

**LUING CATTLE SOCIETY LTD.**

**JOURNAL No. 56**

**JANUARY 2023**

*Luing*





Wallets Marts  
Castle Douglas  
Ltd



**“The Premier Market for the Premier Breed”**

**FRIDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023**  
**FIFTY SEVENTH ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE OF**  
**REGISTERED LUING CATTLE**

held under the auspices of the Luing Cattle Society

Wallets Marts are delighted to host the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Show and Sale of Luing Cattle. The Luing breed has established itself as one of the most prolific suckler cows available in today's market. Therefore, a visit to Castle Douglas on 10<sup>th</sup> February is essential to anyone looking to source top quality suckler replacement stock.

Last year's sale saw 36 bulls sell to a top of 32,000gns and average £6,250 whilst 82 bulling heifers sold to 3,600gns and averaged £1,685gns with 32 in-calf heifers topping at 2,013gns and averaging £3000gns

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## Office Bearers and Members of the Breed Council 2022/23



### Chairman

Neil McGowan, Shealwalls, Alyth, Blairgowrie, Perthshire Tel: 01828-633652

### Vice Chairman

Stewart Wood, Garson, Sandwick, Stromness, Orkney Tel: 01856 841519

### Immediate Past Chairman

Mark Thomson, Tillyrie Farm, Milnathort, Kinross Tel: 01577-861992

### To Retire 2023

Shona Marshall, Mains of Concraig, Kingswells, Aberdeen Tel: 07507 421105

John Scott, Fearn, Tain, Sutherland Tel: 07770 863506

Pip Simpson, Poole Bank Farm, Troutbeck, Windermere Tel: 07713 122828 (resigned)

### To Retire 2024

Neil Anderson, Crichness Farmhouse, Cranshaws, Duns Tel: 01361 890342

Rory Cameron, Monzie, Blair Atholl, Perthshire Tel: 07928 790137 (resigned)

Ben Moffat, Wooplaw, Galashiels, Borders TD1 2QA Tel: 07860 456508 (resigned)

### To Retire 2025

Billy Graham, Craigdarroch, Eliock, Sanquhar DG4 6LE Tel: 07920 859668

Andrew Barr, Milkieston, Eddleston, Peebles EH45 8QH Tel: 01721 730213

Ewan McCall, Culmaily, Golspie, Sutherland Tel: 01408 634347

## SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES

### General Manager, Secretary and Treasurer

Natalie Cormack, Dairy Cottage, Tower Road, Ayton, Berwickshire TD14 5QX

E-mail: secretary@luingcattlesociety.co.uk

### Breed Development Officers

Mr N.F. McGowan, Shealwalls, Alyth, Blairgowrie, Perthshire Tel: 01828 633652

Mr R.H. McNee, Over Finlarg, Tealing, by Dundee Tel: 07900 221641

### Fieldsperson

Mr C.J. Symons, The Priory, Morebattle, Kelso Tel: 01573 440207 or 07971 231885

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# NUNNERIE

LUINGS



**ALASTAIR MACARTHUR**

07887 512648

**DAVID MACARTHUR**

07766 004028



**31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

Census update (Grassroots) deadline

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February**

Luing Cattle Society Annual General Meeting

Canteen, Wallet Marts, Castle Douglas

**Annual Dinner**

Ernespie Hotel, Castle Douglas

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February**

Wallets Marts, Castle Douglas

**PREMIER PEDIGREE SALE**

of in-calf and bulling heifers followed by breeding bulls

(Entries close 9<sup>th</sup> December)

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February**

Deadline for 2022 born calf registrations (Letter B)

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May**

Spring Breeding Sale

Dingwall and Highland Mart

(Entries close 14<sup>th</sup> April)

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August**

Deadline(s):

Bull inspection application form

DNA hair sample submission (Bulls intended for breeding)

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October**

Autumn Breeding Sale at United Auctions, Stirling

(Entries close 15<sup>th</sup> September)

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November**

Production Sale - Cadzow Bros

at Oban Livestock Centre

(Provisional date)

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

Closing date for Premier Sale entries



**The suckler cow is at a crossroads – but it seems the whole country is in a state of flux. Support changes are looming and the big government piggy-bank is empty after most of the country stopped working during Covid. There are a lot of strong opinions that cows are either ruining or saving the planet. The economy is acting like a stirred up stirk – starry-eyed, sweating and blowing steam out of its nose. It doesn't know where it's going, but it's going to get there really quick. In my experience, the best immediate response if you're dealing with a beast like that is just to dig in and let matters fold out as they may. Standing in the way flapping a well budgeted business plan is probably just going to get you hurt.**

A wise old worthy told me recently 'when in doubt, do nowt', and we are certainly in a period of doubt. However, as we sit on the top rail of the cattle yards waiting for the dust to settle, there's no harm in taking stock of where we are and what opportunities may develop.

I have enjoyed my second year in the Chair of the Luings Cattle Society and it has given me plenty of opportunities to 'take stock' of where we are. Irrespective of whether we are heading down the route of carbon efficiency, nature conservation, regenerative agriculture, niche marketing – or even just being left to get on and farm and produce food.

The quest for Net Zero by the Carbon Emissions crowd points us towards more intensively finished cattle. The kind of efficiency they have in mind was demonstrated perfectly in the figures on the bull beef at Finlary during Scotsheep. Pure Luings bulls bringing home maximum weight in minimum time proves they can hold their own in that system.

Of course, good cow men understand that the road to carbon efficiency is through a thrifty, fertile cow that can bring home a good calf and stand the test of time. Pregnancy scan results recently shared by Cadzow Bros with 380 in-calf from 393 to the bull (97%), 93% of those due in the first two cycles is an indication of the underlying fertility in the Luings breed. The quality of the 8 year-old plus foundation cows offered at the Candies dispersal sale was testament to the Luings cow's staying power and seeing the cattle at that sale has truly been one of my highlights of the year.

At the Glenfinglas open day, we saw how Luings cows were being used to manage the Woodland Trust's native woodland regeneration. Grazing cattle as a tool for environmental management has been a big success in the restoration of one of the finest examples of upland wood pasture in the UK. The demonstration by Nofence of their cow collars showed the possibilities we now have to easily control cattle movements in environmental grazing situations. The foraging ability of the Luings cow, her ability to get around a difficult topography while at the same time producing a good calf was easily seen on the day.

The Nofence collars fit in well with the regenerative farming movement as well – the mob grazed Luings cows that we saw at Lochty, Fife, a few years ago was an example of the use of cattle as fertility-builders in an arable situation. That is not what we are used to seeing cows do – but their ability to utilise a big bellyful of poor-quality forage; withstand plenty weather; be easily calved, herded and cared for; and, most importantly, biddable and docile in a large group – makes the Luings a good fit for this system.

At the top of the hill on the farm tour at Scotsheep, Donald Barrie from the James Hutton Institute (and the Glensaugh Luings herd), explained the carbon benefits of grazing stock on hill or upland pasture. Looking down a fence-line with heather, whins and no stock on one side and a productive hill pasture with Blackie ewes



and Luing cows on the other side, he explained that both had measured high soil organic matter (or carbon content). Although the heather hill held a marginally greater 'bank' of carbon, he pointed out the great risk of losing it all through a fire. For a slightly lower store of carbon, the well-managed, productive livestock farm was a low-risk savings account for carbon storage.

A visit to the Royal Welsh Show with the promotional stand brought a great conversation with Iwan and Eleanor Davies about their 'Eidion Luing Cymreig' beef retailing business. If they can make such a good job marketing the word 'Luing' in the Welsh language, we all have great hope! It was a fun trip and thanks to Gareth Lawton as well as the Davies family and Mark Thomson for putting on the display.

Whatever the future holds for us at the other side of this time of uncertainty, the Luing cow has a solid home in it. And if you do have a snorty little stirk giving you a spot of bother – put a canny old Luing cow in with it for an hour or two and it'll likely end up all right.

Finally, I would like to thank the many members who have shared their kind wishes and memories of my mother, Judy. Mum enjoyed the Luing people very much and the friendships and adventures that Luings took her on were some of her happiest memories. Your kindness has been a great comfort to our family and it has reminded us that the Luing Society is not really about cattle – it's about people and friendships.

**Neil McGowan**  
***Luing Cattle Society Chairman***

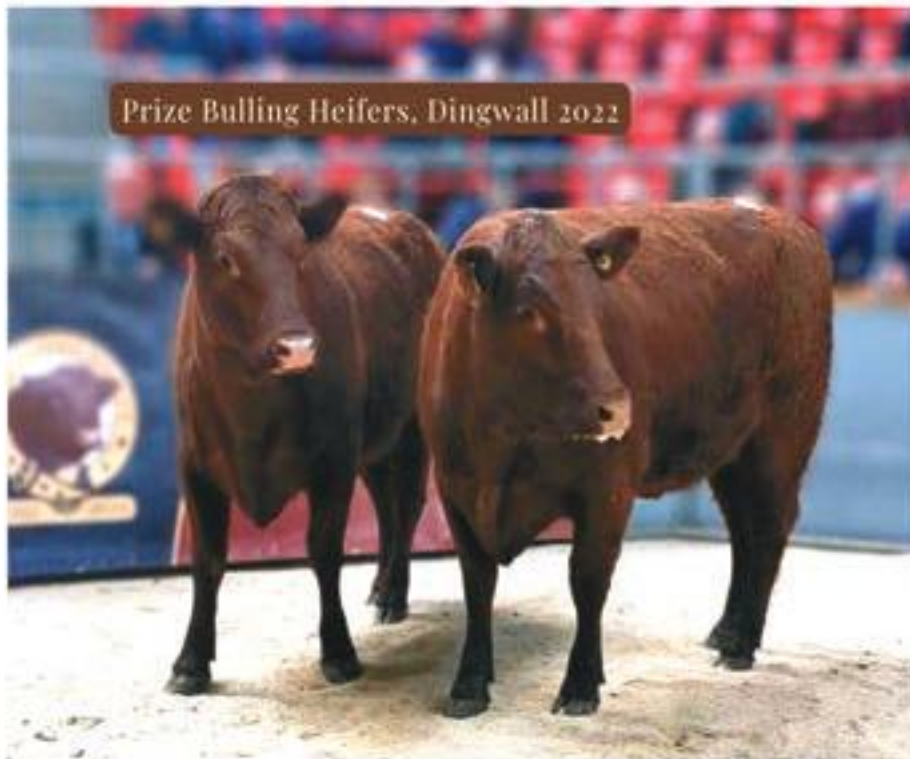


# *Rockcliffe Luing*

A close-up photograph of several brown Luing cattle heads, looking directly at the camera. The background is a clear blue sky.

**Steven and Elaine Murray**  
**West Preston Farm**  
**Kirkbean**  
**Dumfries**  
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07917764390

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**Visitors Welcome**

   
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**Fortunately, 2022 has been a much more “normal” year from the perspective of being able to function at pre-covid levels. We have once again been able to attend big events relatively free of restrictions. This has brought with it some challenges as we re-adjust to combining both online/digital activities with in-person activities, just as we had grown accustomed to more time to concentrate on core activities. The Luing Cattle Society participated in as many events as we could this past year to reignite the Luing momentum. This has not proved difficult as there is much enthusiasm for Luing out there!**

The committees have been active again this year, and have taken on the responsibility of creating and implementing their own agendas, with a good focus. They have taken on some weighty subjects and debated at length to find the correct solutions for the breed and breeders, always being mindful of the need to maintain the variability in the cattle and acknowledge the different systems that the Luing are spread across. Council meetings have been held in a variety of geographical locations to ensure that everyone has their turn at a short haul. We are thankful to have had the expertise of breeders from Orkney to the South Lakes during the past year and have enjoyed visiting different areas and herds. The committee meetings have continued to be held by Zoom, a legacy of Covid that has brought a new level of contact and time efficiency, appreciated by many.

DNA analysis has become the norm throughout 2022, and using the results thus far, Council has decided to make this a permanent process going forward. We are working towards all males used for pedigree breeding needing to be DNA profiled and sire verified before calves can be registered (2022 born calves will be the first generation). The timelines are getting shorter, so please remember to pull hair on any bull you are putting with females to breed registered Luings, if he hasn't already been profiled. If anyone is unsure if a potential sire has already been profiled, please do contact the office to find out, or alternatively an indication of profile completeness is available on Grassroots. The Society is subsidising the cost of this work such that 4 young bulls and all older sires (born pre 2019) have been analysed free of charge to the breeder. Brexit has made the passing of materials, including hair samples, across the EU border very troublesome. Please observe

the recommended deadlines for submission of samples because it is taking even longer to obtain results given the customs hassles and staff shortages that prevail everywhere.

Members are reminded that there are a couple of rule changes, agreed at the last AGM which have come into effect in 2021/2022. The most important of these is the addition of calved 2 year old heifers to the herdbook fee schedule from 2021 calving season forward. In practice this has meant that invoices issued in March 2022 which related to herdbook fees for animals held during 2021 included calved 2 year old heifers for the first time. It is useful to take the opportunity to explain the registration fees as they are different to other breeds, and the source of a good deal of questions coming into the office. Registration fees (aka Herdbook Fees) are charged on a breeding female basis, rather than on a per calf registered basis. The full rules and associated charges are available on the website at [www.luingcattlesociety.co.uk/society-rules](http://www.luingcattlesociety.co.uk/society-rules).

A quick reminder that our online herdbook was updated in the summer of 2021, and many of you will have used it for the first time this past spring to complete your herd census and register calves. There is a help-guide available on our website at [www.luingcattlesociety.co.uk/publications](http://www.luingcattlesociety.co.uk/publications), should you require a refresher. This contains step by step instructions for every type of transaction, and I'd encourage you to have a look through it if you are uncertain. Members are reminded that transfers can only be done by the vendor or the office, and that these are best done at (or near) the time of sale.

The Luing breed continues to expand its horizons and is well placed to benefit from the surge in popularity in grass fed beef, and environment management schemes. Beef prices have held their own throughout covid and although come back somewhat, are maintaining demand even in a cost of living challenge. Sales of Luing cattle continue to increase, both private and auction sales. Registrations and Herdbook fee income have held up well, and are the backbone of the Society's income streams. There has necessarily been a bigger spend on promotional activities and advertising during the past 12 months, which will be reflected in the accounts. The Council and staff continue to do all they can to support all our members and customers throughout the year.

### **Promotion and Events Committee**

2022 has seen a welcome return to relatively easy face-to-face events, with a wind back of Covid restrictions of the previous two years. In relation to Breed Society promotional events, this seems to have meant a quick return to the “normality” of heading out to actual events, leaving behind all the digital opportunities created out of necessity in 20/21. This is somewhat of a shame, but budgets demand that there is a finite amount of money to be spent on promotional activities, and face-to-face events are expensive.

Following a very dry, hot, warm summer in many areas, we became lulled into a false sense of security in relation to weather events around organised activities this past summer. Our Open Day at Glen Finglas (by kind permission of The Woodland Trust Scotland and Janet Pringle) was the exception to this summer’s tremendous weather, however it was not poor enough to spoil the view or dampen the spirits of the many attendees. Glen Finglas was host to just over 100 Luing enthusiasts which toured the Glen in 4 trailer loads, and found the suckler herd to be in fine form. We were delighted to also host the former keeper of Glen Finglas, John Cameron, and he regaled us with stories of his upbringing in the Glen, school at Brig ‘O Turk, and the flooding of the lower ground for Glasgow Corporation’s reservoir. Hamish Thomson from the Woodland Trust explained their policies on woodland creation, natural regeneration and the role that cattle play in the ecosystem. And finally, we were pleased to host John Smout of NoFence, who explained the benefits of the geo-positioning collars that the cattle at Glen Finglas wore.

Newsletters and communication with members have included a significant section detailing the outcomes of Council deliberations, among all the other news items expected. Newsletters have begun to be distributed in electronic format only, with postal copies only for those that do not have an email address on the system. Email addresses can be updated on Grassroots, so please make sure to keep your contact details up to date. Council see this as a way to significantly reduce office and administration costs, while maintaining contact with members.

The promotion and events committee has met meets regularly, and continue to deal with a sizeable agenda. This committee continues to monitor the balance between private and auction sales. A system of charging was introduced

earlier this year, and a period of analysis will be required to see what impact this has had on the volume of private sales vs auction sales. While the committee accepts that not all members will want to support Society sales and there is healthy demand for private transactions, there is a balance to be struck.

The committee is also discussing methods for supporting those breeders who are marketing Luing beef. This process was initiated with a members’ survey earlier in the year, which has informed Council around the types of marketing members are employing, and the patterns of sales coming forward. This is a complex subject and will require lengthy discussions with external bodies to bring this to fruition.

The Promotion and Events Committee Chairperson is Shona Marshall, and please don’t hesitate to contact her or the office if you have queries or can make constructive contributions.

