped feed area
- different rations produce different amounts of fluid in dung and urine, e.g. more bedding will be needed if silage is fed compared to whole crop, concentrates or straw
- excess salt can increase water uptake and increase amounts of urine
- store in a dry place

It is always an option to use alternative bedding materials with traditional cereal straw. For example research has shown that woodchip, pea haulm and rape haulm works well for drainage and are good underneath straw. Paper also works well mixed in with straw.

Excerpts from Alternative bedding for livestock www.hccmpw.org.uk



American Salers Association Update for the UK

U.S. Salers breeders continue to make strides in performance when compared to other breeds. The most current data from the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (USMARC), Clay Center, Nebraska, the largest database for multi-breed comparisons, verifies that Salers is still the continental breed of choice for Calving Ease.

Current data confirms that Salers still has the lowest and most optimal birth weight, coupled with growth and performance for crossing with Angus. With Salers in the producers crossbreeding program they achieve excellent Production Traits and the Grade and Yield Traits. No other continental breed can say that.

To quote USMARC in their report, “Marbling score was estimated to be highest in Angus. Continental breeds were estimated to be one-half to a full marbling score lower than Angus with the exception of Salers.”

Since the breed was introduced to North America in 1974 Calving Ease remains one of Salers most noteworthy traits.

In addition Salers is Still the One for

- Sustained Female Fertility
- Unsurpassed Longevity in Females
- More Live Calves
- The Crossbreeding Option with Quality Grade

Breed of Sire Solutions from USMARC Actual Data

Breed Marbling Fat Rib Eye

Area

Angus	5.8	.578	12.77
Salers	5.34	.349	13.40
Hereford	5.09	.517	12.70
Charolais	4.98	.343	13.61
Limousin	4.64	NA	14.10
Simmental	5.01	.363	13.61



SALERS DOWN-UNDER

A big "G'day" to U.K. Salers Breeders and Friends!

It was great to read the report in *The Scottish Farmer* of the results achieved by the Salers Breed at the 2011 Castle Douglas Show and Sale. Congratulations to all!

After a decade of drought in Australia, the recent reversal with high rainfall, floods and cyclones has provided a resurgence in the Australian Beef Cattle herd which is predicted shortly to rise to a figure in excess of 30.2 million head and to reach 31.8 million head by 2013/2014. The forecasted growth is expected to be underpinned by the retention of female breeding stock and favourable seasonal conditions. It is reckoned that this will be the highest that the Australian herd has been since the 1970's.



In the hot Northern part of Australia, our country has the largest beef cattle herds in the world and the top one generally has in the vicinity of 500,000

head. Whilst the Northern herds have predominantly *Bos Indicus* cattle there is an ever-increasing use of *Bos Taurus* genetics to improve fertility, calving ease and meat quality. Whilst red cattle are generally favoured in the North, black cattle have certain dominance in the Southern parts of Australia, in the temperate climates.

Of course, the opportunities for the promotion of Salers still abound and good success has been achieved in the last 12 months by some dedicated Salers Breeders in promoting the breed's great attributes of calving ease and weaning results. In the larger herds in Australia where the cattle are only brought into yards from the vast paddocks for branding and weaning, dystocia and any loss of heifers through calving incidents is critical. Crossbreeding with the results achieved by heterosis is becoming even more popular in our country.

One of the great advantages of the climate in Australia is that it is generally not necessary to "finish" Salers off by grain-feeding and in many areas you can go through Winter without having to supplementary feed. The accompanying photographs show 2 examples of cattle which have never been fed grain or hay in their lives. The

red bull is one of Cairo Salers Stud Sires and the black heifer is one of Cairo's Salers-Angus Rangemasters. The latter animal was included in a mob of 100 Rangemaster females which were sold at local Store Cattle Sales during 2011 and they "topped the market".

The Salers Beef Cattle Society of Australia and the Australian Salers Association are now undertaking more promotional activities in



the market place with promising results. There are, of course, substantial opportunities for the promotion of Salers genetics from overseas countries which would be to the advantage of everyone.

