

Luing News

April 2007

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Dates for Your Diary

(further details inside)

2007

4th May

Breeding Sale – Perth. Special Luing and Sim/Luing sections. Entries close 20th April.

17th May

Beef Expo 2007 – Skipton Auction Mart

21st – 24th June

Royal Highland Show - Ingliston.

26th July

Council Meeting - Golspie.

27th July

Open Day – Welbeck Farms, Berriedale

31st August

Applications close for inspection of bulls for February 2008 sale.

17th September

Entries close for October Luing Sale - Stirling

29th September

Closing date for Journal advertisements

15th October

Luing Sale – Stirling. Entries close 17th September

21st December

Closing date for Annual Luing Sale Entries

2008

31st January

2007 born calves to be registered by this date

7th/8th February

AGM, Annual Dinner and Annual Sale,
Castle Douglas

Annual Sale 2007

An amazing sale with almost every record broken – congratulations to buyers and sellers alike! Potential buyers for both heifers and bulls went home empty handed and increased numbers in every section could easily have been sold.

The Bank of Scotland's continued generous sponsorship was much appreciated and this year the section winners came from Benhar and Milkieston – first time sellers at Castle Douglas, the Barrs had a great day. Sale results were well documented with good photographs in the press but to recap briefly:

13 in-calf heifers sold to a top of 2330 gns (Benhar) and a new record average of £1962 (up £726 on the year when 15 were sold)

109 bulling heifers sold to a new record top of 3400 gns (Milkieston) and a new record average of £1683 (up £825 on the year when 178 were sold)

10 bulls sold to a new record top of 14000gns (Dirnanean) and a new record average of £7917 (up £4137 on the year when 8 were sold)

Annual General Meeting

Council were very encouraged by the huge interest in the affairs of the Society shown by the excellent attendance at the Annual General Meeting. The points raised were taken forward to Council for further discussion. Satisfactory reports were approved, Charles Symons was appointed Chairman with Matthew Mauchlen Vice Chairman and Charlie Bell, Bruce Gilchrist and Andrew McNee elected to serve a three year term on Council.

Annual Dinner and Raffle

We were delighted to welcome a capacity crowd to the Annual dinner, including a party of twelve from Switzerland. John Swinney, MSP for North Tayside, proved a very popular and excellent speaker after a very good meal. The customary raffle plus the auction of a bottle of Parliamentarian Whisky raised £1057 which was donated to Castle Douglas Hospital Endowment Fund and went towards a rehabilitation chair. Many thanks to all who donated prizes, sold tickets and were generally involved in the success of the evening. There is a great atmosphere at these events and this is particularly appreciated by new members.

4th May Sale – Perth

There will again be a special section for pedigree Luings, registered Sim/Luings and Luing cross females at the United Auctions well established breeding sale to be held at Perth Agricultural Centre on Friday, 4th May. 360 breeding cattle were forward at last year's sale when, although there were buyers looking for them, there were no registered Sim/Luings forward. However, 36 pedigree Luing Bulling heifers sold to a top of £1050 with sellers well pleased with their trade.

Although not an official Society Sale, there have already been a number of enquiries and Council recommend it as a Society Approved Sale and have offered £20 for the best pair of Pedigree Luing heifers and £20 for the best pair of registered Sim/Luing heifers. Judge: Charlie Bell, Blair Atholl

Entries: should be made direct with Judith Murray at United Auctions (tel: 01738 626183). Pedigree Luings and Registered Sim/Luings must be notified no later than Friday 20th April so that catalogues can be prepared and advertising can be placed. Purely commercial entries will be accepted until Wednesday 2nd May but earlier advice would be welcomed.

Beef Expo 2007 – 17th May

'Action for Profit' is the theme of this year's Beef Event to be held at Skipton Market. There is a lot interest in the Luing breed coming from the north of England and Council feel that this will be an important promotional platform. With Trade stand space bookings already ahead of last year, it is anticipated that this will be the biggest event yet.

The Luing Cattle Society plan to have four pens of cattle on display, demonstrating both the pedigree and the commercial story, and hope that any members visiting Skipton that day will spare a little time to spend on the stand helping to promote their breed.