### **Breed Development**

The Breed Development committee has continued to fully fund DNA profiling for older sires. In addition, all young males which are intended for breeding, both for sale and private use, are required to be DNA profiled and sire verified (if possible) for the next breeding season. Council have agreed that it is their intention to ensure that all calves registered from January 2022 onward, are sire verified by the time of registration. Council have agreed to fund the first 4 from one herd, in any year, thereafter the cost will be the breeder’s responsibility.

Those samples analysed already have largely been tested for Myostatin variants with the aim of getting a measure of the frequency of myostatin variants in the Luing population. This work is ongoing, and the Breed Development committee is continues to monitor results. To date, there have been 683 animals profiled, and 27% of the sampled population have one copy of F94L, which has been the only variant found. DNA results have flowed somewhat better following relaxation of Covid restrictions, but there remain too many failures due to sample quality.

The Breed Development Committee Chairman has been Ben Moffat (resigned) and its members are Neil McGowan, Robert McNee, Rory Cameron (resigned), Pip Simpson (resigned), Neil Anderson, Billy Graham, Ewan McCall. Your

Breed Development Officers are Neil McGowan and Robert McNee who would be more than happy to discuss any points in relation to breed development, DNA profiling, inspections and dam classifications.

### Finance Committee

A small finance committee has been established to monitor cash flow, budgeting and investments. The members of this committee are Neil McGowan, Mark Thomson and Stewart Wood.

### Remuneration Committee

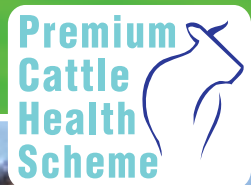
Following guidance on governance matters, the Luing Cattle Society has also established a Remuneration Committee which has responsibility for managing employment and self-employed contractors on behalf of the Society. The committee consists of Stewart Wood, Andrew Barr, Neil Anderson.

### Governance Committee

On external advice the Council has established a committee which aims to oversee the implementation of Governance measures. The creation of a Handbook for Council members dominated 2021-2022 activities, and this has been followed by the creation of a Strategy Document. This document outlines the responsibilities, both legal and cultural, for members of the Council, while also outlining the expectations that Council members should have of the Luing Cattle Society. It has been good to get this document into print and it has been well received.

The Strategy Document has laid out a long term strategy for the Society, which will guide future policy and provide an outline for funding requirements over the longer term. As part of the process to develop the strategy it is intended that the membership should be consulted on aspects, and an example of this has been the members' survey, undertaken earlier in 2022.

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**LUING CATTLE SOCIETY  
PREMIER SALE 2022**

**11<sup>th</sup> February - Wallets Marts, Castle Douglas**

The Luing Cattle Society held their annual Premier Sale on 11th February at Wallets Marts', Castle Douglas. Following last year's brisk online trade there was an inevitable larger number of bulls forward this year, with 6 more bulls finding homes in comparison to last year. The sale saw two records broken, the first by a considerable margin, when William Graham and Son, Craigdarroch sold Craigdarroch Zico to Kedzlie Farms for 32,000 gns. That sale broke the previous record set by Nunnerie Xenon who sold to T. Renwick & Sons, Blackhouse for 25,000 gns in 2020. The best of the bulling heifers also saw a record tumble, when D & A Barr sold a pair of bulling heifers by Benhar Tweed to AC Burke and Mike Halligan for 3600 gns apiece. D & A Barr also held the previous record set in 2007 when they sold a pair of bulling heifers for 3400 gns.



*Lot 166 Craigdarroch Zico - William Graham & Son, Craigdarroch 32,000 gns sold to Kedzlie Fms Ltd, Galashiels*

The pre-sale show of heifers, divided into bulling heifers and in-calf heifers, saw judge Stephen Little of Boreland Farm, Peebles choose a pair of bulling heifers consigned by William Graham & Sons, Craigdarroch as his winner of that section. This pair were both polled and sired by Craigdarroch Xavi, and were purchased by Jamie Gilchrist for Ettrickshaws, at 2,600 gns.

In calf heifers sold to a top of 3,000 gns for a pair of heifers consigned by Robert McNee Ltd, Woodend, Armadale. These first pair into the ring, were summer 2019 born and sold in calf to Finlarg Viagra, and were winners in their section in the pre-sale show. Purchaser for this pair was also AC Burke and Mike Halligan. The in-calf heifers averaged 2,013 gns for 32 sold.

The 82 bulling heifers sold to a top of 3600 gns and averaged 1685 gns. D & A Barr sold 12 bulling heifers to a top herd average of 2,567 gns, which was followed closely by both William Graham & Sons, Craigdarroch who sold 6 to average 2,200 gns, and R & H McNee selling 4 to average 2,200 also. Upper Chatto, managed by Alan Hastie, sold 15 bulling heifers to a top of 3,200 gns, for a trio of polled heifers born in July 2020. R & H McNee had a top of 2,400 gns for a pair of spring 2020 born heifers by Backmuir Whisky and Finlarg Wrangler, purchased by John MacGregor, Allanfauld.

William Graham & Sons, Craigdarroch had a tremendous sale with both males and females, but their 4 bulls stole the limelight, averaging an impressive 16,750 gns. In addition to their record breaking 32,000 gns Craigdarroch Zico, they also sold Craigdarroch Zidane to Alan Hastie at Upper Chatto for 19,000 gns. This homozygous polled Plenderleith Wizard son was April 2020 born and out of a Finlarg Nimrod daughter. Two lots later Craigdarroch were back into the ring with Craigdarroch Zazu, similarly bred to Zidane, Zazu heads home with Mark Thomson to Tillyrie for 11,000 gns. Billy Renwick, Blackhouse also had an excellent day selling his two entries to average 8,250 to a top of 10,000 gns. Blackhouse Zidane, a heterozygous polled Benhar Magnum son, will be shared by northern breeders RF MacNeil of Shinness and P & A Bakker of Altnaharra Luings. Reece and Andrew Simmers of Backmuir Trading Ltd sold a trio of bulls to average 7,933 gns, the best of which was Backmuir Zero, a Culmaily Whiskey son purchased by Neil Anderson of Harehead Farms. Next best was Backmuir Zack, also a Culmaily Whiskey son, which went home



*Lot 178 Craigdarroch Zidane - William Graham & Son 19,000 gns sold to Loder T/A Upper Chatto, Hownam*

with Messers Shell, Powburn, Alnwick. Robert and Hazel McNee also sold 3 bulls, with a top of 11,000 gns for Finlarg Zinedine, a heterozygous polled Finlarg Wrangler son, purchased jointly between Messers McClymont of Tinnis and W.N. Douglas of Catslackburn.

Other leading prices: T. Renwick & Sons, Blackhouse Zac 6,500 gns; R & H McNee, Finlarg Zidane 6,200 gns; AC & A McCall, Culmaily Zulu

5,500 gns; AJ Kennedy & Sons, Mitchellhill Zettabyte 5,500 gns; FS Renwick, Lochbroom Zion 5,500 gns; C.C. MacArthur & Co, Nunnerie Zulu 5,500 gns and Nunnerie Zeus 5,500 gns; Brian Ridland, Silwick Zembra 5,000 gns; C.C. MacArthur & Co, Nunnerie Zidane 5,000 gns; W.W. Dunlop & Son, Commonsides Zodiac 5,000 and Commonsides Zulu 5,000 gns; W. Graham & Son, Craigdarroch Zola 5,000 gns.

## Sale Statistics

	Count	Average (gns)	Top (gns)
In-Calf Heifers	32	2,013	3,000
Bulling Heifers	82	1,685	3,600
Bulls	36	6,250	32,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>2,851</b>	<b>32,000</b>

	Average (gns)	Top (gns)	Number Sold
<b>Bulls</b>	<b>6,250</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>36</b>
William Graham & Son, Craigdarroch	16,750	32,000	4
T. Renwick & Sons, Blackhouse	8,250	10,000	2
Backmuir Trading Ltd, Backmuir	7,933	10,000	3
R & H McNee, Finlarg	7,067	11,000	3
AL AC McCall, Culmaily	5,500	5,500	1
W.W. Dunlop & Son, Commonsides	5,000	5,000	2
C.C. Macarthur & Co, Nunnerie	4,800	5,500	5
AJ Kennedy & Son, Mitchellhill	4,500	5,500	2
F. Scott Renwick, Lochbroom	4,350	5,500	2
Robert McNee Ltd, Benhar	4,000	4,000	3
B. Ridland, Silwick	4,000	5,000	2
Professor WA Penny, CBE, Harehead	3,000	3,500	2
John Lawrie (Tillyrie) Ltd, Tillyrie	3,000	3,000	1
EJ & AM Fox, Collee	3,000	3,000	1
McCaig Farms, Glenelrig	2,800	2,800	1
Mr. Watson Pringle, Rulevalley	2,500	2,500	1
D & A Barr, Milkieston	2,000	2,000	1
<b>In-Calf Heifers</b>	<b>2,013</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>32</b>
Robert McNee Ltd, Benhar	2,682	3,000	11
S. Murray, Rockcliffe	1,711	2,300	19
R & M Whiteford, Burnfoot	1,200	1,200	1
A & M Whiteford, Ulzieside	1,200	1,200	1
<b>Bulling Heifers</b>	<b>1,685</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>82</b>
D & A Barr, Milkieston	2,567	3,600	12
R & H McNee, Finlarg	2,200	2,400	4
W. Graham & Son, Craigdarroch	2,200	2,600	6
J. Loder, Upper Chatto	1,753	3,200	15
Professor WA Penny, CBE, Harehead	1,475	2,000	12
McCaig Farms, Glenelrig	1,400	1,400	2
Robert McNee Ltd, Benhar	1,338	1,400	8
C.C. Macarthur & Co, Nunnerie	1,300	1,400	7
R & M Whiteford, Burnfoot	1,200	1,200	2
L. Porritt, Lampert	1,171	1,300	14
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,851</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>150</b>

## 2022 PREMIER SALE LINE-UP



*Lot 137 Ardwell X-iam - A & D Stewart, Ardwell*



*Lot 142 Glenelrig Zigzag - McCaig Farms, Glenelrig*



*Lot 139 Culmally Zulu - AL AC McCall, Culmally - 5,500gns sold to Murray, West Preston Farm, Kirkbean, Dumfries*



*Lot 143 Glenelrig Zephyr - McCaig Farms, Glenelrig 2,800 gns sold to SRUC, Easlerhowgate Farm, Penicuik*



*Lot 140 Benhar Ziggy - Robert McNee Ltd, Benhar 4,000 gns sold to Lythe, Heather House Farm, Orkney*



*Lot 144 Backmuir Zeus - Backmuir Trading Ltd, Backmuir*



*Lot 141 Benhar Zephyr - Robert McNee Ltd, Benhar 4,000 gns sold to Ridland Ltd, Aikerness Farm, Orkney*



*Lot 145 Backmuir Zenon - Backmuir Trading Ltd, Backmuir*





*Lot 146 Troutbeck Ziggy - Mr P. Simpson, Troutbeck*



*Lot 150 Mitchellhill Zettabyte - AJ Kennedy & Son, Mitchellhill 5,500 gns sold to Allanton Farming, Allanton Farm*



*Lot 147 Troutbeck Zorro - Mr P. Simpson, Troutbeck*



*Lot 151 Troutbeck Zero - Mr P. Simpson, Troutbeck*



*Lot 148 Backmuir Zang - Backmuir Trading Ltd, Backmuir 4,800 gns sold to Stanners, Low Chester Hall Farm, Hexham*



*Lot 153 Backmuir Zero - Backmuir Trading Ltd, Backmuir 10,000 gns sold to Penny B.E., Harehead Farms, Duns*



*Lot 149 Mitchellhill Zorro - AJ Kennedy & Son, Mitchellhill 3,500 gns sold to Poleson, Shetland*



*Lot 154 Swalesmoor Zeke - Mr. Danny Sawrij, Swalesmoor*



*Lot 155 Lochbroom Zulu - F. Scott Renwick, Lochbroom 3,200 gns sold to Cadzow Bros, Ardlarach, Luing, by Oban*



*Lot 160 Finlurg Zander - R & H McNee, Finlurg 4,000 gns sold to Jarrett, Cerrig Llwydion, Bala*



*Lot 157 Finlurg Zidane - R & H McNee, Finlurg 6,200 gns sold to McCornick, Over Cairn, New Cumnock, Ayrshire*



*Lot 161 Nunnerie Zidane - C.C. Macarthur & Co, Nunnerie 5,000 gns sold to Ireland, Feoch Farm*



*Lot 158 Harehead Zinzan - Professor WA Penny, CBE, Harehead 3,500 gns sold to Robson, Haydon Bridge*



*Lot 162 Lochbroom Zion - F. Scott Renwick, Lochbroom 5,500 gns sold to Harrison, Coldside, Morpeth*



*Lot 159 Silwick Zembra - B. Ridland, Silwick 5,000 gns sold to McNee Ltd, Over Finlurg, Bytealing, Dundee*



*Lot 163 Finlurg Zinedine - R & H McNee, Finlurg 11,000gns sold to McClymont & Son, Tinnis, Yarrow, Selkirk*



*Lot 164 Nunnerie Zulu - C.C. Macarthur & Co, Nunnerie 5,500 gns sold to Ben Challum Ltd, Woodburn, Crieff*



*Lot 168 Harehead Zidane - Professor WA Penny, CBE, Harehead 2,500 gns sold to Stevenson, Ballantrae, Girvan*



*Lot 165 Finlarg Zack - R & H McNee, Finlarg*



*Lot 169 Silwick Zanzibar - B. Ridland, Silwick 3,000 gns sold to McCornick, Over Cairn, New Cumnock, Ayrshire*



*Lot 166 Craigdarroch Zico - William Graham & Son, Craigdarroch 32,000 gns sold to Kedzlie Fms Ltd, Galashiels*



*Lot 170 Rulevalley Zazu - Mr. Watson Pringle, Rulevalley 2,500 gns sold to Hall, Craiglearn, Moniaive, Dumfries*



*Lot 167 Nunnerie Zeus - C.C. Macarthur & Co, Nunnerie 5,500 gns sold to Contracting, Attonburn Farm, Kelso*



*Lot 171 Backmuir Zack - Backmuir Trading Ltd, 9,000 gns sold to Shell & Sons, Brandon, Powburn, Anwick*



*Lot 173 College Zeppelin - 3,000 gns EJ & AM Fox, College sold to Stanners, Low Chester Hall Farm, Hexham*



*Lot 177 Craigdarroch Zola - William Graham & Son 5,000 gns sold to Allison, Anston Farm, Dunsyre, Lanark*



*Lot 174 Nunnerie Zambezi - C.C. Macarthur & Co, Nunnerie 4,000 gns sold to Auchencheyne Ltd, Moniaive, Thornhill*



*Lot 178 Craigdarroch Zidane - William Graham & Son 19,000 gns sold to Loder T/A Upper Chatto, Hownam*



*Lot 175 Commonsie Zodiac - W.W. Dunlop & Son, Commonsie 5,000 gns sold to Wilson & Co, Hunerburn Farm*



*Lot 179 Tillyrie Zinzan - John Lawrie (Tillyrie) Ltd 3,000 gns sold to Johnson, Herdship Farm, Barnard Castle*



*Lot 176 College Zest - EJ & AM Fox, College*



*Lot 180 Craigdarroch Zazu - William Graham & Son 11,000 gns sold to Lawrie (Tillyrie) Ltd Tillyrie Farm, Milnathort*



*Lot 181 Nunnerie Zander - C.C. Macarthur & Co, Nunnerie 4,000 gns sold to Herdman, Demesne Farm, Alnwick*



*Lot 185 Blackhouse Zac - T. Renwick & Sons, Blackhouse 6,500 gns sold to Fox, St Johns Kirk, Symington, Biggar*



*Lot 182 College Zippy - EJ & AM Fox, College*



*Lot 187 Milkieston Zephyr - D & A Barr, Milkieston 2,000 gns sold to Murray, West Preston Farm, Dumfries*



*Lot 183 Blackhouse Zidane - T. Renwick & Sons, Blackhouse 10,000 gns sold to MacNeil, Eilean Nan Ron, Shinness*



*Lot 188 Commonsides Zulu - W.W. Dunlop & Son, 5,000 gns sold to Roddam, Blackcarts, Hexham*



*Lot 184 Ashhollow Zigzag Bob - J & Callion, Ashhollow*



*Lot 189 Benhar Zenon - Robert McNea Ltd, Benhar 4,000 gns sold to Fox, St Johns Kirk, Symington, Biggar*

## LUING CATTLE SOCIETY SPRING BREEDING SALE 2022

18<sup>th</sup> May – Dingwall and Highland Mart



The Luing Cattle Society, in conjunction with Dingwall & Highland Marts Ltd. (May, 18th) sold 89 pedigree and commercial Luing cattle at their fourteenth Annual Spring Breeding Sale. Trade was brisk for an equal number forward. All those attending enjoyed the more relaxed atmosphere with both vendors and purchasers allowed ringside. Purchasers were geographically widely spread, with cattle going to both Orkney and Shetland, and brisk bidding between those present in-person and those bidding online. Pedigree bulling heifers (52) averaged 1943 gns and sold to a top of £3000, for a pair of 26 month old heifers consigned by AL & AC McCall, Culmaily, Golspie. This pair also won the Best pair of Bulling heifers, judged by Mr Reece Simmers, Backmuir, Keith, and sold to Messers Jardine, Fairgirth, Dalbeattie. Culmaily averaged 2363 gns for 16 bulling heifers sold, while Scott and Farquhar Renwick sold 7 bulling heifers to a top of 2400 gns and an average of 2229 gns. A small consignment of Luing yearling heifers (4) from Rory Cameron, Monzie sold to average 850 gns.