The value of the international exchange of ideas and experiences with promotional programmes is very real and it is with great anticipation that we look forward to the International Salers Convention in Ireland this August and meeting many of our U.K. friends.

Again with congratulations on the way you are developing Salers in the U.K. and best wishes to all,

Ron Coomber
President

Salers Beef Cattle Society of Australia Inc.
P.O. Box 208
MOREE NSW 2400 AUSTRALIA
Email: salerssociety@bigpond.com

Andrew Sleigh, Tarves, Aberdeenshire by Jacqueline Adamson, Scottish Farmer

ANDREW SLEIGH who farms at Newseat of Tolquhon near Tarves in Aberdeenshire, with his wife Patricia and their son Andrew, had promised that I would leave totally converted to the Salers breed – and I have to admit that having walked amongst the fields of impressive, lovely natured, cattle and hearing of the Sleigh's trips to France I left as a massive fan of the Salers breed.

The Sleigh family first ran the 440-acre farm back in 1917 when Andrew Sleigh's great-grandfather rented it for his sons to farm. Andrew moved there with wife Patricia in 1976, before purchasing it from the British Rail Pension Fund, which owned many Aberdeenshire farms at that time.

Having originally trained as a butcher at Smithfield college, Andrew ran a very successful butchers shop in Aberdeen's east-end from 1974 until 1980, by which time, the daily commute into the granite city was proving too long and tedious and Andrew was faced with the decision to start living in the town or to give up the shop – Andrew reluctantly gave up the thriving business to return to the family farm.

His butcher background has certainly stood Andrew in good stead for breeding high quality butchers cattle that convert to the cuts of meat and eating experience that the housewife wants. His butcher's banter was in evidence too during my visit as he rolled off many amusing stories and tales.

His younger son Andrew (23) works at home full-time, while elder son John (26) has had his own exciting and varied career. After gaining his economics and history degree, John stood as an MP for the Liberal Democrats under Nicol Stephen's leadership.



The farm had originally been home to Shorthorn cattle with Andrew's grandfather involved in the export of cattle to Canada and America in the breed's hey-day, but it was the

Simmental which were the cattle of choice at the start of Andrew's time on the farm and 25 pure Simmental females are still kept by the Sleighs.

Andrew first saw Salers cattle on a visit to Flinder Farms, which had bought one of the Tolquhan Simmental bulls, and he was immediately attracted to these big stretchy, hardy cows that were easily calved and easy fed.

And it wasn't long before the first Salers females arrived at Newseat of Toquhan, with the first bull arriving five years later.

In 2005 Andrew and Patricia made their first visit to

Mauriac in France where they purchased Ultime – a heifer from Jean-Pierre Roussel – that has gone on to prove her worth, being a consistent breeder within the herd. She is sired by the renowned Salers bull, Splendide.

“Mr Roussel has wonderful cattle, with great natures and very easily handled. He milks his beef Salers high up on the hills at Veyrieres – with a novel system of milking three teats for milk which is turned into Salers cheese, leaving the fourth teat for the calf!” exclaimed Andrew.



The following year the Sleighs travelled back to France, returning with Anenome, another prolific Spendide daughter. Andrew has not de-horned her nor her sister, Ultime, and the pair really are an awesome sight and the family's pride and joy.

Andrew and Patricia have fallen in love with the Auvergne region of France, from where the Salers cattle originate – now travelling over regularly to visit breeders or attend the huge agricultural shows at Mauriac and Clermont-Ferrand. Indeed when I met with the Sleighs they had only just returned from the Mauriac Show.

“These docile cattle really are a sight to behold in France – grazing high on the hills, with bells round their necks and all with these huge impressive horns. They are bred for conditions that match ours – they are what the French call ‘rustique’ – hardy hill cattle.”

“The Salers are one of the oldest purest breeds in Europe – the first show was held in Mauriac in 1873. Laurent Antignac of the French ‘Association Salers’ is a great PR man for the breed too. He will organise visits to breeders or AI stations, help with translation and organise the practical side of buying in France and the transportation back to Scotland,” explains Andrew.

“The French Salers breeders are very quick to share their love and knowledge of the breed and we have learnt so much from them.”