In addition to the usual trade stands and educational exhibits there will again be a number of topical seminars throughout the day, a National Suckled Calf Show and stockjudging competitions both with handsome prizemoney to be won.

Welbeck Open Day – Friday 27th July 2007

This year's Open Day is to be held on the spectacular Welbeck Scottish Farm and will certainly be a day that you should mark off on your calendar. Many of you will have seen the quality of stock produced by Welbeck at Society Sales in Stirling and Castle Douglas – and I can tell you that it is only matched by the wonderful Caithness scenery. How many of you have visited a 52,000 acre farm where you can travel for up to seventeen miles and see nothing but Luings, wildlife and stunning views? This is your chance (but we won't take you the whole 17 miles)!

Soup and bread rolls will be available at Langwell from 11.30 am. An introduction to the day and how farming policy has been adapted to deliver greater environmental benefit for the estate will be given at 12 noon. The farm tour will be by tractor and trailer, leaving at 12.15 sharp and returning by about 3.00pm for a short 'industry message' followed by barbecued beef and venison.

Luing cows and cross Highland cows with Simmental cross calves at foot will be on display as well as Luing cows with pedigree Luing calves at foot. Farming and Estate policy will be discussed as well as breed points. Back at base there will be stockjudging, trade stands and the opportunity to visit the well known Langwell gardens.

We hope for good weather but...be prepared. You will be away from base for about 2.5 hours so sweaters and wet weather gear are advised.

Directions:

The estate is situated right on the A9 about 1hr 40 mins north of Inverness (Perth – Inverness is about 2 hrs). As you approach Berriedale down a fairly steep hill, the entrance to Langwell is on the left on a fairly sharp left hand bend. It will be signed but be on the look out and take care! 2 miles up the avenue you will reach the Open Day base.

Accommodation:

You may consider staying a night or two in the area and suggested hotels are:

The Portland Arms, Lybster Tel:01593 721721

Navidale House Hotel Tel: 01431 821258

Bridge Hotel, Helmsdale Tel: 01431 821100

Belgrave Arms, Helmsdale Tel: 01431 821242

Royal Marine Hotel, Brora Tel: 01408 621252

Caberfeidh Hotel, Golspie Tel: 01408 633163

Sutherland Arms, Golspie - Contact Judy on 01575 560763

Also Tourist Board Information Centre at Dornoch (tel:01862 810916) and Strathullie Crafts, Helmsdale tel: 01431 821402 for B & Bs in the area.

2007 Royal Highland Show – 21st/24th June

Once again our stand at the Highland Show will be on 15th Avenue - which runs between the North Car Park and the Grandstand - and we hope that all of you visiting the show will take time to give us a call. We will, of course, have cattle on display, promotional material available, and plenty of room to have a seat, a coffee and a chat.

As well as promoting the breed, this has become very much established as **the** place for members to meet and base themselves during Show time, and if any of you can spare an hour or two to help man the stand you will be made even more welcome! Visitors to the stand find it much more interesting if there are breeders on hand to discuss the merits of the Luing or SimLuing with them.

Please get in touch if you can offer your services at any time over the period of the Show. A quick phone call to the office will enable a rota to be drawn up so that cover can be provided over as much of the time as possible – your help will be very much appreciated.

West Cumberland Farmers Photographic Competition

John Fraser, Chief Photographer with the Scottish Farmer judged the photographic competition this year. WCF Country Centres generously sponsor this competition and vouchers were presented to class winners Tooti Cadzow and Charles Symons with Debbie McGowan, Brenda Fawcett, Neil McGowan and John Anderson also taking prizes.

Bull Inspection

Application for bull inspection must be submitted to the office by 31st August. The inspectors would respectfully suggest that if you think you have a bull that might head to the premier sale, you should have pulled him out for a bit of special attention at no later than 12 months of age. This was probably well demonstrated at Castle Douglas in February.

Breeders are reminded that the minimum scrotal circumference measurement for bulls to be accepted for the February sale increased to 38cms in 2007.

This is a very heritable trait and it should be noted that inspectors are now seeing sons of bulls, which did not make the grade in this respect in the past, with the same problem.

Council have agreed that bull inspection charges should be dropped altogether. This service is seen as part of breed development.