Sim-Luing heifers (5) were in demand and averaged 850 gns for bulling heifers and 1050 gns for yearlings. Culmaily topped the Sim-Luing heifer trade with the winning pair of Sim-Luing yearling heifers which were purchased by AW Mackay, Larel, Halkirk. Sim-Luing bulling heifers were a stickier trade, but John Haley topped this age group with a group of three sold at 850 gns to A Pirie, Keith. Unregistered and crossbred bulling heifers (20) sold to a top of 1400 gns for a single heifer consigned by AL & AC McCall, Culmaily.

Bulls (4) sold to a top of 5500 gns and averaged 3425 gns. Top priced bull, Kintail Zeus, consigned by Graeme McCrae, Mulbuie, Muir of Ord, was the youngest bull in the catalogue, sired by Luing Viscount and out of a Luing bred female. Kintail Zeus is away to bull pedigree cows with Gary MacKenzie of Fanblair. Second top priced bull, Troutbeck Zues, was consigned by Mr P. Simpson, Windermere, and sold to Messers Sutherland, Strathnaver at 4200 gns.



### Sale Statistics

	Number	Average (gns)	Average (£)
<b>Luing Breeding Cows</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>1,313</b>
G. Mackenzie, Fanblair	2	1,250	1,313
<b>Luing Bulling Heifers</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>1,943</b>	<b>2,040</b>
AL & AC McCall, Culmaily	16	2,363	2,481
Renwick, Lochbroom	7	2,229	2,340
R. Lockett, Knockbain	2	2,000	2,100
R. Cameron, Monzie	10	2,000	2,100
G. Macrae, Kintail	4	1,900	1,995
Durham, Scotsburn	5	1,600	1,680
K.A. Tindall, Bracadale	4	1,440	1,512
A & C Matheson, Bogrow	2	1,400	1,470
A. Macauslan, Welbeck (Chris Stewart)	4	863	906
<b>Luing Yearling Heifers</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>893</b>
R. Cameron, Monzie	4	850	893

<b>Pedigree Luing Bulls</b>	4	<b>3425</b>	<b>3,596</b>
G. Macrae, Kintail	1	5,500	5,775
P. Simpson, Troutbeck	1	4,200	4,410
AL & AC McCall, Culmaily	1	2,000	2,100
CC Macarthur, Nunnerie	1	2,000	2,100
<b>Sim-Luing Bulling Heifers</b>	3	<b>850</b>	<b>893</b>
J. Haley, Lochan	3	850	893
<b>Sim-Luing Yearling Heifers</b>	2	<b>1,050</b>	<b>1,103</b>
AL & AC McCall, Culmaily	2	1,050	1,103
<b>Unregistered Crossbred Bulling Heifers</b>	2	<b>950</b>	<b>998</b>
G. Macrae, Kintail	1	1,150	1,208
J. Haley, Lochan	1	750	788
<b>Unregistered Crossbred Yearling Heifers</b>	18	<b>1,058</b>	<b>1,111</b>
AL & AC McCall, Culmaily	11	1,173	1,231
A. Macauslan, Welbeck (Chris Stewart)	7	879	923
<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>		



DINGWALL & HIGHLAND MARTS LIMITED

**ANNUAL SALE  
OF  
PEDIGREE & COMMERCIAL LUING CATTLE  
ON  
WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023**

Following the tremendous success of our previous sales we look forward to continuing and expanding this prestigious event.

Also annual sale of Hi-Health cattle including Sim./Luing & SH x bulling heifers and annual sale of Highland cattle

Weekly sales of prime and store stock held throughout the year. Special sales of store lambs, weaned calves, store and breeding cattle and sheep held throughout the Autumn as per our sales booklet (available on request). Ample lairage available before and after sales. Satellite markets at Lochmaddy (Isle of North Uist), Portree (Isle of Skye), Fort William and Stornoway (Isle of Lewis).



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## LUING CATTLE SOCIETY AUTUMN BREEDING SALE 2022

29<sup>th</sup> October - United Auctions, Stirling



*Champion Pair of In-Calf Heifers  
from Robert McNee Ltd - £2,730*

A similar offering, which included the full dispersal of the Candies Herd, met with solid trade at this year's 49th Autumn Breeding Sale of Luing and Sim-Luing cattle, held at United Auctions' Stirling centre on 29th October. Winning the overall pair of heifers with their show pen of Sim-Luing in-calf heifers was Andrew McNee and family from Woodend Farm, Armadale, West Lothian. This pair of 2½yr old heifers by Finlarg Hendry topped the Sim-Luing In-Calf heifer section, selling to £3150 per head, and were purchased by Messers Thomson, Wester Tulloch, Midmar, Aberdeenshire. Robert McNee Ltd also sold a single Sim-Luing In-calf heifer to the same value, and is away to the same home. Woodend sold 14 to average £2586, the top average of the day. Colin Little, East Bracklinn sold 11 to average £1971, and to a top of £2000. Overall, 29 Sim-Luing in-calf heifers averaged £2297, back on the year.

A small consignment of registered Luing in calf heifers opened the sale with two from Burnfoot Farms and A&M Whiteford, Sanquhar which both realised £2100, selling to Ingleston, Borgue and Conan Mains, respectively.

Luing bulling heifers sold well, to a top of £1995, and an average of £1377, up £53 on the year. The best of this section was consigned by Messers T. Renwick & Son, Blackhouse with a pair of 18 month old heifers sired by Nunnerie Xenon and Craigdarroch Vinnie. This pair topped the section at £1995, selling to Messers Barclay, Harestone, Inch. Messers Renwick's consignment of 14 heifers averaged £1841. Another excellent batch of bulling heifers, consigned by Mrs Una Hodge, Kirkland Farm, Sanquhar, averaged £1557 for 8



*Single In-Calf Heifer  
consigned by Robert McNee Ltd - £3,150*

sold to a top of £1750. Messers William Graham and Son, Craigdarroch sold 11 to a top of £1820, and to average £1527. D & A Barr from Milkieston had a level pen of 7 which averaged £1503, and topped at £1500.

Sim-Luing Bulling heifers were in demand, and 67 sold to average £1386, to a top of £2300, however this was back on the year by £197. Messers Halligan and Burke, Nether Stewarton, Peebles once again achieved the best average of this section, selling 5 to average £2216 and a top of £2300 for a pair, purchased by Messers Meiklem & Sons, Lochran, Blairadam, Kelty. Mark Thomson, Tillyrie, sold 6 to average £1736, while Messers Finlay McGowan, Incheoch also sold a pair at £1701, which are away to Willie Millar, Hunting Faulds, Tealing.

Messers Tweedie, of the Candies prefix, dispersed their herd of Luing cows, and auctioneer Ross Fotheringham fielded brisk bidding for this well bred group of mixed age cows, with spring born calves. The best of these was a 2017 born 5th calver with twins at foot by Harehead Viper, and back in calf to the same bull. Chris Harrison, Coatlith Hill, Alston, Cumbria paid £3045 for this pair to add to his newly established herd. A pair of in-calf heifers by Harehead Viper, topped this section of the dispersal at £2415, selling to Hyslop Farms, Kilbrook House, Wamphray, Moffat. The 62 units averaged £2205, while the 33 bulling heifers averaged £1395 and sold to a top of £1700. Four stock bulls sold to a top of £3360 and averaged £2079. The best of these was Craigdarroch Xanni, a 2018 born Culmaily Turbo son, who sold to Messers Williams and is away to work in Wales.



## Summary and Averages

### COLLECTIVE SALE

	Average Price (gns)	Average Price (£)	Top (gns)	Number Sold
<b>Luig In-Calf Heifers</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2</b>
R & M Whiteford	2,000	2,100	2,000	1
A & M Whiteford	2,000	2,100	2,000	1
<b>Luig Bulling Heifers</b>	<b>1,312</b>	<b>1,377</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>80</b>
T. Renwick & Sons, Blackhouse	1,753	1,841	1,900	14
Mrs Una Hodge, Kirkland	1,483	1,557	1,750	8
William Graham & Son, Craigdarroch	1,455	1,527	1,820	11
D & A Barr, Milkieston	1,431	1,503	1,500	7
C.C. MacArthur, Nunnerie	1,326	1,392	1,520	13
Messrs A. R. Mundell, Lawesknowe	1,000	1,050	1,000	4
Messrs J Beattie, Auchentaggart	967	1,015	1,000	6
A.J. Kennedy, Mitchellhill	932	979	1,220	10
Woodland Trust Scotland, Glen Finglas	881	925	1,020	7
<b>Luig Yearling Heifers</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>9</b>
N.H.C. Horsfall, Rannoch	807	847	900	9
<b>Sim-Luig Bulling Heifers</b>	<b>1,320</b>	<b>1,386</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>67</b>
M.G. Halligan & A.C. Burke, Stewarton	2,110	2,216	2,300	5
John Lawrie Ltd, Tillyrie	1,653	1,736	1,800	6
Messrs Finlay McGowan, Dirnanean	1,620	1,701	1,620	2
Messrs E.J. & A.M. Fox, College	1,563	1,641	1,600	8
R & H McNee, Finlarg	1,560	1,638	1,680	3
Mrs C.M. Reid, Portmore	1,374	1,443	1,520	10
R.H. Bell & Co., Plenderleith	1,170	1,229	1,280	8
Woodland Trust Scotland, Glen Finglas	1,031	1,083	1,150	9
R & M Whiteford	953	1,001	990	12
A & M Whiteford	933	979	990	4
<b>Sim-Luig In-Calf Heifers</b>	<b>2,188</b>	<b>2,297</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>29</b>
Robert McNee Ltd	2,586	2,715	3,000	14
Mr C Little (East Bracklinn)	1,877	1,971	2,000	11
Messrs Finlay McGowan (Dirnanean)	1,650	1,733	1,850	4
<b>Unregistered and Crossbred Heifers</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>2</b>
Woodland Trust Scotland, Glen Finglas	900	945	980	2
	<b>1,428</b>	<b>1,499</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>189</b>

### CANDIES DISPERSAL

	Average Price (gns)	Top (gns)	Average Price (£)	Number Sold
Tweedie - Luig Cows	2,100	2,900	2,205	62
Tweedie - Luig In-Calf Heifer	2,004	2,300	2,104	14
Tweedie - Luig Bulling Heifers	1,328	1,700	1,395	33
Tweedie - Bulls	1,980	3,200	2,079	5
Tweedie - Crossbred Bulling Heifer	1,200	1,200	1,260	1
Tweedie - Crossbred Cows	1,625	1,850	1,706	2
Tweedie - Crossbred In-Calf Heifer	2,100	2,100	2,205	1
	<b>1,852</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>1,945</b>	<b>118</b>

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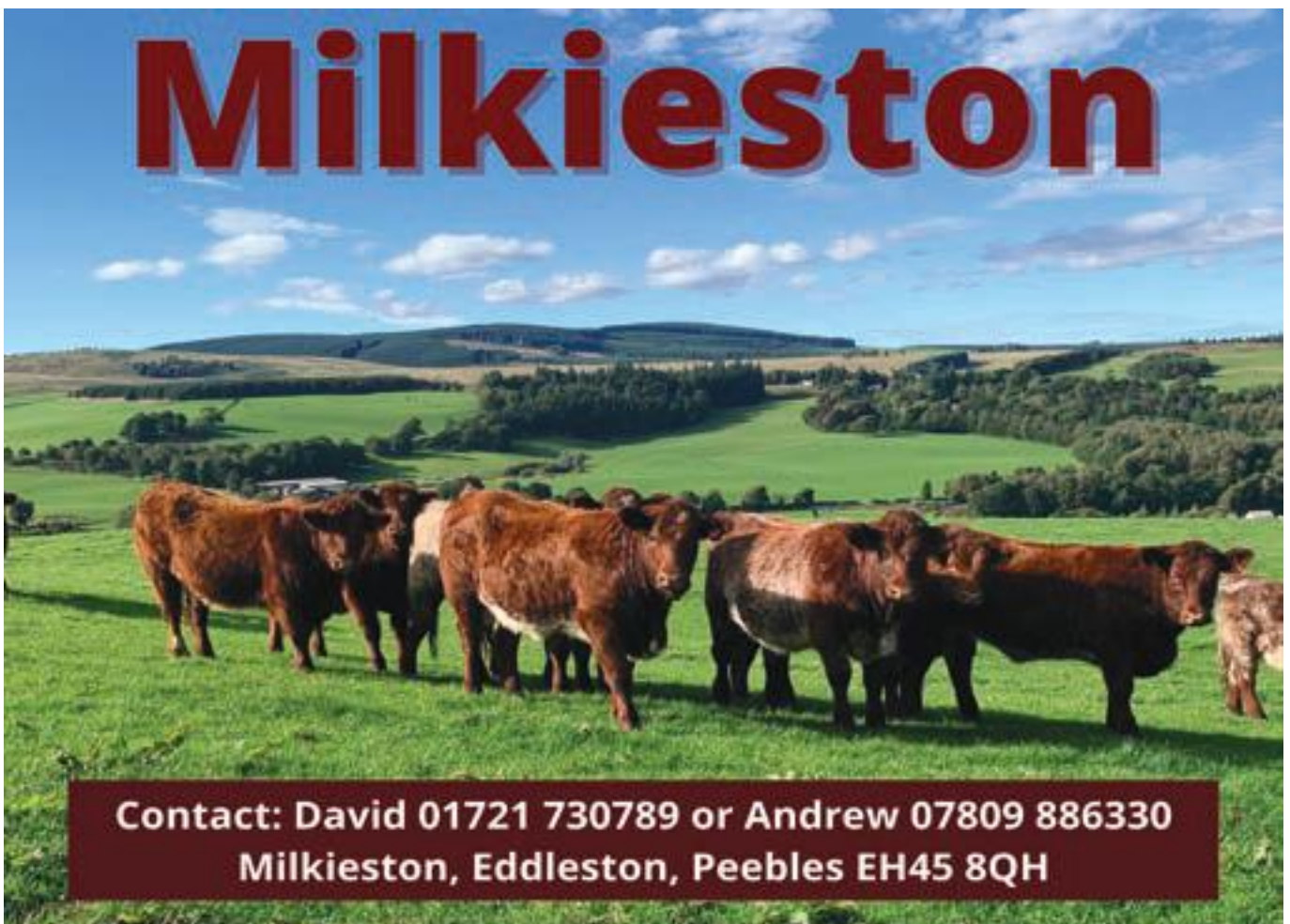
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# Milkieston



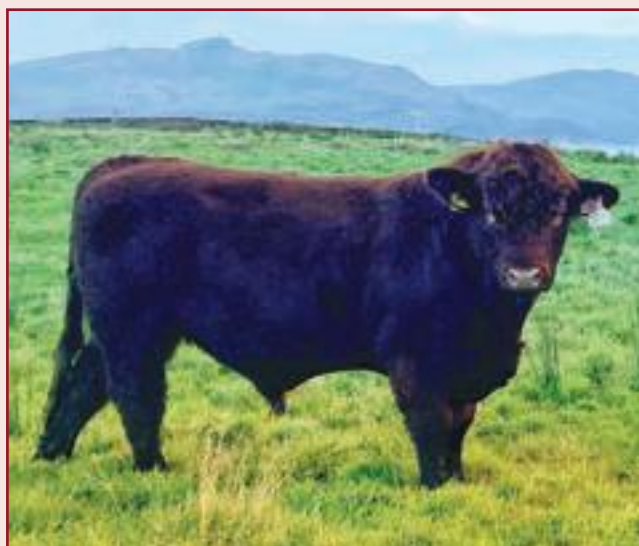
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Milkieston, Eddleston, Peebles EH45 8QH

## CADZOW BROS 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE 2022

12<sup>th</sup> November – United Auctions, Oban

Cadzow Bros, Isle of Luing held their 4th annual production sale at Oban, conducted by United Auctions on Saturday 12th November, where 88 head sold to an overall average of £1,463, an increase of £73 on the year. Averages for most types of females were on par with last year's trade, and once again brisk bidding saw the lots disperse widely across the UK and Wales. Rising 2 year old purebred heifers in calf to a variety of Luing genetics, due in Spring 2023, were most keenly sought after averaging £1,763 for 40 sold. The top price for in calf heifers peaked at £1,890 twice, the first of these was Luing Ballycastle A96, a March 2021 born daughter of Luing Valhalla, also having Drinkstone Panamar as a maternal grandsire. She sold in calf to Luing Zephyr, due April 2023, selling to Messers Emmerson, The Dods, Lauder. The second to reach £1,800 was Luing Ardlarach A16, a red March 2021 born Luing Taggart daughter. This one had Luing Piper on her dam's side, selling in calf to Luing Astro, and was purchased by West Tempar Enterprises, Kinlochranoch. Although the average for these heifers was down £277 on last year, the quality on offer was evident, with 5 going unsold.