The Sleighs Salers herd has now grown to some 30 pure females, most of which have been home-bred, from original French stock. There are an additional 80 Salers cross cows.

In France many of the herds cross their Salers females to the Charolais bull and that was something that Andrew was keen to follow.

“Our first aim is to breed a consistent type of Charolais cross calf – that's the top selling cross-bred. And it has to

be born unassisted – we rarely have to pull a calf out at birth and we have never had a caesarean birth among the Salers. The calves are very fast at getting up and sucking. The first 10 minutes in a calf's life is so important – there really should be an EBV for that,” Andrew insists.

“The vets hate the Salers – they are very bad for business! There was a story that vets wanted the Salers banned in the Orkneys – but that was totally unfounded,” laughs Andrew.

Andrew has just bought Trafalgar – a French-bred bull, which has been working with Peter Donger's herd in Northamptonshire for the past four years but was now coming onto his own stock.

Now nine years old, Trafalgar has bred both a Mauriac and a Paris show champion, and the Sleights are looking forward to breeding some nice calves from him themselves.

“He might be nine years old but he still has a long while ahead of him – our current stock bull's father died in his sleep at 16 years old. The breed is renowned for its longevity with good feet and legs seeing them through to the end.”

That current bull is Whitebog Vinnie. His sire is Whitebog Rabbie Burns – a bull that was imported inside his mother from French-breeder Mr Dufayet. The young bull also being used is Tolquhan Marcel – a Vermeil son that came from France inside a heifer bought from Mr Roussell.

Two Charolais bulls are used for crossing – and again these are bred from French descendants.

“I like to use a smaller French-type Charolais bull – which suits our big rangy females – but I do like them to be wide and well muscled,” says Andrew.

The Simmentals that are kept pure are put to Irish-bred stock bull Seepa Newman.

“We aim to calve most of the cows in the Spring and we breed our own replacements, selling the excess heifers in-calf. We have 15 in-calf heifers for Thainstone next Thursday.

“I'm not a huge fan of EBV figures,” explains Andrew. “In theory they should be great but it's where the figures come from that I have a problem with and how accurate they are.”

Only four parts are important in his opinion. “Testicle size is important as are the eye muscle figures – you can't alter that by feeding. The other figures of importance are weaning weight and then birth weight – but that is not an easy one to record and can be very inaccurate.

“I'm more interested in the pedigree behind a beast and it's progeny records. An animal's nature and temperament is also vitally important to me.”

All bull calves are kept as bulls and not castrated. Bull calves are sold by 14/15 months with the heifers being sold at 20 months, selling direct to the slaughterhouses, Mackintosh Donald or Scotch Premier.

The butcher in Andrew points out that a Salers cross calf always kills out a grade better than you would think to look at.

Andrew has just invested in a feed wagon – aiming to feed more and get the calves finished and away earlier.

On the arable side of the farm, Andrew grows 200 acres of barley and wheat. Most of which is kept for feeding: “We keep all the straw for our own use and buy in exactly the same number of bales again.”



Andrew's future ambitions include showing more. “I would like to show more as that really is our shop window but I haven't had time up until now but we have

got to New Deer and Turriff – our two local shows. We took the French-bred cows, which with their huge horns attracted great attention.

“There aren't enough Salers classes at the shows and that can be a bit off putting – as in the any other breed sections we can be up against the British Blues.”

Andrew would like to increase the Salers numbers, and reduce other breeds. “The Salers are just so easy – and I'm all for a simple life!

“I want to continue crossing to the Charolais to breed these lovely yellow calves.

“That said our future very much depends on the future of the Single Farm Payment. If that were to be based purely on acreage – we would have to have a big re-think. And if cereal prices keep up that may well be the way to go – cow numbers would most certainly need to be cut back.”