Breed Development

A reminder that the Society will pay 50% of the cost of DNA sampling of tail hairs for the testing of gene markers for tenderness, fat deposition and marbling and for maternal traits from any bull – i.e. the Society will pay £10 and the owner will be charged £10. Those interested should apply to the office for the kit and for further information.

The Breed Development Officers, Robert McNee and Neil McGowan, are looking into the possibility of introducing compulsory, standardised health declarations to be used for heifers entered for the February sales. It is felt that there is currently a lot of information available in differing formats causing much confusion!

Dam Classification

In view of the growing interest in and acceptance of the dam classification scheme – and in order to build a bigger database which would include cows which might only have heifer calves, it has been agreed to offer to inspect and classify all dams 10 years of age and over in any herd. This is open to any breeder, free of charge. All you have to do is:

1. Advise the office of the identity of the cows you wish inspected.
2. You will be contacted with suggested dates for inspection.
3. Have your cows gathered together on a hard standing for inspection.

Luing Semen and the Export Market

Luing semen is still available in the United Kingdom. Contact should be made with the Luing office for semen from Monzie Malcolm X Maol and with either Genus or the McNees for semen from Benhar Dynamite. There are regularly enquiries for small amounts of semen from abroad. Council have discussed this situation at length. Drawing semen qualified for export is a costly exercise, especially when administrative costs for exporting small quantities is added on top. With the export market opened to live animals it would be much more cost effective for breeders from Europe to import a young bull. However, if any breeder wishes to draw semen and offer it for export, the Society will do what they can to help you. The Society hope to join British Livestock Genetics in a promotional exercise at the Irish Ploughing Match in Tullamore from 25th – 27th September.

Payment of Invoices

It would be greatly appreciated if invoice numbers were entered on the back of cheques when making payment. Anyone wishing to settle accounts using the internet should contact the office for the banking details required. If using this facility, please enter the invoice number/s being paid in the details box.

Annual Subscriptions

If you have not already done so, please send your annual membership subscription to the Secretary as soon as possible. Reminders are costly!

Stock for Sale?

Please advise the office. There are constantly enquiries for Luings and SimLuings and I would like to be able to help both you and those making the enquiries!

Registrations

Members are reminded that there is now the facility to register calves on-line. Congratulations to all those who took the plunge this year. Application should be made to the office for Member number and Password, simple instructions will be issued and help is available should you encounter problems – but it really is very straightforward!

Office Bearers and Members of Council 2007

Chairman

Charles Symons, Attonburn, Yetholm, Kelso, Roxburghshire, TD5 8PX
Tel: 01573 420242

Vice Chairman

Matthew Mauchlen, Woodburn, Crieff, Perthshire , PH7 3RG
Tel: 01764 654364

Immediate Past Chairman

Neil McCorkindale, Scammadale, Kilninver, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4UU
Tel: 01852 316282

Council Members

To retire 2008

Scott Girvan, Buckholm Farm, Galashiels Tel: 01896 752185
Steven Murray, Cowcourse Cottage, Kirkbean, Dumfries
Tel: 01387 880630

To retire 2009

Shane Cadzow, Ardlarach, Isle of Luing, Oban Tel: 01852 314234
Malcolm Fawcett, Merkland, Penpont, Thornhill, Dumfries-shire
Tel: 01848 600207

Ted Fox, Elsdonburn, Kirknewton, Wooler, Northumberland
Tel: 01668 216341

Bill Miller, Welbeck Scottish Farms, Ousdale Farm, Berriedale, Caithness
Tel: 01431 821243

To retire 2010

Charlie Bell, 1 Garryside, Blair Atholl, Pitlochry Tel: 01796 481459
Bruce Gilchrist, Rawburn Farm, Longformacus, Duns, Tel: 01361 890253
Andrew McNee, No 1 Woodend Cottage, Armadale, Tel: 01501 731946

Fieldsman

Finlay McGowan, Incheoch Farm, Alyth, Blairgowrie Tel: 01575 560236

Breed Development Officers

Neil McGowan, Shealwalls, Alyth, Blairgowrie Tel: 01828 633652
Robert McNee, Woodend Farm, Armadale, Tel: 01501 731980

Secretary

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