Bulling heifers were a selective trade, averaging £1,181, similar to last year, but for only 20 sold in comparison to the 32 catalogued. The top priced bulling heifer at £1,780, up £95 on the year, went to Messers Jardine, Fairgirth, Dalbeattie. This May 2021 born heifer was sired by Luing X-Pert who is a Luing Tyson son. The proceeds of this heifer were split between two charities who have been instrumental in supporting Tootie Cadzow with her recovery following treatment for a calcified disk in 2021. Tootie spent 4 months in a Glasgow hospital, having been paralyzed from



the neck down, where doctors warned her that she may never walk again. The two benefiting charities are Spinal Injuries Scotland and Lorn Healthy Options.

Of the 5 bulls entered, four found new homes. The dearest of these at £10,500 was Luing Atlas, a heterozygous polled March 2021 born Luing Vesuvius son, who was purchased by A & J Nairn for his Glenlivet Herd at Ballindalloch. The next dearest at £3,990, Luing Ace, a March born Luing Valhalla son, is away to RW Moffat, Wooplaw, Galashiels.

The best of the cows was an in-calf second calver, Luing Ardlarach Y57. She sold back in calf and due in the spring to Luing Zodiac, and is away to Messers Crew, Boreland, Lockerbie. Twenty-four cows sold to average £1,017, with a top of £1,523.

### Summary Statistics

	Average (£)	Number	Top (gns)	2021 (Avg)	+ / -
Bulling Heifers	1,181	20	1,785	1,174	+7
Bulls	5,329	4	10,500	2,993	+2,336
Cows	1,017	24	1,523	1,145	-128
In-Calf Heifers	1,486	40	1,890	1,763	-277
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,463</b>	<b>88</b>			

## LIFE ON A REMOTE CATTLE STATION IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA



*"Do our teeth look white in this?" - Cam and I after a day in the cattle yards.*

Since leaving Scotland in 2016, my partner, Cameron, and I have worked and travelled around Australia and New Zealand. We started off on a sheep property in outback NSW, then various cattle enterprises in QLD & VIC, even a camel dairy near Brisbane, before ending up at Dampier Downs Station in the West Kimberly, WA in 2018. We then went dairying in NZ (North Island) for 2 years and after a brief spell back home (lambing and calving), we headed back out to Dampier Downs in June 2021, in the middle of COVID.

Dampier Downs is a 265,000 ha cattle station, and runs apx. 8,000 head of Brahman, Shorthorn and cross-bred cattle. The main market is bulls to the live export industry, with buyers in Indonesia and Malaysia, to name a few. We also sell to a local meat works, which is located 200Kms from the station. We are lucky to have this facility, otherwise our meat works cattle have to travel over 2,500Kms to an abattoir South of Perth.

The nearest town (Broome) is a 7 hour round-trip away, which means that any breakdowns are usually at least a day away from being fixed. We are bush mechanics, and have to fix problems with the minimum supplies, to make do, until parts arrive (this can take several weeks/ months). We are covered medically by The Royal Flying Doctor Service and have a medical chest of supplies to administer in emergencies. The homestead is completely off grid - power is generated through a solar - diesel hybrid system, water is pumped via a bore, we cook with gas and our phone/ internet is transmitted via satellite.

We harvest and butcher our own beef - usually do around 8 killers per year, and yes, steak with a side of steak is a well balanced meal - in my opinion.

Alongside the station owners, Mike and Anne Marie, Cam and I are the only full time staff. Two to three station hands are hired during the peak of the season (March to Oct.). The "wet season" runs from around mid December to March, this is when the bulk, if not all, of the annual rain, falls.

The majority of the cows calve during the Wet season, although bulls run with the cows all-year round. Earlier this year we learned how to date pregnancies with an ultrasound, this has made a big difference in selecting cull cows and also segregating out-of season calvers allowing us to supplement their diet and/or wean early.

Days, weeks and months disappear out here, some days we start 'running out of daylight' before we have even left the homestead. When we are doing cattle work, the top priority is to get cattle 'out of the yard'. They are mustered using helicopters, 4WD utes and 2-wheelers, and are handled using low-stress stock handling techniques. They are then drafted, with cows in milk and herd bulls going back where they came from and the rest are trucked to different areas of the station depending on their class (males to one end, heifers to heifer paddocks, weaners to the home yard etc). Calves are weaned from anything between 80Kgs to 130Kg, we raise them at home on a mixture of milk, pellets and silage. Once they reach 130Kg they are put in paddocks and fed a urea based lick. It takes around 3 years for the bulls to reach sale weight of 300Kg, (apart from supplementing their diet when weaned, if under 150Kg) they are solely pasture fed. In the wet season we supplement everything with phosphorus, as the land here is highly deficient in that mineral.



*My pocket rocket Kelpie, "90" and I trucking cattle in the Kenworth.*

The majority of the cattle work has finished for the year, as its getting too hot (+40C). We are busy installing new tanks and troughs to water the cattle, fencing and building sheds before the end of the season.

I still keep a couple of Luing cows back home in Arisaig, and often think how they are ideally suited to their environment and the job they do. It is a bit like how the Brahman is to the conditions and markets here in the Top end of Australia . Its really amazing how these two breeds, the Luing and the Brahman, can rear a quality calf off poor quality feed, and then the calf can be finished mainly off grass with minimum inputs, that has to be the way forward. At Dampier Downs, shorthorn cattle are slowly being phased out for the better-suited Brahman, but I still have a huge soft spot for these hardy cattle, especially the hairy ones.

***Jennifer Colston***



John Lawrie (Tillyrie) Ltd, Tillyrie Farm, Milanthort, Kinross, KY13 0RW

Mark Thomson: Tel: 01577 861992 Mob: 07816655368 Email: [tillyriefarm@gmail.com](mailto:tillyriefarm@gmail.com)

 Tillyrie Farm

## WITH GARY MACKENZIE, FANBLAIR FARM STOCK

**Fanblair extends to 407 acres at a height of 542 ft above sea level, with a mixture of temporary grass, rough grazing, established wooded areas and newly planted heather covered ground. I'm told you would class the farm as "semi hill" which would be a good comparison.**

It would be fair to say that the last 7 years since we bought Fanblair have been eventful, with everything from new roads, fences, reseeds, drainage, sheds, house renovations and tree planting to name but a few projects we have taken on.



Previously to our arrival at Fanblair, I rented ground from my wife Laura's parents, at Boblainy, Kiltarlity, where I had sheep for quite a few years. My wife Laura's late father Davy, was supportive when I first started out, helping me with everything from sheep, to ploughing, drainage and everything in between, without him I would not be where I am today, he was your typical old school type, who had done it all and knew pretty much all there was to know about farming.

Boblainy was not my own and so I was always on the lookout for crofts or small farms, but is always the case, they were like hens' teeth. In 2015, Fanblair Farm was new to the market, and we put an offer in straight away, which was accepted and here we are today.

The farm at one time was owned by Lovat Estate, but after the big sale of land by Lovat back in the 90's, the farm ended up in private ownership.

To begin with at Fanblair, I bought the existing blackface flock from the previous tenant farmer, and with the help of local shepherd and friend Mark Wiper, we carried on with lambing as it was

always done at Fanblair, outside, which was new to me as I always lambed indoors at Boblainy.

I carried on with the blackies for a few years, using Texel and Lleyntups, which worked well at Fanblair. Before the previous tenant left, he had his commercial herd of Simmental cross cows, which Mark wintered on his behalf in the sheds at Fanblair, and I was pretty keen at the time to buy a couple of the heifer calves, which I did, and I enjoyed the cow work more than sheep work!

Over the next while I built up the commercial cows herd and I felt the cows were a better fit for Fanblair and my lifestyle. The cows were mainly Simmental and Limousin cross cows, and possibly a bit heavy for the clay soils at Fanblair in the winter. There was quite a chunk of wood and rough grazing not really being utilised and I thought wintering cows up there would be a good use of that area.

As my current herd was autumn calving, I decided it was best to sell them on and create a spring calving herd, outwintered on the hill with the wooded area for cover.

I also decided to disperse the blackface sheep flock, which was a tough one, as Mark had worked with this flock for over 20 years. With the sheep and cows now sold, this now let me get on with the next chapter at Fanblair - the Luings.

In 2018, I attended the Pedigree Luings sale in Dingwall where I bought my first females, 15 in total from various well known luings herds. The first year I put a Simmy bull across the heifers, the calves produced from this cross in my opinion is hard to beat, however the pure Luings female is also a great female and it's the pure Luings I now concentrate on.





I then attended Cadzow's first sale in Oban where I bought another 15, with a mix of ages and some in calf.

For myself, with no previous knowledge of the Luing breed, I have ended up with a strong herd of a few different types of Luings. I have moved on cows I don't think suit my setup and I am now in a position to choose females that I think will be suitable for breeding at Fanblair, based on breed standards, but also what I think is pleasing to both look at and perform on the ground. Today I am currently running 38 cows and two bulls, Harehead Sumo and Kintail Zeus.

Numbers will probably settle around 30, but I have space to expand in the future once things settle down. My first calving with the Luings at Fanblair was good, a few assists but all were heifers so not unexpected. Calves were also quick to get up and sook which is always a pleasing sight.

As I work 4 days a week off farm in the family Fire and Security business, I house the cows 1 month before calving so I can nip home from work and check them quickly. This works well for me as I do not employ anyone for calving, the Luings have proved their reputation with calving ease.

This year's calving required very little input other than the bedding, feeding, the vitamin E jag and tagging of calves at birth. It did help catching covid half way through, this let me stay at home and also install a hard standing for the silage stack with the additional days off work!

The cows are generally in the shed from 2nd week of February until start of April, weather dependant, and turned out to a light picking of grass supplemented with silage. All cows and calves are bolused twice per year for trace elements with mineral buckets available during the winter months. When I house the cows in February, along with silage, concentrate is then fed twice daily until cows have calved.

Calves are weaned 1st week in November and housed until sold. Calves are put on a barley and beef stock nut ration from Harbro right through until sold, this year I was selling last years bullocks at Dingwall in February, store. I am hoping to get this year's bullocks off farm by December, saving a bit of money on feed and bedding as I have started the calves on supplementary feeding ad-lib on the hopper a lot earlier than I normally do. Heifers are kept inside from November until April, in the summer I will then go through the heifers and select for onward breeding, everything else is then sold store around July.

Wintering sheep from Skye usually featured the last few years, however there will be no wintering this year, which allows me to get stock out sooner on good fields that have had nothing on them from November-March. This gives me space next year to finish bullocks on grass, something I think the Luing will easily achieve. Bulling heifers are kept outside all winter and will not see a shed until they are calving the following year. Bulls are kept outside as long as possible, as long as the ground is good enough to get the tractor on for feeding.

This year at the Luing sale in Dingwall, I bought Kintail Zeus, who I put across all cows this year, scanning has just been carried out and Zeus has done well. I look forward to his calves next year.

In previous years I would put any empty cows back to the bull for a back end calving, however I have decided this year that anything not in calf, having run with the bull for 8 weeks, will be sold at weaning in November, mainly due to the fact I do not want to have two calvings in a year.

Next year in May, the Dingwall Luing sale will be my first that I will have bulling heifers for sale, I look forward to that and hope it's a great sale for the Luings, like the previous few years have been for the breed.



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# PORTMORE LUINGS

MRS C M REID



FROM THE HILLS OF PEEBLESSHIRE

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**WITH ANDREW & KATE DUNCAN, WEST TEMPAR, KINLOCHRANNOCH, PITLOCHRY**



**We set up and invested in our small farming enterprise in 2015, designed to integrate with our growing eco-tourism business. We felt there was an opportunity to combine the regeneration of the wild landscape, the ability to provide memorable experiences for our holiday guests and the production of a sustainable product for customers to enjoy.**

We established our herd as young farmers and new entrants as neither of us is from a farming background, and have therefore been happy to take an open-minded approach to our farming methods and to how the herd is managed. There was no established farming system to follow, no equipment and limited infrastructure, just a trusty MF 135 tractor in the shed.

Seven years on, our growing herd of Luing cattle are outwintered, calve outside and graze extensively on a variety of habitats including species rich pasture, fen meadow, heather hill and native woodland. The herd has achieved Elite Health Status and our new brand - A Highland Life - has begun to sell beef direct to our holiday guests and local customers.

**The Technology**

The rugged terrain and remote landscape of Highland Perthshire presented the opportunity to return cattle to the hills for conservation and commercial benefit but with the challenge of no fencing infrastructure. Following online research for fencing solutions from across the globe, Andrew made contact with Norwegian company Nofence, who at the time only had a handful of pilot projects in the UK. Nofence is the world's first commercial virtual fencing solution for livestock, where the animals are controlled by GPS-collars and an app.

The innovation has seen cattle return to the hills, allowing our grazed area to increase by 150 percent with cows moving to summer grazing close to Munro heights and roaming over large areas.

**The Impact of the Innovation**

Adopting the virtual fencing system has given us the ability to rotationally graze, allowing us to pursue a mob grazed system that we continue to refine. Using the functionality of virtual fencing, to track where cattle have been grazing and in what density, Andrew is able to control the pasture boundaries to exclude sensitive habitats and manage grazing across others for nutritional, conservation, and environmental outcomes.

We have been happy to support NoFence with their development and to introduce the product to other farmers. Last year we hosted the first NoFence field day in Scotland with a subsequent webinar to which 180 farmers signed up. Andrew has hosted a number of other





visits from interested farmers at all scales keen to understand the product and learn from his practical experience. Visitors and walkers can now scan a QR code on an information board we fix to the hill gates to see where cattle are grazing at any moment in time.

With the increased cost of fencing and concern around its landscape impact and the requirement for sustainable low carbon food production, the benefits of controlled grazing pressure in regenerating habitats mitigating climate change give the virtual fencing technology an exciting future.

In October 2022, we were delighted to be a finalist in the Scottish Land & Estates annual Helping it Happen awards, nominated in the Innovation in Farming category, as the first to commercially adopt virtual fencing in Scotland.

## Looking Forward

Farming within a National Scenic Area and with two SSSI's, the challenge has been to farm in a sustainable manner that regenerates habitats. With cattle being publicly maligned for their role in global warming, we have been closely following the emerging science demonstrating that cattle grazing managed rotationally can be part of the solution, producing a sustainable and healthy source of food at the same time.

The change in approach to managing our herd has allowed us to implement new technology, work towards a sustainable farming system and pursue a wider variety of environmental, social and economic outcomes.

This has all contributed to our transition to becoming a Pasture for Life farm, a significant step for our beef, our herd management through the seasons, and embodying our ideology for the farm going forward.



# PLENDERLEITH

At home in the Cheviot Hills



**LUINGS & SIM-LUINGS**

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## Breed Feature



### MESSRS WHITEFORD - BURNFOOT FARM

Burnfoot Farm sits on the edge of Sanquhar in the upper Nith Valley in Dumfries and Galloway and was bought in 2013 by Robert and Mary Whiteford and is farmed by the family. This followed purchases of other neighbouring units over the years, and the total now extends to some 3500 acres predominantly hill ground. The land runs up to 400 metres above sea level, and includes 400 acres of rough grazing and permanent pasture, 400 acres of improved pasture and silage ground, as well as a further 300 acres of woodland. They have also planted and replaced hundreds of metres of hedgerows and wooded banksides under the sheep and woodland grants schemes, which helps both the biodiversity on the farm and shelter offered to livestock from bad weather. They run a closed flock of 1500, mainly Blackfaced ewes, which are run pure on the hill ground and also cross with the Blue Faced Leicester. The pure gimmers are retained as replacements and the mule gimmers are sold at the Scotch Mule sale at Castle Douglas in the autumn. Within the flock they also run 150 mule and Texel cross ewes which go to the Texel tup, selling the resulting gimmer lambs to a regular buyer, while the gimmer hoggs run with a Beltex. The sheep are rotationally grazed alongside the cattle during the summer, as they find this helps keeping the grazing even throughout the sward.

Core to the farming business is the 300 head of breeding Luings cattle that they have built up following the move to Burnfoot. There was a herd of commercial Luings when they first took over, but with help from fieldsman Charles Symons, they have improved the herd and brought it up to full pedigree status. They now run separate herds with the Burnfoot herd running 200 breeding cows with 40 followers and the Ulzieside herd being 100 strong with 20 followers. The herds run on separate hills, but it means they can share bulls between them which helps retain the bulls

longer. The heifers are run together and calved at 2 years old, and have over the past few years, calved to the Angus bull. The idea is that the heifers can calve that bit easier with an Angus bull and there is a good demand for these cattle in the store market. Some of the older Luings are bulled with the Simmental bull, to breed the ever-popular Sim-Luing, with the steers sold in spring at Castle Douglas or Stirling and the Sim-Luing heifers sold at the society sale in Stirling. Luing bull calves are taken through and fattened at home on a home mix diet, selling as bull beef and direct to Dunbia. The bulls kill out well, generally between 340-360kgs at 14-15 months old, with many hitting the R and U grades. Herd health is a vital component of the system too, and working closely with the local Nithsdale Veterinary practice, all cattle are vaccinated against Pneumonia, Rota Virus and BVD as well as being tested regularly for Johnes.