MLC Recorded

CUIL SALERS

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Cuil Talula Society Female Of The Year 2009. Res, Female champ at R.H.S 2010 Champ A.O.B Wigtown Show 2010 and now Champ beef cow at Stranraer Show 2011

Yet another batch of these Cross Heifers will be presented at the premier sale in Castle Douglas in November



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Useful Society Information

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION. Subscriptions are due and payable on 1st January each year. No invoice will be sent so it would be helpful if all members would please pay promptly. V.A.T. receipts will be sent on payment. Payment can be made by Standing Order.

REGISTRATIONS. If a calf is got by embryo transplant, its name will be followed by (ET). Please also give Embryo Registration Form No. and Embryo No. e.g. 186/3. No calves can be registered (including grade animals) unless they have been tested as non carriers for Beta-mannosidosis or are non carriers by parentage.

A.I. CERTIFICATES MUST ACCOMPANY REGISTRATIONS IF APPROPRIATE. Registrations cannot be accepted without A.I. Forms (if appropriate). Remember to note on the Registration Form if the calf is polled. Some semen owners use the Sire Certificate system. Do check when buying semen and remember to forward the Sire Certificate with the A.I. Certificate and Registration Form.

THE GRADE REGISTER. Grade A, B and C Cattle will be registered in the Grade Register. When Grade C animals have been inspected, if inspection is passed, their calves can be registered as purebred and put into the Herd Book. After passing inspection Grade C animals can be transferred to the Herd Book, if required, as purebred on return of their Warranty with a transfer fee of £10. No male calves can be registered below 15/16. No cattle can be inspected under 15 months. Application for inspection should be sent in writing to the secretary.

ONLY FULL-BLOOD BULLS CAN BE USED IN A GRADING UP PROGRAMME. A 31/32 bull may be used on a 7/8 heifer but only the female calves may be registered - as 7/8+ - but we recommend using only Fullblood bulls on 7/8 heifers. The chart explains the crosses which can be registered with the society.

	Female FB	31/32 PB	15/16 PB	7/8 PB	3/4	1/2
Male FB	FB	63/64 PB	31/32 PB	15/16 PB	7/8 PB	3/4
31/32 PB	63/64 PB	31/32 PB	15/16 PB+	7/8 PB+(FO)	-	-
15/16 PB	31/32 PB	15/16 PB+	15/16 PB	-	-	-
7/8	-	-	-	-	-	-

FB = Fullblood- PB = Purebred -(FO) = Female only as 7/8

Full French blood is designated "Full Blood Pedigree" on the warranty.

Warranty Numbers go as follows	Herd Letters	Year No.	Sequence No.	Grade Letter	
1st cross (1/2)	XYZ	2010	001	A	(XYZ 2010001A)
2nd cross (3/4)	XYZ	2010	002	B	(XYZ 2010002B)
3rd cross (7/8)	XYZ	2010	003	C	(XYZ 2010003C)

IMPORTATION OF CATTLE. As requirements of importation change CHECK WITH THE SECRETARY what is required when you start on the import of animals, semen or embryos. All imports must have a three generation pedigree certificate issued by the Society of the country of origin and a clear DNA Beta-mannosidosis test certificate. Imported in calf cattle must also have an official three generation pedigree certificate and a clear DNA Beta-mannosidosis test certificate for the sire of the invitro calf. Registration of imported cattle (not in calf) is £28+VAT, if registered within 3 months of import. For imported cattle, with an in vitro calf, registration is £43 + VAT, if registered within 3 months of import. Over 3 months late penalties will be incurred.

SIRE CERTIFICATES A system has been set up for registering calves got by a non-owned sire. Service may either be by A.I. or natural. In these cases a Sire Certificate must be obtained from the owner of the bull/semen and forwarded with the registration form (and A.I. form if appropriate). The cost of the Sire Certificate is negotiable privately between the owners of the dam and the owners of the bull or semen. Sire certificates can be obtained from the secretary at the cost of £30 per 10 certificates. The secretary must be informed if the owner of a bull or semen wishes to use the sire certificate system (otherwise registrations may be accepted without a sire certificate and the owner would lose the service fee).