Whilst one set of cattle summer up on the hill, the majority of the cattle are grazed on the inbye permanent pasture during the summer using a rotational grazing system. Good grass growing conditions on the inbye land gives the calves the advantage and a good start. As summer turns to autumn and grass growth slows, the cows are moved up onto the hill before housing for the winter, which helps extend the grazing season





considerably. The aim is to manage the grass as best they can and get the most out of the grass that they grow, as it is the cheapest and most plentiful feed available – and one thing that the Luings are good at is converting grass into profit. The cattle are housed in slatted buildings over winter, with Sanquhar getting a lot of rainfall, winters can last a long time, and housing saves poaching up the land, freeing it up for the ewes and keeping it fresh for turn out. Robert Whiteford explained *“the cattle are fed a simple mixture of straw, feed blends and minerals, nothing too complicated and they do well on it.”* Calving is in the spring, over a 9-week window, whilst the cattle are still housed, which makes it handy for checking, tagging and managing the calves, with the aim of turning them out within a couple of days of calving.



When looking for a fresh bull they like to look for a bull with balance and not too extreme in any way as they are trying to build a nice consistent herd. The Whitefords research both the family history of stock bulls before purchase, along with the breed’s maternal classification scores, to help inform their decision. Bulls must be good on their legs and have a good confirmation, especially important as they sell their bull beef direct, where carcase quality really does pay.

When it comes to retaining the females in their herd, they select hard, with only the best making the grade, which helps improve the standards within the herd.

Moving forward, the family are keen to increase their efficiency and cut their cost by improving the soil and grazing strategies without increasing fertiliser use. They intend to do this by looking at reseeding and more paddock grazing. The Whitefords feel that this will increase cow efficiency by increasing the number of calves and lambs spained, again, adding to an increased profit margin.

*“The Luing is particularly well suited to our farm”,* says Robert Whiteford, *“The main benefits of the Luing cow apply themselves well here – its great ability to efficiently thrive off grass and produce a quality calf, no matter what comes their way. The ratio between cow body weight and weaned calf weight is second to none, while the ability to raise their calves as simply as possible with great temperament, is a massive advantage to us.”* Further, they are always impressed with the fertility of the breed too, with well over 90% of the cows in calf year after year, paying their way. With the future looking a bit less rosy than it did, as costs rise and government support declines, the Luing is just the breed to help face that future.



*Luings*

### **MCGOWAN, Neil** **Chairman**

Neil and Debbie farm in a family partnership at Incheoch, at the foot of Glenisla, home to the Dirnanean herd. Neil's parents, Finlay and Judy started in Luings with the purchase of Dirnanean farm in 1977. The current herd of about 150 cows are partly bred pure for replacements the rest crossed to produce Sim-Luings. Heifers are calved at 2yo and pure steers finished off grass at around 18 months. Incheoch is also home to a 50 cow Simmental herd and flocks of Lleyn and Texel ewes, with a ram and bull sale held on the farm. Having worked successfully with performance recording in maternal sheep, Neil was the first breeder to record Luings on the Signet system. Daughter, Tally, is studying to be a vet in Edinburgh and Angus is in final year at school. Neil's passion for the Luing stems from a family history with the breed, but is driven by his vision for the suckler cow of the future - where he sees Luing as the robust, maternal bull of choice for most commercial herds.

### **WOOD, Stewart** **(Appointed 2021)**

Stewart is married to Wilma and has two grow up sons, Gareth who works on the farm and part time with the Scottish Government, and Chris manages a farm in Aberdeenshire.

We farm 620 acres (95 rented) on Orkney and run a herd of 185 suckler cows, 275 ewes, and grow seventy acres barley and twelve acres oats, all for home use. We bought our first Luings in 2007 and now have 50 cows, they have all been bred pure this past two years to increase numbers, as previously we were using all Simmental bulls to breed the Sim-Luing which numbers over 100 now. We are slowly phasing out our other breeds of cows, however we also have a small herd of Charolais and a few BBx Lim to breed show calves.

Most of the cows are calved in the Spring (30 in Autumn) and all progeny sold at 11-13 months of age. All Luing and Sim-Luing heifers suitable for breeding are retained.

All males out of the Luings are entire and finished at 13-14 months and sold dead weight. We are pleased with the weights and confirmation they are achieving, showing how versatile the Luing cow is.

Our flock of sheep consist of around 90 Lairg Cheviots crossed with Blueface Leicester, to produce the Cheviot Mule. The remainder of the flock is now mostly Cheviot Mules, with Texel tups being the main sire for them. All lambs finished on the farm.

In 2011 we took the decision to diversify our business and being in Orkney with a strong tourism market we built three new self-catering cottages and opened for business in 2012.

### **ANDERSON, Neil** **(Appointed 2021)**

Started as farm manager at Harehead Farms in 1987, working for the late Prof Penny. We purchased our first Luing heifers at the Oban sale in February 1988. Harehead is an upland/hill suckler and sheep farm in the Lammermuir hills. We have Luing and Sim-Luing cows, along with Blackface, Cheviot, Mule, Texel and Bluefaced Leicester sheep. I enjoy selling heifers and bulls at the annual society sale at Castle Douglas, Sim x heifers with calves at UA, Stirling as well as private sales of breeding females and bulls.

### **GRAHAM, Billy** **(Appointed 2022)**

Married to Fiona with two children Ruaridh 9 and Isla 7. Farmed at Craigdarroch since 2000 along with my father. We run about 1650 blackface ewes and 60 Luing cows all kept pure and out on the hill all year.

### **BARR, Andrew** **(Appointed 2022)**

Married to Nicola with two children, Isla 12 and Alistair 10. The fourth generation to farm at Milkieston near Peebles which is a 900acre upland farm and been in the family for 100 years. In partnership with my dad David we run 110 Luing cows all bred pure with heifers being sold at the society sales at Stirling and Castle Douglas. We have 1000 ewes, 350 Blackies, 250 Lairg type Cheviots and 400 Scotch Mules.

## **MCCALL, EWAN**

**(Appointed 2022)**

Ewan and wife Claire and their 2 children Isla (5) and Alan (2) farm at Culmaily Farm Golspie with Ewan's parents Angus and Evelyn. Culmaily extends to 600 acres with an additional 170 acres of rented grazing is home to 100 Luings and Sim Luings cows and 300 Cheviot and Cheviot mule sheep with 200 acres of barley grown for the malting market and some retained for feed.

After finishing a BSC honours degree at SRUC Craibstone Ewan travelled to New Zealand and Australia for almost 2 years working on farms and for contractors. In 2007 Ewan returned home to farm with his parents.

The Luings herd was started in the 1960's when Ewan's grandfather Alan farmed at Kildonan Helmsdale and then moved to Culmaily in 1971. The first bull was Luings Agent who was crossed with shorthorn crossed highland cows and progeny was then graded up to form the foundation cows.

The Luings cow suits the system at Culmaily with cows being out wintered on stubbles and then moved up onto the permanent pasture during the summer months. All cattle are spring calvers and heifers calve down at 2 years old. In recent years male Luings calves have been left entire and finished at 13/14 months. There

is a closed herd policy with surplus heifers being sold at the Dingwall society sale, a few bulls are kept to also be sold at Castle Douglas and Dingwall sales.

Sim Luings calves are sold store in March through Dingwall mart and any suitable yearling Sim Luings heifers sold at the Dingwall Society sale.

With the sheep, New Zealand suffolks are crossed to the Cheviot mule and cheviots are both bred pure and to the Bluefaced Leicester to provide replacements. All lambs are finished on farm and sold through Dunbia.

## **SYMONS, Charles**

**(Fieldsman)**

Recently retired from full time farming Charles and Mary have now moved to The Priory at Morebattle. This is a 20-acre property and Charles spends his spare time training sheepdogs. There are 3 acres of gardens to maintain so they will still be very busy. Hopefully there will be more time to dedicate to the job of fieldsman, a job thoroughly enjoyed. When on bull inspection and cow classification duty hopefully there will be more time to have a look around herds and spend more time with members rather than the usual rush in and out. Anyone wishing to discuss anything Luings please don't hesitate to contact your fieldsman.

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# FINLARG HERD



Reared on the Sidlaws



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**Robert & Hazel McNee**  
Over Finlargo  
Tealing, by Dundee  
DD4 0QE  
01382 380627

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**NSA Scotsheep 2020 / 2021 / 2022 was finally hosted by Robert and Hazel McNee at Over Finlurg on 1st June 2022. The event was a fine tribute to the stockmanship and determination of the McNee family, and as such attracted a huge turnout for what was one of the very first large scale attendance events following Covid related restrictions. Although a sheep focused event, The Luings Cattle Society benefited from the dual focus at Finlurg, and Donald Barrie of the James Hutton Institute provided a very interesting and valuable stop on the farm tour to showcase the significant part the Luings play in the Over Finlurg system. Donald's background in environmental science related to Agriculture was well placed to highlight the land use, carbon, and grazing interaction aspects of the Finlurg system, from his hilltop outlook.**

***Hitherto is a precis of Donald's talk:***

Donald first invited his audience to notice the contrast between the heather hill on the opposite side of the fence, and the improved land on Finlurg. The underlying geology, although the same on either side; sandstones and lavas, weathered into the useful free draining soils that lie on the surface, has been influenced by generations of man, having provided nutrients and lime, which has fundamentally increased the pH from 4.0 on the dark side to around 5.9 on the improved side. Natural systems have the propensity to assimilate Carbon, and peat bogs are a great example, but even dry heaths build up a peaty soil layer. Old improved grassland like Finlurg also stores Carbon, in broken down plant remains and a plethora of micro-organisms living under the sod which recycle plant and animal wastes into the soil profile. This is a dynamic system where carbon is being gained and lost all the time through natural processes, but over the years should remain largely in balance.

But what can upset that balance? Fire is an extreme example – in dry conditions vegetation and peaty topsoil would be lost. On the green hill, less prone to fire, ploughing and reseeded would also cause a massive short-term loss of Carbon. Hill land, reverted to natural grass, has a diverse plant community, including grazing tolerant species like clover. The best way to influence the mix of species here is to graze it, not only with sheep, but also with cattle.



*Scotsheep host Robert McNee presenting Stewart Wood, Vice Chairman of Luings Cattle Society, with 2nd prize, Indoor Trade Stand award*

The Luings cow and her followers are ideally adapted to thrive on this type of pasture. Not only that, cattle are not “picky eaters” – they will tear down rank grassland and prepare the way for ewes and lambs to follow. Robert and Hazel have control of both grazing pressure and timing because this hill is divided into six 70 acre blocks; grazed alternate years by sheep and cattle; a bit like paddock grazing on a landscape scale.

So to conclude: the best way to manage this class of land is to graze it; useful to the farm because it allows less demanding classes of livestock to be moved out of the productive low ground. Cows have a place in the mix because their different grazing habits allow better utilisation of the farm's grassland and they are great recyclers of nutrients. Farms that have a mixture of land capabilities also need a mixture of livestock types so that nutritional needs can be matched to the grazing resource. We should all be worried about the environmental impact of our businesses: the first step in managing this is to ensure that systems are efficient. That means productive on the one hand and making sustainable use of the farm's natural resources on the other. Both sheep and cattle have a part to play in maintaining this managed natural environment.



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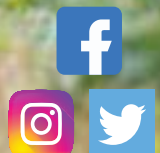
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## Open Day 2022

Glen Finglas, Callander by kind permission of  
The Woodland Trust Scotland, Hamish Thomson, Janet Pringle

### Glen Finglas - An Introduction

The Luing Cattle Society held its Open Day at Glen Finglas, Callander on 18th August. The Glen Finglas Estate lies in the heart of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park. It is part of the Great Trossachs Forest National Nature Reserve, a 200 year plus landscape scale woodland restoration project. Glen Finglas is owned by the Woodland Trust and farmed under a contract agreement by Janet Pringle.

The Estate extends over 12,500 acres of mainly hill ground, rising from 300ft above sea level at Loch Venachar to just short of 3000ft on the summit of Ben Ledi. Glen Finglas currently carries 85 mainly pedigree Luing cows. These are run with Simmental and Luing bulls. Calving is from March for 12 weeks. All heifer calves are kept and like all the cows are wintered outside. The heifers are retained for replacements and the remainder are sold as yearlings. Male calves are mainly sold store in the autumn. There are 250 Blackface and cheviot cross ewes alongside provision for 120 wedders from The James Hutton Institute for grazing trial plots to facilitate their research.

### The Woodland Trust - Cattle Live in Trees

Here in the Trossachs we have a beautiful well-wooded landscape interspersed with lots of open ground from the blanket bogs and heathland of the high tops to the grasslands and wetlands of the glens and valleys. This

landscape has supported people's livelihoods for thousands of years providing for nearly all of our needs - food, building materials, firewood and charcoal - in a low-intensity sustainable way.

This is not dissimilar to what much of the UK must have looked like in the distant past. Not the traditional picture of large areas of dense, closed canopy forest, more of an open wood pasture with some areas of denser woodland blending into scattered open-grown trees and a variety of open habitats in between. This would have been a landscape shaped by large mammals, deer, elk, horses, pigs and ancient cattle (auroch) grazing, browsing and generally bashing up and poaching areas on a regular basis, creating a dynamic landscape and preventing the forest from taking over in certain areas. Their numbers would have been naturally regulated by the resident large predators - wolf, lynx, bear and the like.

Our modern domestic cattle are direct descendants of those ancient auroch and thrive in well wooded landscapes. Their value in conservation projects is being increasingly recognised and there are lots of examples of rewilding projects where grazing animals are integral to the habitat restoration process. They are seen as 'ecosystem engineers', and can restore the natural biodiversity of a landscape. Natural herbivore behaviours - grazing, dust bathing, eating bark and felling trees - enable other species to thrive.



Image: Craig Somerville / WTML



And that is what we are aiming to achieve at Glen Finglas. The Woodland Trust bought the estate from John Cameron in 1996. An ambitious acquisition for what was then a much smaller organisation, an upland estate running around 4000 ewes and 100 cattle, with shepherds in the tied houses and miles of open hill, it was certainly far from a usual Woodland Trust acquisition. However, it has given us the opportunity to deliver the Trust's three key aims on a grand scale:

To **Protect** existing ancient woodland, in this case the ancient wood pasture of the old royal hunting forest in Glen Finglas itself, to **Restore** degraded ancient woodland by removing some areas of conifer plantation on an ancient woodland site, and to **Create** new woodland, so far around 1500ha has been deer fenced and planted with more than a million trees.

You might think that the easiest way to achieve this would be by ring fencing the deer out and removing all the livestock, but at Glen Finglas it is not all about the trees. The scattered woodland is separated by areas of herb rich grassland and wetland, with patches of dry heath interspersed with blanket bog and open water.

Some of these habitats were threatened by decades of intensive sheep farming, particularly the heathland and woodland habitats where dwarf shrubs were being suppressed and dominated by grasses, and the high grazing pressure was preventing any natural regeneration of trees. A reduction of grazing in some areas was clearly needed but many of the species rich open habitats require continued grazing otherwise there is the risk of rank grasses and scrub taking over and outcompeting the wildflowers.

The ongoing management of this complex site requires careful management of grazing animals, with deer, our Luing cattle and a few sheep helping to maintain the variety of habitats and hence the biodiversity of the site. There is no easy prescription for finding this balance but surveys demonstrate an increasing diversity and abundance of various species across the estate. In the ancient wood pasture the removal of sheep coupled with effective deer management has resulted in an abundance of natural regeneration of trees in some areas, even with continued cattle grazing.

Without the large predators of our primeval landscape we need to step in to keep things in balance. We manage the red deer population to a level where we can get some successful tree regeneration, monitoring by regular habitat impact assessments. The venison we take is the finest quality wild food. Our cattle enterprise although very extensive is still a commercial venture. These landscapes can be regenerated whilst still being productive in a sustainable way. Our current approach delivers a multitude of other benefits often described as ecosystem services, such as clean water, clean air and carbon sequestration as well as public access and recreation, scientific research and future timber resource. Better still some of these activities can bring in an income, especially carbon at the moment and we are actively engaged in peatland restoration and woodland creation that will bring in long term income through the carbon codes.

The Woodland Trust has been working hard to get more trees into the farmed environment for many years and there is plenty of evidence that integrating more trees into farming systems can increase productivity. In November we published a policy paper: 'Farming for the future: how agroforestry can deliver for nature and climate' (available at [woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications](http://woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications)) which is a good review of the evidence base and includes case studies from various sectors. For livestock trees offer multiple direct benefits including shelter, shade and nutrition as well as reducing soil erosion and diffuse pollution and potentially being a source of additional income as well through fruit crops, firewood or timber.

Whether it is conservation management or commercial farming, it is important to remember the ancestry of modern day cattle. If we can go some way to recreating that environment we will have less stressed, more productive livestock and more trees in the environment will deliver a whole host of other benefits too. Trees are the backbone of our ecosystems and we need to get to the conditions right for them to thrive for the simple reason that they will help us all to survive.

**Hamish Thomson**  
**Glen Finglas**  
**November 2022**

## Breed Feature



### CRAIGDARROCH LUINGS

**In the 22 years since the Graham family moved to Craigdarroch they have firmly established themselves as one of the herds at the forefront of the Luing breed. This was underlined at Castle Douglas premier sale in February 2022 when Craigdarroch Zico, a son of Plenderleith Wizard, sold for a breed record price of 32,000gns. A cumulation of two decades of hard work having moved from Ayrshire and settled on the Luing breed as their choice of suckler cow.**

Craigdarroch runs to around 3500 acres, predominately white hill ground with only 200 acres of inbye, in the Nith valley near Sanquhar, running up towards 1700 feet above sea level at the highest point. They run around 1650 pure Blackie ewes alongside their Luing herd, selling tups at Stirling, Lanark and Newton Stewart, consistently selling numerous tups for five figures over the years, as well as a small flock of Texel ewes. Whilst Willie Graham is still actively involved, the day to day running of the farm is down to Billy Graham aided by wife Fiona and their two young children Isla and Ruaridh, along with full time worker Ally Smith.



It was in 2003 when the first Luings landed at Craigdarroch having bought a batch older in-calf cows from the Cadzow brothers, Luing, at the autumn Oban sale. They were looking for a good hill cow, that would winter out and thrive off the hill. Billy says *"We have a fairly dry hill but it has limited in-bye ground so we needed a breed that would thrive out on the hill all year round"*. After looking at several options and talking to his dad's cousin, Willie Graham of Ravensneuk, Luings seemed the obvious choice as they fitted the bill. Further, Luings had previously been on the farm before they moved down. The first cattle thrived on the hill, and they quietly built up their numbers, buying in a few heifers from various sales, and soon had an optimum herd of around sixty head of cattle - just enough to graze the hill ground and break it up for the Blackie ewes, but not too many that it poached it up over the wet winter months.



The heifers are first calved at three years old as they find that it gives them time to mature properly, and as a breed bred to tough it on the hill, it suits the system well. Billy commented *"We did try calving some heifers at two years, but found that they needed more attention and looking after than those that calved at three"*. The cows winter on the hill, and are fed magnesium rolls from November until calving, only coming onto the inbye when the first one calves in the spring. At that point they will be given extra silage, and turned back to the hill as soon as the calf has been up, suckled and tagged. With the cows being active outside right until calving they find that have very few problems, and any assistance is rare. Grazing the cattle on the hill and getting them back up the hill so quickly is quite a simple system and one that works well with the Luings on Craigdarroch. Billy noted *"We only really handle them properly twice a year, once at spaining in mid-November, when they are treated for fluke and worms, and PD'd. We*





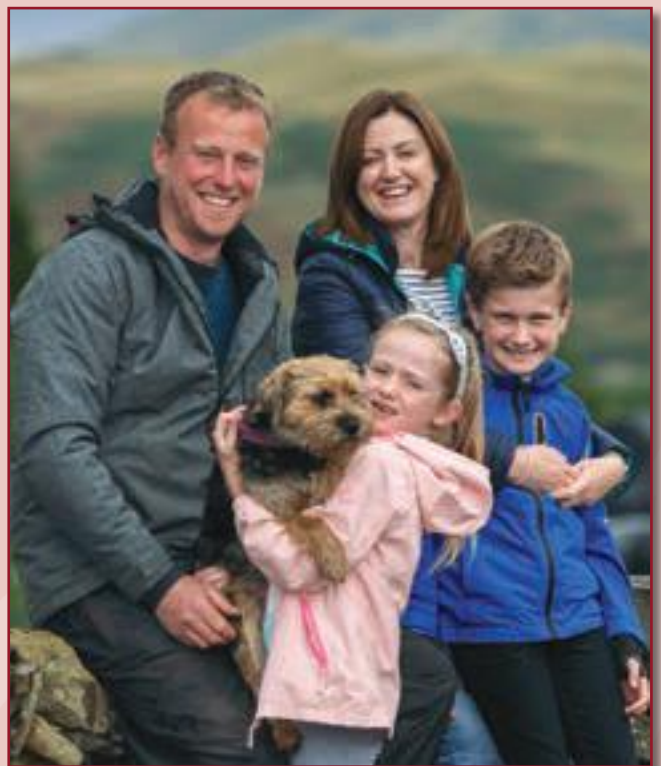
*find that there are very few barren cows – at one stage we only had one geld cow in three years”. The other time they are brought into the handling system is in June when they split the bulls up and dehorn any that need dehorning, but as they have concentrated on the polled lines within the breed, only 10% of the calves have horns, and require de-horning.*

Over the years they have purchased quite a few stock bulls and have been very pleased with how the bulls have gone on and bred for them. One of the most influential bulls has been Figo, a bull they bought as a calf on his mother from the Clunie dispersal. Figo did well, putting plenty of quality and breed character into the fledging Craigdarroch herd, building a great foundation. He also went on to breed Hakka, a bull which the Grahams retained and bred very well for them. The bulk of the herd are now made up of cows sired by the 7000gns Harehead Jake, bought out of Castle Douglas, and Finlarg Nimrod. Both these bulls have bred well, and put a good stamp on the herd. Craigdarroch also like to try their yearling bulls on a few cows. Stock bulls are only kept from the better cow lines and by using them as youngsters before sale, those blood lines are retained. This strategy also gives them extra confidence when selling the young bulls at the



society sale in Castle Douglas. When looking for a fresh stock bull, Billy noted that he firstly must like the look of them – with good confirmation, breed character, and importantly good feet and legs, as he is going to be needing those to get about the hill!

At spaining time, the heifer calves are left out over winter, receiving extra silage and feed, while the bulls and bullocks are brought in and put on feed, aiming for sale in early May as stores at UA Stirling. The heifers are sold as breeding heifers, and are in demand, given that they are well grown and with good confirmation, they make a good type of suckler for the finishing market. Many of the heifers weigh in at around 500kg and go to repeat buyers.



Billy admits that the cattle weren't his first love on the farm.... they were there to graze the hill and that was that, but slowly they got under his skin and now they are an integral part of the system. Billy has an enthusiasm for the breed which is infectious, never having imagined getting any more involved than selling a few heifers at Stirling. Gradually, after selling a few bulls at Castle Douglas, it drew him in, with the craic and social side of the sales building up a great community of breeders. Billys says that *“the decision to go with the Luings all those years ago was the best they could have made. They are a perfect fit at Craigdarroch, with their excellent temperament, foraging and mothering ability second to none, combined with excellent fertility, and a medium mature size. As costs rise cattle will increasingly need to live and thrive off forage – the Luing is well placed to meet future requirements of the modern suckler herd.”*

# CRAIGDARROCH



William Graham & Son

Craigdarroch Farm

Eliock

Sanquhar

DG4 6LE

Tel: 07920 859668



Enquiries Welcome

# Obituaries

## LAWRENCE TRAQUAIR MacEWEN

LAIRD OF THE ISLE OF MUCK  
and LUING CATTLE ENTHUSIAST

24th July 1941 – 16th May 2022

***“I never want to be without a cow.”*** The oft spoken words of Lawrence MacEwen, who lived and farmed on the Isle of Muck for his 80 years of full to the brim life.

And Lawrence will always have a cow for company.

For when he was laid to rest within the fertile soil of Muck on 21st May (2022), his coffin, made by son Colin, was closed with a lid which had been carved by Lawrence’s grandchildren. Among the things they decided their Grandfather would like – a fine Luing cow!



All images in this article: Claire Powell.

Jenny and Lawrence MacEwen on the Isle of Muck

The community graveyard on Muck is un-fenced and “maintained” by the MacEwen’s sheep and cattle. Lawrence had speculated that *“hopefully some of the cows might wander over my grave from time to time.”* Very likely!

Lawrence was an early convert to the Luing breed. He and Shane Cadzow (son of Shane, one of the three Luing breed founding Cadzow brothers), were two of the few people at the breed’s Golden Anniversary Open Day on the Isle of Luing on 19th August 2016, who had also been at the very first Luing Open Day, held on Luing on 9th October 1966.

The Isles of Luing and Muck are alike – both small, fertile and great grass growing islands off Scotland’s west coast, with natural shelter for livestock seeking protection from the wind and rain, which arrives un-hindered from the south west, (and most other directions!).

Lawrence’s father – Royal Naval Officer Commander W.I.L. MacEwen, had kept a fold of pure Highlanders, selling some weather-proof bulls to the Department of Agriculture.

His commercial herd was based on home-bred Shorthorn X Highland females.

The Luing breed – a perfect bovine fit for Muck!

The Isle of Muck – To appreciate who and what Lawrence was, you need to know a little about this magical tiny 1,500 acre (607 ha) lump of land, rising out of the North Atlantic Ocean to a peak of 451 feet, eight miles north of Ardnamurchan on mainland Scotland’s west coast.

Muck – the island home and farm Lawrence treasured.

As to the island’s memorable name – the waters around Muck support many marine species, including porpoises. The Gaelic for porpoise is Muc Mara, considered to have been the naming basis for “Muck”.

Muck is the smallest and most fertile of the Small Isles, the other three being Eigg, Rum and Canna. It is the only privately owned of the four, and has been owned by the MacEwen family since 1896, when it was acquired by Robert Lawrie Thomson MacEwen, (an uncle of Lawrence’s father).

Lawrence’s father inherited the island in 1917.

Other than a small holding and the homes for the approximately 40 folk who currently live on Muck, the whole island is farmed by the MacEwens, with the base being Gallanach Farm on the north west coast, looking across to the Isle of Rum.

Lawrence was the second of four children born to Commander MacEwen and his wife Edith – Alasdair, Lawrence, Catriona and Ewen.

The MacEwen siblings spent their early years revelling in a semi-feral lifestyle on Muck, creating their own fun and daring do adventures amidst their island playground.

They often rampaged over the island barefoot and for his entire life, Lawrence rarely wore socks – a glimpse of his tootsies confirmed a Chiropody challenge!

Lawrence also started every day with a cold bath.

Secondary school education meant the mainland. Lawrence found himself learning at prestigious, but for him – not much fun, Gordonstoun School. He survived.

Aberdeen University followed, which included a practical year on a farm near Galashiels in the Scottish Borders, where lifelong friendships were forged.

Lawrence then headed for Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand for two years, during which his hungry for farming knowledge eyes and mind,

saw, learnt and remembered a great deal. He was back home in time to be on Luing for the first Open day in 1966.

Following the death of their father in 1967, Lawrence's elder brother Alasdair, opted for farming on the mainland, passing ownership of the island to Lawrence, Catriona and Ewen.

Lawrence became the Laird of Muck, not a title he relished – he preferred to be called – A FARMER!

After overseas travelling, in time Ewen made his home back on Muck, and built a hotel at Port Mor, the main settlement, which he managed with his partner Judy Taylor.

Catriona, a Cambridge University biology graduate, married computer programmer David White. They now live on the Isle of Lismore.

Once in charge of Muck farming decisions, Lawrence quickly ticked the item at the top of his cattle shopping list – a Luing bull.

For most of you, when purchasing a new bull, the transport logistics involve loading said bull into a lorry/trailer at place of purchase, followed by a road journey and then unloading him on your own farm. Job Done!

A new bull for Muck – transport a little more complicated!

Prior to the 21st Century construction of a slip way at Port Mor, transfer of livestock to/fro the island demanded a considerable amount of co-operation from those on four legs, which was not always forthcoming. Sometimes a freedom-seeking cattle beast would leap into the sea. It would be surprised to find itself almost instantly in the company of Lawrence who would jump into the water, grab the beast around the neck and grapple it ashore. Some of the islanders used to hope an animal would make a break for liberty, just to watch amphibious Lawrence in action!

Fortunately the first Luing bull for Muck did not decide to try to swim for it, nevertheless Luing Pathfinder did his best to stay on the mainland.

Following purchase at Oban in February 1971, Pathfinder was transported to Mallaig. Lawrence travelled the 16 watery miles from Muck to Mallaig in the island's 36 feet motor launch – "Wave," to collect him.

The plan – transfer bull from livestock lorry into a wooden box, a bespoke construction for the transport of single animals across the water. The box was then to be craned onto "Wave" for the journey to Muck.

Lawrence was to lead the bull down the lorry ramp, straight into the box. Lawrence to exit at the far end, with doors at each end promptly closed, securing bull inside the box.



*Lawrence MacEwen, patrolling the Isle of Muck on his red Fergie tractor – the same tractor towed his coffin to his grave*

Pathfinder however had other ideas. Before the front door of the box had been closed – he was out and..... running! He speedily visited a lot of Mallaig – the pier, railway station and fishermen's huts (straight through), before setting off along the railway track, hotly pursued by Lawrence. Fortunately Pathfinder's rail track scamper was between trains!

After two miles, the bull ran out of stamina, and surrendered. Several hours later Lawrence and Pathfinder arrived on Muck. Their lengthy walk from Port Mor to Gallanach Farm, was lit by a full moon. By now man and bull had bonded. Pathfinder lay down three times on the last uphill mile. Both were very pleased to get home. Pathfinder stayed on Muck for six years.

The current Muck herd numbers 40 cows, which range over the island. Siring duties are shared between a Luing and a Simmental. Some pure Luing heifers are retained for replacements, with the balance of the weaned calves sold annually at either Fort William or Dingwall marts – depending on ferry sailings.

The sheep flock of approximately 700 ewes, is made up of North Country Cheviots, Lleyn crosses from Scottish Blackface base, which go to the Cheviot tup. There are also 150 Cheviot Jacob cross ewes which go to the Beltex tup. After choosing ewe lamb replacements, the store lambs are sold off the island in August.

While the bull Pathfinder had been a transport challenge in 1971, on 26th September 1979, Lawrence brought a far more precious cargo home to Muck – his bride Jenny.

Lawrence had first met and been "totally dazzled" by Jenny, when delivering tups to the Isle of Soay, where Jenny had run a croft.

They were married on Soay by a Minister wearing Jenny's father's shoes which were several sizes too big, while Lawrence's brother Ewen, the best man, resplendent in his formal kilt, wore green wellingtons. Both had forgotten to pack their "wedding" shoes for the journey to Soay.

Daughters Sarah and Mary and son Colin made the MacEwen family complete.

Colin, a qualified Chartered Surveyor and his Yorkshire-born wife Ruth, have been in charge of the Muck farming operation since 2007, while also running holiday cottages and maintaining/repairing/renovating the let houses and farm buildings and ensuring the island infrastructure is operating smoothly. The ability to turn your hand to just about anything, is a must-have for island life.

Until the construction of the Community Hall a decade ago, the Gallanach machinery shed doubled as a badminton court on a Friday night. It is full of neatly stored tools plus a varied selection of – things which will/might come in handy. Nothing is wasted here!

Mary and husband Toby Fichtner-Irvine, have established an award winning shoot, enhanced by a luxurious bespoke hotel – Gallanach Lodge, overlooking Gallanach Bay and across to Rum.

Sarah, who studied agriculture, is married to Willie MacRae, an Edinburgh-based lawyer. She returns, along with her family, to Muck at every opportunity.

There had been no sitting back in gentle retirement for Lawrence and Jenny. To their delight, there were, and still are – numerous grand-children to enjoy, while Jenny continues to bake bread for Gallanach Lodge and just about everybody else. Lawrence described Jenny as “the human side of Muck.”

Meanwhile Lawrence, for whom every day offered the chance of an adventure, until the last few weeks of his life, when not amidst the cattle, or sorting out what ever needed to be sorted out, patrolled the island on his red Fergie tractor, looking for something useful to do or somebody to help. The same red Fergie tractor towed the trailer which carried Lawrence’s coffin to his grave.

Some of the Scottish islands are struggling to maintain a viable population. As Laird of Muck, Lawrence, along with brother Ewen strove to ensure that Muck would be an appealing place for families to make home.

The Muck population had swung from a peak of 320 in 1821 to its lowest of just 13 in 1973. The island’s future did not look secure and the long-term viability of retaining a Community on the island year round, came into question.

The collapse of the kelp industry in the early 1820’s, destroyed the then main source of income for the islanders and resulted in mass clearance of Muck in 1828. That year 150 folk, mainly from Muck, sailed from the Isle of Mull port of Tobermory. Destination – Cape Breton on Canada’s eastern seaboard.



*PORT MOR, looking out to sea. The main settlement and where the ferry docks. The cattle clearly find something tasty amongst the rushes!*

For a tiny island, miles away from the mainland to remain viable, it needs PEOPLE. People need income-earning work. People also expect the basics of life which mainland dwellers take for granted – in particular – electricity.