EMBRYO TRANSPLANT PROGRAMME Before embarking on an embryo transplant programme, please contact the secretary who will forward the relevant Salers Society forms. Minimum of £11 per animal flushed (up to 10 embryos) thereafter £1 per embryo. After 3 months minimum of £20 per animal flushed (up to 10 embryos) thereafter £2 per embryo. Remember to insert the ET Form No. and Embryo No. on the Calf Registration Form). £28 per Export Certificate plus embryo registration. One Export Certificate covers all embryos from one flush to the same purchaser. BOTH SIRE AND DAM IN AN EMBRYO PROGRAMME MUST BE BLOOD-TYPED and have a clear DNA Beta-Mannosidosis test certificate.

TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP A fee of £6 + VAT is charged for transfer of ownership. The fee is payable by the purchaser who should obtain the warranty from the seller and forward it to the secretary for transfer.

ALL TRANSACTIONS ARE PLUS VAT. NO TRANSACTIONS ARE COMPLETE UNTIL ALL MONIES ARE PAID AND PAPERWORK IS CORRECTLY SUPPLIED.

IF PAYING BY BACS PLEASE USE YOUR THREE ALPHABET DIGITS FROM YOUR HERD REFERENCE AS THE PAYMENT REFERENCE. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MEMBER TO GET ALL RELEVANT PAPERWORK TO THE SOCIETY ON TIME OR LATE PENALTIES WILL BE INCURRED.

Pedigree Registration Royalty Scheme for AI Sires

THE FOLLOWING BULLS/SEMEN ARE ON THE ABOVE SCHEME						
Name of Bull	Herd Book No.	Ear No.	Royalty Charge	Owner	Owner's Tel. No.	Beta-m Status
Bruno	172	6386051716	£50 + VAT	Rigel Pedigree	01624 590125	Non-Carrier
Crocodile Dundee	279	6387062264	£40 + VAT	Rigel Pedigree	01642 590125	Non-Carrier
French Connection	IMP 90026	1590068366	£35 + VAT	Rigel Pedigree	01642 590125	Non-Carrier
Vainqueur	1	1584052218	£30 + VAT	Rigel Pedigree	01624 590125	Non-Carrier
Vauban	2	1584054531	£25 + VAT	Rigel Pedigree	01624 590125	Non-Carrier
Kracker	IMP 97053	6327580166	£40 + VAT	John Elliott	02881 661654	Non-Carrier
Drumlegagh Dennis	DRU2010017	63659800107	£40 + VAT	John Elliott	02881 661654	Non-Carrier
Oldcastle Polled Gemini	HBM2002001	160108300010	£30 no VAT	Arthur Beeves	075075 94416	Non-Carrier
Theoreme	IMP 2005020	5318070195	£25 + VAT	H.G.&S.G. Pritchard	01766 819159	Non-Carrier
Turbulent	IMP2007004	1522218702	£40 + VAT	Thomas Kely	07801 105655	Non-Carrier

AIM:

If a member has collected semen from a registered bull in his/her ownership, or has acquired the sole rights to semen in the UK, for imported or purchased semen and wishes to sell semen at commercial production prices to encourage commercial use, yet retain a higher return for pedigree use by charging a separate levy free on registration of pedigree calves, he/she can apply to the Society to register the bull as a Pedigree Registration Royalty Sire.

INVOLVEMENT OF THE SOCIETY:

The Salers Society of the UK and its secretary will merely be the tools by which those calves gain their registration, in a Pedigree Registration Royalty Scheme, which is an arrangement between the vendor of the semen and the breeder who wishes to register a calf, which is the result of using this semen.

- Before any calves can be registered from the table above a Sire Certificate must be obtained from the owner and enclosed with the Birth Registration Form.
- The late registration penalty will apply if time is taken to obtain the Sire Certificate.
- Registration fees will apply on the date all paperwork is correctly supplied.
- No advance payments will be accepted.