Too far away from the mainland to be connected to the National Grid, the ability of Muck inhabitants to flick a switch for power for domestic and business use, was a long, complicated, but determined journey from candles and oil lamps for the Laird and brother Ewen.

1970 – the first diesel power was supplied to Port Mor and Gallanach by two generators.

1992 – Wind power looked promising. Seven kilometres of power cables laid by JCB and human Muck muscle.

1993 – Wind turbine company went into liquidation.

1999 – two 60 feet wind turbines, with a battery bank and diesel generator back-up, supplying power morning and evening for a limited time.

2008 – wind turbines had failed. Back to diesel generator only power, rationed to a few hours of electricity morning and evening.

2013 – Thanks for grant funding, mainly from the BIG Lottery Fund, full electricity 24/7 was achieved, generated by 5 KW wind turbines and a trio of 10 KW solar panels, with generator back-up for rare times when it is neither sunny nor windy!

Coupled with amazingly speedy wi-fi Broadband from the mainland, domestic life and the business appeal of the island have been transformed, with businesses and individuals on this spell binding, tiny island, miles from the mainland, now instantly connected to THE WORLD. Closer to home and thanks to the 24 hour wind/photovoltaic electricity scheme – the residents can enjoy the convenience of the flick of a switch at any time of day. Candles and head torches are now redundant.

Lawrence and his family have worked hard to build and ensure a strong heart beat for Muck, making it a place where future generations can thrive.

In the last 30 years - notable achievements for the small Community of Muck include - a spacious new school, along with teacher family accommodation, a new pier, enabling ferries to dock to load/unload, a large and impressive two storey multi-purpose Community Hall, 24 hour renewable power electricity scheme, plus a fish farming enterprise, which in turn resulted in three new family homes on the island - helping to keep the school open.

Tourism is now a year round money earner, with visitors from afar leaving significant amounts of money not only on Muck, but also in remote mainland areas as they travel to/fro the island.

Throughout all island endeavours, one of the constants in Lawrence's life - cattle!

The small herd on Muck may hardly register in the greater scheme of things, BUT - the Luing cattle on Muck, when the island's future looked threatened, had been part of the glue which helped to hold the fragile community together. When farming and some fishing were the only income streams on Muck, the ability of the Luings to economically thrive and produce added strength to Lawrence's determination to keep his beloved island viable.

During his eight decades, Lawrence saw the fortunes of Muck ebb, then ebb some more, and then in the recent decade - really flow!

He constantly remained resolutely determined, saying in his twilight - "I have a powerful love and absolute dedication to Muck, which has stayed with me all my days. The island, which for decades faced an uncertain future now faces it with increasing confidence."

Perhaps a few Luing cows will be kind enough to wander over Lawrence's grave and maybe - "Luing....ger a little while. It would be greatly appreciated by the gentleman resting below -

LAWRENCE MacEWEN

A MAN WHO NEVER WANTS TO BE WITHOUT A COW."

*Claire Powell*  
*November 2022*

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# Obituaries

## JOAN HELEN McLAUHLAN

**Joan Helen McLauchlan (nee Marshall) was born on 25th April 1936 in the farmhouse at "Mains of Pitgur", a on the Braes of Tulliemet above Ballinluig, Perthshire.**

She was the middle girl of three sisters and from a young age enjoyed helping her dad on the farm. After primary school in Ballinluig (2.5 mile walk there and back) and High school in Pitlochry mum went to Lawers Agricultural School between Comrie and Crieff for year, this was a very practical course and it helped her skills enormously when she later went home to continue helping her father. Pigs were her favourite animals and she enjoyed looking after the sows and young piglets.

She joined the Pitlochry Young Farmers Club and met Dad there, romance blossomed and they married on the 18th January 1958 at Logerait Parish Church.

The first 2 years of married life were spent running a farm of Dad's uncle (Peter Cameron, Monzie), The Haugh of Tulliemet was a 100 acre arable farm with not a stone in sight!

I was the first child born and arrived in January 1959.

In November 1959 they secured the tenancy of Gorteneorn, a high hill farm at Ballachulish and we all moved west.

Times were hard in these early years and Mum started doing farmhouse bed and breakfast to help, this proved to be something she would do for the rest of her days until she retired.

Fiona was born in July 1960, Trish followed in May 1963 and Eilidh in June 1967.

As well as looking after all us children and doing B&B in the summertime, there were hoards of men to be fed when sheep gathering and shearing time came along.

She became actively involved with all aspects of village life : WRI, WRVS at Glencoe Hospital, Meals on Wheels, helping at Sales of Work and her beloved Country Dancing which she thoroughly enjoyed for many years.

Great times were had at the Luing Sales in Oban, especially the ceilidh's after the AGM, there with friends and relatives – John & Janet Cameron from Monzie, Davy & Moira Young from Whauphill and Anne & Charlie Bell – and usually the last to go to bed!

She was a regular Church of Scotland attendee and became an elder in later years and she was also an avid "Royalist" and a great supporter of our late Queen.

Baking was another of her great loves, her rock buns and oaty biscuits were always in demand at local sales of work.

Although mum didn't enjoy flying she did a lot of travelling visiting Fiona and family in Australia, holidaying in New Zealand, Canada, Germany and Cyprus to name a few.

After a few years farming near Huntly in the early nineties they returned to Ballachulish Home farm and Mum continued doing her B&B in the house they had built. The golf course was constructed and run as a business for a few years before being sold and retirement beckoned.

Over the years as all this was happening the family expanded and mum took great joy in spending time with her 10 grand children and 8 great grand children.

They moved into Tulliemet in 2004 where mum enjoyed gardening and going on holiday with good friends Anne and Charlie Bell from Blair Atholl.

In 2017 she was diagnosed with Parkinsons and gradually went downhill over the next 5 years until her death at home with her family beside her on 4th October 2022.

She will be sorely missed.

# Obituaries

## JUDY MCGOWAN

24th July 1943 – 5th November 2022



**The recent sudden death of Judy McGowan, Incheoch, Alyth, has seen the Scottish livestock sector lose one of its most knowledgeable supporters. Judy was a first class organiser, a supportive and objective parent, a loyal friend and a respected industry collaborator.**

Judy was born 20 minutes after her brother Walter to James and Annie Biggar of Chapelton, Castle Douglas on 24th July 1943. The twins were the eldest of the family that grew with Kay, and later Donald.

Brought up actively involved in the farm, where they dairied and kept pedigree herds of Galloways and Shorthorn cattle, the house was often full of international visitors. Judy recounted conversations in 'The Bull Room' based around bull sales, herd sires and shows, including the characters from all over the world who visited often.

Formal education began at Hardgate Primary School, Haugh-of-Urr, followed by Fairfield School in Ambleside in 1952, and then The Mount School, York until 1961. She enrolled at University of Edinburgh where she attained an Ordinary degree in Moral Philosophy and Psychology, followed by an MA in Physical Geography and Political Economy. But her proudest achievement was receiving the Queen's Guide Award in 1959, which is the highest Guide's

award. She continued her involvement with the Guides in her early years at Dirnanean.

In 1964 she travelled to Canada, meeting up with family and cattle contacts – including a visit with her twin brother Walter who was doing similar – working at the Lowada Hereford ranch at the time. It was not long after her return home that Walter was tragically killed in a car accident in Canada.

Catherine Judson secretarial training college in London is where she honed her typewriting skills to an impressively accurate 50 words per minute, and shorthand at 120 words per minute. This is also where she learned her Journalism & book-keeping skills, which would help her with her later achievements. She typed with great speed, accuracy and force – something that enthralled a young Neil and Clare, but was to the detriment of her first computer keyboard.

In 1966 Judy moved to Kelso to help the young bank manager, Alan Mitchell set up a fledgling business that became Farm Business Records (FBR). The business helped farmers with costings and run their offices, a popular service which soon spread all over Scotland and Northumberland. FBR still operates today from its Kelso base. A great friendship forged with Judy Bell (nee Forrest) in Kelso, who's family home was Stuartslaw – somewhere she would eventually call her own home in the future. She greatly enjoyed the Young Farmers movement in the borders and made many firm friends through that.

The interest in SAYFC grew into a job which took her back to Edinburgh in November 1969 until end of April 1973, as assistant secretary to Bob Gregor who taught her a great deal. Bob remembered Judy with great efficiency as a vital part of the clockwork of SAYFC – whether it was in the kitchen feeding millions or fiddling with the fine mechanics of the old Gestetner printer churning out endless paperwork, trying not to get too inky.

Judy and Finlay met at a Shorthorn dinner dance at the Station Hotel in Perth during the February Bull Sales, married on the 1st June 1973, and moved straight onto bigger challenges. Setting up a new farm business together was augmented with part-time work running office management courses with the Agricultural Training Board – where her greatest challenge was getting farmers not to put the bills back in the envelope, but put it where it was supposed to go!



The couple's first home was a cottage at Brunton Barns, while the entry became available to the newly purchased Hangingmyre - a small hill farm in the Lomond Hills of Fife. In 3 years many improvements were made, but they did not pass up the chance to buy Dirnanean (lock, stock & barrel). Entry into Dirnanean, in Strathardle, came on the last day of 1976, now with Neil as a toddler, Clare on the way and Meise - 1 Simmental cow which became the start of the Dirnanean Simmental herd. Their best man, Ronnie Black delivered Judy, Meise and a few other items in his lorry through the snow, while Finlay and Neil were already there.

If the challenge of moving to a hill farm with the scope of Dirnanean running over 5000 acres holding a stock of around 100 cows and 1000 ewes wasn't enough, the main challenge was paying the interest at 22.5%! However, with good livestock sales it eventually became more comfortable.

Judy and Finlay enhanced the Blackie flock of 1200, increasing the lambing from under 100% to 150%. The winters were challenging, especially 1981/82, when the recorded maximum temperature in the month of December at Kindrogan field centre was -22C. Judy thrived in the community spirit and a lot of very good friends were made at some great parties who all pulled together when weather turned bad.

One of Judy's proudest achievements was hosting the 1984 Dirnanean Open Day, where the 'Sim-Luing' was launched as a branded breeding female. Although the day included a wealth of speakers, a trailed farm-tour around the hill, lunch and a bar (Judy found a way around licensing arrangements) - her fondest memories were of the people, and the fun that they had later in the day.

The chance came to acquire something a bit easier, and the family moved to Stuartslaw near Duns in 1988 where Neil and Clare had a very good education at Berwickshire High School. The heart of the herds went with them, and grew considerably during the relatively short stay at Stuartslaw. The pull toward a more expansive stock farm beckoned however, and the fortunate opportunity of Incheoch, near Alyth, arose where they finally settled in 1994. By now Judy and Finlay had moved house nine times, and then in 2015 they moved home again - just a field's length away to the Faulds - making 10 homes in just short of 50 years of marriage.

During all her travelling, she was secretary of the Scottish Simmental Club for 14 years - organizing events and trips as far afield as Norfolk and Northern Ireland with cherished friendships built and much nonsense got up to. In her retirement from the Simmental Club, Judy produced the Luing Journal for the year,

which turned into the position of secretary of the Luing Cattle Society. From Foot and Mouth in 2001 the breed grew rapidly and the Luing office held a big role in getting new herds set up with direct farm to farm sales born from the demand for restocking. Judy expertly managed this period of huge expansion for the breed, and after 7 years she handed the role on.

When she wasn't in the yards recording weights or scanning results, local groups and events kept Judy from wearying. Joint conveners of fabric for the Isla Parishes, the local church was across the field from their home at Parkhead. Judy was also involved in the Skene Tryst lunch club for elderly people in the district, and organising the Blythwood shoebox appeals with close to 100 boxes of gifts co-ordinated, decorated and delivered each year from the local community.

Friday 4th November had been a lovely sunny day and Judy and her sister Kay had a long chat on the phone, having a good catch up about family and farming folk - and was in great form. But on Saturday morning, 5th of November, felt breathing a bit laboured and she and Finlay arranged to see a doctor at PRI. Chatting all the way in, the pair of them walked in together and she went through to her appointment. Within a few minutes she took a cardiac arrest and despite the best efforts of the medical team she could not be revived.

Judy has left a great legacy and touched all who knew her.

***Andrew Arbuckle and Neil McGowan***





# Dirnanean

*Functional Efficient Robust*  
Signet recorded herd



'Our 160 Luing cows produce Sim-Luing heifers to sell—or Luings for our own replacements and some spare.

The 70 'stud' cows all calved at 2yo and brought a calf to weaning every year. They have been selected for weaning efficiency, calving interval, udder and teat scores, docility and longevity.

The result is a medium framed, easy-fleshing cow (Mature cows: Frame Score 6.0, 645kg at CS 3.1).

...take advantage with a Dirnanean bull.'



Messrs Finlay McGowan  
Incheoch Alyth Blairgowrie Perthshire PH11 8HJ  
Finlay, Judy & Clare: 01575 560236  
Neil & Debbie: 01828 633652 / 07788 100010

Herd Sires:  
Above: Luing Yanis  
*by Lochbroom Talisker*  
Below: Drinkstone Panamar (P)  
*by Buckholm Kramer*

[www.incheochfarm.co.uk](http://www.incheochfarm.co.uk)



## WORKING GENES

### ON FARM RAM SALE

Thurs 31st Aug 2023

Full Production Sale of:

Texel & Lleyr rams  
Simmental, Luing & Angus bulls  
Sim-Luing Heifers

### Paddock Reared Bulls:

- Full EBVs
- Many polled/homo polled.
- Selected for Maternal traits
- Wintering option.

### Hardy, Active Rams:

- Grass fed only
- Full EBVs
- Rigorously selected for easy-care and efficiency traits.

Pictures from the '22 sale (l-r):

Incheoch Maori (P) - fleshy & robust Real Deal son.

Top 2 Texel Shearlings — sons of Incheoch Blizzard & Drum Major.

Dirnanean Adonis (P) - balanced ebv Panamar son—to Culmaily





**2022 has been another excellent year for the Luing Cattle Society. A number of new herds have been established by people realising the quality of Luing cattle. New herds have been formed in all four countries of the UK and on all types of farms proving the versatility and adaptability of Luing cattle. In particular, a number of new herds have been established in England, taking advantage of the native breed supplement that is available within the subsidy system.**

With shows returning we were able to have stands at all of the major events that we have attended in past years. Scotsheep was a great advert for Luing cattle and as a society we are indebted to Robert and Hazel for showcasing their herd of Luing cattle which were greatly admired. The performance of their Luing bulls was particularly impressive, and provided an opportunity for the Society to showcase this. The Royal Highland Show had a steady stream of members taking advantage of the hospitality and there were a number of strong enquiries, especially from Ireland.



The stand at The Royal Welsh Show had a top quality pair of pedigree bulling heifers supplied by Iwan and Eleanor Davies that were an excellent example of the breed and drew many positive comments, especially from people who had never seen a Luing cow before. The time and effort put into attending The Royal Welsh Show is undoubtedly starting to pay off with more enquiries on a regular basis including the formation of new herds.

For the first time the numbers forward at The Society sale at Stirling outnumbered those in the commercial section and it was great to see a number of new buyers present taking large numbers home with them. Those that made the effort to support The Society sale were duly rewarded with a good sale in front of an increased audience.



At the time of writing I have just started bull inspections which once again will take me to all four countries of the UK including a number of Scottish Islands, two of which I have never been to before. As always I look forward to meeting some of the most hospitable people one could ever ask to meet - the diet will start soon. In my opinion this is the most important part of my job, to be able to give prospective buyers an independent assessment of the traits scored in the dam classification is paramount and is the envy of a number of other societies. I also feel that independent measurement of scrotal circumference is extremely important when one thinks how testicular size is directly related to the fecundity of the bull's progeny.

As always I would like to thank the people that have given me hospitality, the directors for their hard work and most of all Natalie for making my life so easy.

# Registrations, Charges and Useful Information

## THE YEAR LETTER FOR CALVES BORN IN 2022 is B and 2023 is C

A full copy of Society rules, regulations and byelaws is available at  
[www.luingcattlesociety.co.uk/society-rules](http://www.luingcattlesociety.co.uk/society-rules)

### Luing Male and Female Registrations

1. Each Herd Book Year will end on 31st December.
2. Breeders are required to update their herdbook list (herd census) as at 31st December either online by lodging deaths, sales and transfers (online preferred) or via a paper annual return upon request to the office.
3. **On-line registration and herd census options are now available using the link on the website at [www.luingcattlesociety.co.uk/login](http://www.luingcattlesociety.co.uk/login) . This will re-direct you to our online database provided by Grassroots.** A username and password can be obtained by contacting the Breed Secretary on [secretary@luingcattlesociety.co.uk](mailto:secretary@luingcattlesociety.co.uk) or by using the password request facility in Grassroots. **Use of the online system for all herdbook based transactions is encouraged.** Alternatively, a birthing summary form can be used to register via a paper-based system and all calves born in that year should be entered. This must be **fully completed** for all calves to be registered: i.e. UK tag, date of birth, name and/or management tag, colour, horned/polled and sire. Breeders are encouraged to notify all other calves born (date of birth, UK tag and sire) so that full records can be kept for every breeding female on the database.
4. Registrations (both online and paper based) must be done / returned to the Breed Secretary by **28th February** of the year following the year of birth. Early registrations are encouraged. **Any registrations received after 28th February will be charged double fees.**
5. Any animals which are first presented for registration over 2 years of age can only be considered for Appendix B, and will attract double registration fees.
6. Pedigree certificates will be issued for all calves registered, and will be forwarded by email.