CHARGES FOR 2012

	Charge	VAT 20%	TOTAL
Registrations 1st & 2nd Cross			
up to 1 year	£12.00	£2.40	£14.40
over 1 year	£28.00	£5.60	£33.60
Registrations All other calves (except ET)			
up to 3 months	£28.00	£5.60	£33.60
3-6 months	£49.00	£9.80	£58.80
over 6 months	£91.00	£18.20	£109.20
Registrations Embryo transplant calves			
up to 3 months	£33.00	£6.60	£39.60
3-6 months	£59.00	£11.80	£70.80
over 6 months	£112.00	£22.40	£134.40
Transfer of ownership	£6.00	£1.20	£7.20
Replacement Warranty	£10.00	£2.00	£12.00
Registration of Embryos (including imported)			
Minimum per animal flushed (up to 10 embryos)	£11.00	£2.20	£13.20
Thereafter per embryo	£1.00	£0.20	£1.20
After 3 months-minimum per animal flushes (up to 10 embryos)	£21.00	£4.20	£25.20
Thereafter per embryo	£2.00	£0.40	£2.40
Subscription payable 1st January	£55.00	£11.00	£66.00
if paid by standing order	£50.00	£10.00	£60.00
Joining Fee and Registration of Heard Letter and Prefix	£37.00	£7.40	£44.40
Export Certificates	£28.00	£5.60	£33.60
Registration of Imported Cattle not in calf			
up to 3 months from date of entry	£28.00	£5.60	£33.60
3-6 months	£54.00	£10.80	£64.80
over 6 months	£106.00	£21.20	£127.20
Registration of Imported Cattle with in vitro calves			
up to 3 months from date of entry	£43.00	£8.60	£51.60
3-6 months	£69.00	£13.80	£82.80
over 6 months	£122.00	£24.40	£146.40

All transactions are plus vat. No transactions complete until payment is received and paperwork correctly supplied. It is the responsibility of the member to get all relevant information to the Society office on time or late penalties will be incurred

BREED HISTORY & CHARACTERISTICS

BREED ORIGIN AND HISTORY

Salers (pronounced Sa'lairs) originate in the Southern half of the Massif Central in the Auvergne region of France. It has a rough and variable climate, and though higher, 2000-6000 ft, is very similar to our Lake District and the Highlands of Scotland and Wales. The Salers is one of the oldest breeds in the world, with prehistoric cave paintings suggesting that a similar type of animal has been bred in the area for 7-10,000 years.

They appear to be closely related to the old Celtic breeds and the African breeds, and were probably located in the Massif Central when red cattle migrated from Africa through the Iberian Peninsular and on into northern Europe and the British Isles.

BREED IMPROVEMENT

What is certain is that Devons, Durhams, (Shorthorns) and West Highland cattle were imported into the Salers area in the mid 19th Century with the intention of improving the breed. At the same time a M. Tyssandier D'Escous challenged the introduction of outside blood and set about improving the Salers by selecting from within the breed.

His method was considered most successful, and he became known as the Father of the Breed. A statue honouring his work stands in the middle of the small mediaeval town of Salers from which the breed takes its name.

From that time until well into the 20th century the breed was improved and developed as a triple purpose animal, Milk-Meat-Draught.

Traditionally, this involved the simultaneous production of milk for cheese and a calf for beef production. In 1925 milk recording became compulsory and weight recording started in 1962.

Resulting from all this improvement and recording has emerged the ideal suckler cow with bred-in foraging ability, able to utilise and thrive on native grasses and forage both summer and winter.

BREED CHARACTERISTICS AND QUALITIES

The difficult environmental conditions where the Salers breed developed makes it ideal for the poorer areas of the British Isles and today's beef industry. Salers are generally horned and dark red, though there are a very small number of black animals. Polled animals in the full blood herd are very rare. However, a growing number of polled and black Salers are becoming available in the pure bred herd. The skin and pigmented membranes are brown and consequently few eye or udder problems occur. A good hair coat which becomes thick and curly in winter gives hardiness and adaptability to cold and heat.

Having roamed the mountains for centuries, and been draught animals they have developed strong legs and good feet with black hooves. Consequently the cattle can travel long distance over rough ground without developing foot problems. They are equally able to tolerate long periods inside on slats etc. Being one of the oldest and genetically most pure of the European breeds, the Salers produces a positive effect on the predictability in crossbreeding programmes in a consistent increase in hybrid vigour.

The French National Institute of Agricultural Research has run trials that show that Salers cows and heifers are able to draw on their body reserves when food is scarce to produce sufficient milk for their calf, building them up again quickly when grazing is plentiful. The same trials show that Salers are only fully mature at 5 to 6 years of age.

Measured on farm

Average weight of mature cows	650-850kg
Average weight of mature bulls	1000-1200kg
Average height of withers of cows	144cm
Average height of wither of bulls	154cm

Measured at the Paris Show

Average weight of cows 5 years +	844kg
Average weight of bulls 4 years +	1209kg
Heaviest weight of cow	963kg
Heaviest weight of bull	1401kg

(Heavier weights have now been recorded in the U.K)

MATERNAL INFLUENCE

Fixed through its heritage the Salers female displays exceptional maternal qualities of fertility, milking ability, calving ease, hardiness and longevity. High percentage calf crops resulting from the inherent fertility of Salers are realised through early puberty, quick rebreeding and high conception

rates coupled with the breeds predictable calving ease and large pelvic structure. Further maternal advantage is realised through the Salers ability to wean a heavy calf and take care of herself. More kilograms at weaning result from the combination of good lactation and lean growth factors.

Suckler cow herd costs are minimised though the breeds foraging ability, winter hardiness and minimal feet, eye and udder problems. Salers are known for their longevity and "wearability" no doubt due to many of the factors stated, stress free calving, good feet and legs etc.

In a survey carried out in France, of over 100,000 Salers cows, 25.1% were 10 years old or over and the calving interval was 374 days.

Bulls are known for their ability to cover large numbers of females and in the ranching countries bull numbers have been halved and calving percentages have risen, another valuable saving on herd costs.

Salers are a unique breed that combine high carcass quality and fast growth rate yet calve easily.

More live calves per cow put to the bull means more £££'s and it all begins with a trouble free birth. Vigorous calves born with moderate birth weights and slender long foetal conformation have gained Salers a proven reputation for easy calving. Salers sired calves offer the cowman the unique combination of increased weaning weights with less management at calving.

The dam and the sire both influence the weight and shape of the calf at birth. Salers calves are relatively light at birth, about 36 Kg for heifers and 38 Kg for bulls, they are also long and rather flat in shape, it is this feature which makes the Salers bull very popular for crossing with commercial and dairy heifers.

The Salers influence contributes a large pelvic area to cross bred replacement females and will allow commercial suckler cowmen to utilise heavily muscled terminal sires in a cross breeding programme with less concern about calving difficulties.

FEEDING AND CARCASS

The final measurement of a breeds capabilities is the economic production of a lean, nutritious and palatable protein product. That is what beef production is all about, Salers consistently produce the product that the industry and consumer demand. Salers and their crosses are being proven both by the feeder and the butcher.

Competitive live weight gains and efficient feed conversion have been documented by the feeder, whilst the butcher appreciates carcasses that are of industry acceptable weight from approximately 10-16 months and producing top grades. Salers cattle are extremely flexible in the finishing yard enabling feeders to make the best of the markets highs and lows.

The Salers is a carcass breed that calves easily and consistently produces carcasses that are high in quality and lean in composition. Salers are producing an industry preferred product that is making the breeder, the feeder, the butcher, and the retailer take notice.

THE BEGINNINGS OF SALERS IN THE U.K.

In the spring of 1984, a herd of Salers was founded in Cumbria - 60 females and 4 bulls with as wide a genetic base as possible. Consequently, heifers by 45 different sires and 4 bulls completely unrelated to each other were imported into the U.K. from France.

All the cattle were first choices. Growth rate, docility, femininity, straight top lines and correct legs were the main criteria for selection. All dams, and granddams where possible, were inspected and had to come up to the same standard. In that importation were two females carrying the poll factor. All lived up to expectations, bred and gave no calving problems whatsoever.

From the original importation Salers cattle quickly spread all over the British Isles from the Shetlands to Cornwall and Ireland. The Salers Cattle Society of the U.K. was formed by Bryan Walling, Robert Hudson, Fiona Walling, Thomas Dobson and Bruce Worsley of Crosthwaite, Kendal.

The first AGM was held in November 1986, at that point there were a mere 10 members. Bryan Walling was elected as first Chairman.

Since then the breed has continued to expand throughout 1000 Salers are being registered annually by 175 members.

The Society is divided into Areas and is governed by a Council made up from the Area Representatives.



SALERS

Cattle Society of the United Kingdom Ltd.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I wish to apply for membership of the Salers Cattle Society Ltd.

Name:

Address

..... Post Code:

Telephone: Mobile: Email:

Ministry ID number: UK..... Salers Herd Prefix Name: **Salers Letters:

Signature: Date:

FEES	Annual Subscription	£55.00plus VAT @ 20%	£66.00
	Joining Fee & Registration of Herd Prefix	£37.00 plus VAT @ 20%	£44.40
		TOTAL =	£110.40

Secretary: Liz Wilde, Ball Green Cottage, Well Head Lane, Hubberton, Halifax, HX6 1NN Tel: 07903 626249

* Salers Herd Prefix Name – this can be any name you choose provided it is not already registered with the society. ** Salers Letters – Select three letter of your choice which will be the society computer reference for your herd. Prices applicable at time of going to press

Standing Order Form

To the Manager..... Bank

Address

..... Post Code:

Please pay to: The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, 12 Pillory Street, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 5BE

Sort Code 16-26-14. The Salers Cattle Society of the UK a/c no. 11861110.

The sum of £50 plus vat at the current rate (currently 20% - total of £60). Date of payments 1st January annually.

Date of first payment

Name (Dr / Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms)

Address

A/C No..... Bank Sort Code.....

Please return this completed form to your bank. Signed:

Gift Aid Declaration

Dear Member,

Gift Aid provides a great opportunity for you to increase the value of your donations and/or subscriptions to the Salers Cattle Society at no cost to yourselves. Provided you are a taxpayer we can claim from the Inland Revenue the basic rate tax paid on your donations/subscriptions, boosting them by 28%. So for every £10 we receive it is worth £1.28. All the society needs from you is a simple declaration saying that you want to use Gift Aid.

A declaration can cover one or more donations/subscriptions and can be made by filling in the form below.

It would be appreciated if you could fill in and return the form below to the secretary as soon as possible.

GIFT AID DECLARATION

Name of Charity: **The Salers Cattle Society of the UK Ltd.**

Charity Number: **1115115**

Donor Details:

Title: Forename(s): Surname(s):

Address:

..... Postcode:

Herd Prefix:

I would like all donations/membership subscriptions I have made since 6th April 2006 and all donations in the future to be treated as *Gift Aid* until I notify you otherwise.

Signed: **Date:**

To qualify for *Gift Aid* you must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains in the tax year equal to the tax we reclaim from your donations.

Salers Events 2012

February 8th Stirling Bull Sales

United Auctions, Sterling

March 2nd National Beef Association Beef Event Northern Ireland

Dungannon Farmers Marts

May 16th-18th Royal Ulster Show

Balmoral, Northern Ireland

May 17th Welshpool Show & Sale

Welshpool Livestock Centre

May 24th National Beef Association Beef Expo 2012

Malvern, Worcestershire

May 25th-26th Castle Douglas Spring Sale

Wallets Marts, Castle Douglas

7th-9th June Royal Cornwall Show

Wadebridge, Cornwall

23rd-26th June Royal Highland Show

Ingleston, Edinburgh

2nd-12th August International Salers Federation

Ireland

2nd-3rd November Premier Show & Sale

Wallets Marts, Castle Douglas

8th November National Beef Association, Beef Event South West

Devon County Showground

26th-27th November Royal Welsh Winter Fair

Builth Wells

Council meetings take place on

March 4th / June 3rd / September 2nd / December 2nd

Annual General Meeting

2nd November, Wallets Marts, Castle Douglas

Events/dates may change, be added to or removed as applicable

Salers can be seen at many other events around the UK

Your area representative will be able to inform you of events in your area.

Champion Junior Male 2011



FANFAN

Champion Junior Female 2011



MANOR LANE DIVA