### Sim-Luing Female Calf Registrations

1. Entries will only be accepted from members of the Luing Cattle Society Ltd.
2. To be eligible for acceptance into the register for Sim-Luing females, heifer calves must be:
  - a. out of Pedigree or Appendix A Luing females registered in the Herd Book of the Luing Cattle Society and,
  - b. sired by a Simmental bull registered in the Herd Book of the British Simmental Cattle Society Ltd.
3. All calves should be registered by the 28th February following their year of birth.
4. Following verification of the registration of both the dam and the sire by the Luing Cattle Society, the Sim-Luing heifer will be accepted for entry into the register and a certificate issued.

### Charges

**An Annual Subscription** is due annually on 1st January and members will receive a renewal notice around early January. The Annual Subscription is £50.00 incl. VAT (£41.67 + £8.33 VAT). Any member not settling membership fees within two months of issue of invoice may, at the discretion of Council, lose his/her rights of membership. Payment of Annual Subscriptions by standing order is encouraged, and the bank details are available on our website at <https://luingcattlesociety.co.uk/publications> .

### Registration Fees

#### 1. Pedigree Luing

Registration fees (Pedigree, Appendix or Sim-Luing) are charged on a sliding scale based on the number of breeding cows (i.e. females over 2 years of age) held on Society records for each herd at 31st December of the year of birth, of the calves being registered. This includes full Pedigree and Appendix A and B cows and Sim-Luing females.

Breeding Females (>2 yrs)	Registrations completed online	Registrations completed on paper
1-25	£8.50	£9.00
26-50	£8.00	£8.50
51-100	£7.50	£8.00
101-250	£7.00	£7.50
251+	£6.50	£7.00

#### 2. Sim-Luings

If only Sim-Luing heifer calves are to be registered, the registration fees will be as follows:

Number of Calves registered	Registrations completed online (per head)	Registrations completed on paper (per head)
1-15	£9.50	£10.00
16 or over	£8.00	£8.50

3. Individuals who feel that they have a special case will have the opportunity to appeal and the merit of the case will be considered by the Council.
4. Breeders will be invoiced when registrations are processed, at the end of each respective registration period.

## Transfer Fees

All animals purchased at Society Sales (males and females) will be transferred free of charge.

Transfer fees are incurred by the purchaser (unless previously agreed with the vendor) upon the transfer between herds, of any full Pedigree or appendix female animal purchased outwith a Society Sale (purchased privately) at £10.00 + VAT per female.

Transfer fees are incurred by the purchaser (unless previously agreed with the vendor) upon the transfer into the purchaser's herd, for bulls purchased outwith Society Sales (privately) on a two tier basis, as follows:

- 1-30 breeding females (as listed on each herd's list on Grassroots) – £2 /cow, with a minimum fee payable of £25 +VAT
- 30+ females – £100 + VAT

## Bull Inspection

1. No bull can be sold at a Pedigree Luig Sale until it has been inspected by an appointed representative of the Society and has been accepted as conforming to the standards as laid down by the Society, including a minimum height and scrotal circumference. Breeders must apply to the Society for this inspection by 30th August each year.
2. The bulls will be inspected as soon as is reasonably possible and the dam of each bull will be classification scored at the time of the bull inspection. Dams must be presented for inspection if they are still on the farm – regardless of whether they have been scored in previous years. The age of the dam at the time of assessment and the number of calves she has had will be taken into consideration to ensure potential buyers know the scores relate to a young cow yet to fully prove herself.
3. Bulls passed for entry into a Society sale will have their pedigree record updated on grassroots. Bulls not to be entered for a Society Sale but otherwise deemed suitable for pedigree breeding will also have their pedigree record updated on grassroots.
4. Breeders are encouraged to have bulls inspected for Society approval prior to private sale – to avoid the potential problem of a bull being turned down after being sold. Only bulls with Dam Classification Scheme scores for feet, locomotion, udder and teats of 5 or above (out of 10) will be approved for use.

## Society Sales

- The Society hold 3 annual sales:
  - **The 59th Premier Sale will take place in Wallets Mart, Castle Douglas on 10th February 2023.**
  - **Spring Breeding Sale – Dingwall and Highland Mart, Dingwall – 17th May 2023**
  - **Autumn Breeding Sale – United Auctions, Stirling – 28th October 2023**
- Premier Sale – all bulls must be in the market by Wednesday night and heifers must be penned by 12 noon on Thursday 9th February.
- The minimum age for bulls sold at Society Sales is 18 months on the day of the sale and each bull must have been approved for pedigree use (by inspection) by the Society, in association with the rules on bull inspection set out in the Society's rule and bylaws. In addition, bulls will be weighed at the sale, and must meet the minimum height measurement of 52" at the shoulder and have a scrotal circumference of at least 38cm. Bulls will be sold in age order with oldest bulls sold first. Measurements will be taken in the market and displayed on the pen card.
- All cattle presented at Society Sales must come from herds which are members of a CHeCS accredited health scheme and must be vaccinated against BVD (both males and females). Any cattle coming from a herd which is not accredited free of BVD must be individually tested negative for the virus.
- A health declaration form must be submitted with an entry form, the information from which will be displayed in the sale catalogue.
- **NO minimum age** is required for pedigree Luig females presented for sale. Any animal with a black nose or displaying unruly temperament will be rejected by the inspection panel.
- Vendors are responsible for ensuring that all animals forward are correctly identified in relation to current identification regulation.
- All cattle will be sold under the terms and conditions of the National Beef Association Breeding warranty. A copy of the relevant breeding warranty can be found at [www.luigcattlesociety.co.uk/sales](http://www.luigcattlesociety.co.uk/sales). Both vendors and purchasers are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the terms, especially timescales for notification, ahead of sale/purchase.
- The upset price for bulls is **2,000gns**.

## Luig Website/Facebook ([www.luigcattlesociety.co.uk](http://www.luigcattlesociety.co.uk))

The Society website and social media pages continues to prove a useful source of information on the breed from commercial beef producers wanting to find out more about Luig cattle and for breeders needing to download sales entry forms, application forms, or sale catalogues. Another very useful feature is the 'stock for sale' pages, which is available to all members. Adverts are free of charge if using the Society's brokerage service, and £100 if not. The website also contains a page featuring the Society merchandise which can be ordered using a form from the site with herd names added for only a small fee per item. Please visit <https://luigcattlesociety.co.uk/merchandise> to browse.

## Cattle Health Policy

Since 2011, all official Society sales (Premier Sale in Castle Douglas, Spring Sale in Dingwall and Autumn Sale in U.A. Stirling) have had the same entry conditions in terms of cattle health; entry is only permitted from herds which are members of a CHeCS (Cattle Health Certification Standards) accredited health scheme such as Biobest Laboratories' *HiHealth Herdcare* or SAC's *Premium Cattle Health Scheme*. In addition to being a member of such a scheme, herds must be specifically managing BVD and Johne's disease. All stock forward for these three sales are expected to have been vaccinated for BVD (see above), originate from a BVD accredited herd, or have individually tested negative ahead of departure from the holding in accordance with the ScotGov initiative.



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Fully equipped kitchens • Wood burning stoves • Super king zip lock beds • Luxurious linen and towels • WiFi •

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For availability and to book go to [www.fearnfarm.com/holidays](http://www.fearnfarm.com/holidays)

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01862 832522 • 07801675970  
Fearn Farm, Tain, Ross-shire  
IV20 1TL



The Mill at Fearn Farm



[themillatfearnfarm](https://www.instagram.com/themillatfearnfarm)

**I sometimes wonder what the founding fathers of our Luing cattle would think of where the breed is now. I attended the first Luing Sale in Oban on 2nd March 1966, bought the Dirnanean Herd of Luings in 1976 and served on Luing Council, up through the ranks and eventually as Fieldsman almost continuously for more than thirty years. Looking back I think that the development of the breed from its formative days to the present time can be divided into four periods of roughly twenty years each. It is interesting to recap on a few of the decisions taken while steering this great breed during these eighty or so years.**

### **Mid Forties to Mid Sixties**

In 1947 Dennis, Shane and Ralph Cadzow bought 4,500 acres on the Island of Luing with the purpose of breeding beef cattle and lambs for fattening on their east coast farms. Beef Shorthorn cross Highland heifers were sourced and put to the Shorthorn bull, Craggleton Alastair. Some of these heifers were by sons of polled Shorthorn bulls imported from America by Duncan Stewart of Millhills and Glenloch and thus the polled gene was introduced to the breed. Permission was given from the Department of Agriculture to keep a bull calf,

Luing Mist, from the first mating and so began the journey towards fixing the breed. Further Craggleton Shorthorn bulls were introduced, until in 1954 five cow families were established. It was illegal to keep bulls without a licence at that time but permission was sought and granted to use bulls from the five family groups that had been established. The concept of the different families (similar to different herds whereby different bloodlines were available to pull from and homebred bulls could be moved on to use in the next family) was rigidly adhered to.

### **Mid Sixties to Mid Eighties**

In 1965 the breed was presented to the public, officially recognised on 2nd November and the Luing Cattle Society registered on 10th January 1966. A grading up register was established whereby anyone wishing to 'join the club' could have their shorthorn x highland females inspected by one of the Cadzow brothers, classified into appendix A or B as appropriate, buy a Luing bull and they were on their way to becoming Luing breeders via the grading up system.

In January 1967 Denis Cadzow was invited to give a paper to the British Cattle Breeders Club in Cambridge - what recognition of this new breed! I have picked out only three quotations



from that paper but I think they are maybe even more relevant to us as breeders today than they were all these years ago:

*“Breed Societies may sometimes have too many restrictions and smother initiative. They should realise that where a breed is too much of one type it will cease to evolve to meet changing demands. A certain diversity is needed if one has ever to be constructive”*

*“The heritage we have been given is the cattle, not the rules. I think those early breeders would find us sadly neglectful if we did not do everything possible to keep pace with the times - produce the type of cattle in demand”*

*“We have tried crossing Luining cows with Herefords.... and they have done well. We already have another line of breeding started which we hope will give a still greater improvement to our cattle in eight years’ time.”*

In the late ‘70s Society monetary reserves were non-existent, funds were accessed from HIBD for promotions and Open Days and all running expenses would be absorbed by the Cadzow Brothers.

During the 80’s the breed ‘held its own gently and nicely without any great oomph’ to quote Ralph. With hindsight, the Society should probably have been more proactive a bit earlier in that decade.

In 1984, 37 Pedigree bulls and 528 pedigree heifers were registered with the Luining Society. That year the Simmental Society and the Luining Society together launched the Sim/Luining at an Open Day at Dirnanean. But in 1985 there were still only 10 consignors at the Annual Sale – some potential buyers were thinking that the heifers were too small with too much hair and bidders were beginning to fall off.

### **Mid Eighties to Early Two Thousands**

In 1987 with 164 members, 25 were registering cattle but only 9 sold heifers and 3 sold bulls at the annual sale in Oban.

The Breed and the Society were in a difficult situation in the late ‘80s, early ‘90s. The breed was changing to suit the environment and the market – which is what the Cadzow Brothers hoped would happen. These changes were driven by the breeders with Society approval and I think they had to happen. But, remember that as late as 1994 Society reserves only stood at £12,000.

Often attending Council meetings, as he was entitled to do as Honorary President, I often recall Dennis’s very last meeting when he urged Council to never forget that “It’s all about the 3H’s – Hair, Hide and Hindquarters – less hair, thicker

hide and more hindquarters.” In 1965 on the A7 Ranch in Alberta, where temperatures can drop to -30C and -40C, I learnt from John Cross that the hair of the animal sheds the water but it is the thickness of the hide that keeps out the cold, demonstrated by the fact that the Hereford, like the Bison, with a much thicker hide, was always ready for fun as opposed to the Shorthorn which was never happy in the extreme cold.

Acknowledging that the demand for females had slipped, Council introduced an experimental appendix register in 1988 whereby a single injection from another breed might give the Luining breed qualities that would make it more acceptable. It was thought that the original concept of the appendix within the Society for introducing Highland cross Shorthorn females of a Luining type had probably become outdated and a one-off injection of Shorthorn, Saler or Simmental was accepted. Female progeny were inspected by Ronnie McLauchlan, Fieldsman from 1972 to 1997, full time in the early years both inspecting and driving the Luining promotion machine. If considered acceptable, the heifers were entered into Appendix B to work their way up through Appendix A before being recognised as Pedigree. (Remember that in the grading up system bulls can only be registered out of pedigree females).

### **The Last Twenty Years**

After Foot and Mouth, breeders realised the value of pedigreed cattle and an amnesty was introduced, for the year 2002 only, whereby lapsed registrations of pure Luining cattle could be inspected and entered directly into Appendix A of the herd book provided that all information was available. Cattle were inspected in 20 herds on this basis. Since January 2003 animals not already registered with the Society and over 2 years of age can only be accepted into Appendix B.

It began to be realised that Dennis’s influence on the breed was missing, whereby when picking a bull he was always back checking the mother. Seeking a way of re-inventing the Cadzow Brothers’ fastidious selection process on cow traits, which had prioritised the way the breed had developed, led to Council introducing Dam Classification in 2003. The objectives were to prevent bulls from inferior cows being used for breeding, to provide a tool to aid those looking to correct particular traits within their own herd and especially to help new breeders to see and set standards. Because classification takes place at the same time as Bull Inspection, around November, scoring of some of the traits (e.g. teats and manicuring of feet) relies heavily on the integrity of the breeders’ input underwriting the whole system.



The breed really took off in the last 20 years:

Year	Herds registering	Herd book registrations	Subscriptions	Reserves
2001	27	£6,448	£2,516	£19,000
2003	47	£10,127	£7,015	£27,000
2009	90	£20,326	£6,150	£53,000
2016	146	£38,606	£11,176	£80,000
2020	133	£47,065	£12,626	£96,000

Looking to the future, I would like to see Luings breeders concentrating on cattle that are more easily fleshed – conformation is one of the most hereditary of traits. Milkiness does not seem to be a problem. For several years, tail hairs were pulled for DNA analysis from bulls as they were inspected for sale. One of the results that threw up was that right throughout, the breed was good for milk. I hope that the opportunity to use scientific analysis will never be passed over. As Ralph emphasised, ‘Genetic and scientific analysis must be used – and rejected on occasion! The breed cannot stand still. Shouldn’t there always be variation – otherwise where do you go to correct variation. There must always be a capability of alteration.’

To me, cow size is very important. On our farm, with our market, our ideal is 650kg – 700kg in good trim ready to see her way through the winter. We feel that in our situation 800kg is too big for a Luings cow. I do think that as breeders we have gone far enough on height and should be concentrating on thickness, easy fleshing, bigger tops, more spring of rib – never losing sight of easy calving. In other words, thriftiness. Thriftiness on a forage based system has always been what the Luings breed sold itself on. It worries me that we are maybe moving away from that. Least money spent for most return should be the focus.

Selecting a future herd sire is a huge decision. When looking at future herd bulls you need to make use of the tools available:

## Pedigree

**Frame Score** – this is there to guide you towards the bull with the size to suit your cows and your conditions.

**Myostatin status** – although guidance is scant, it might develop to be a tool to point either to more muscular or fatter types.

**Cow classification scores** – and, most importantly, her calving history.

You also need to think about the level of nutrition that has been offered – how much of what you see is man, how much is feed and what is actually bull himself!

I think the Luings has a great future so long as breeders and the Society always keep in mind what the breed was developed for as they move forward – perhaps even more pertinent in today’s political climate than in the 1940s. And, yes, I think that the Cadzow Brothers would be very happy with the way breeders and the Society have embraced the modern challenges of cattle breeding without losing sight of what the breed was developed for. I think they would see the breed poised to fly higher and further as they watch massive unknown changes coming the way of agriculture.

**Finlay McGowan**





# STOCKMAN'S CHOICE

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

### **What is 'Essential'?**

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

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

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

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

Our Stockman's Choice pedigree range holds health, immunity, fertility and longevity as its core values and it has continued to grow in popularity since its launch two years ago. Yet again, we were delighted to see so many customers doing well at shows, sales and herd competitions this year.

The latest addition to the range is our powdered mineral, which allows producers to get all the benefits of the Stockman's Choice mineral package, while feeding a cost effective total mixed ration (TMR) at home. It is a top quality, balanced mineral for high genetic merit growing and conditioning animals, designed to support health, immunity, fertility and longevity.

To give you a flavour, just two of the unique key features are:

RumiTech, which is a Carbon Trust assured additive proven to reduce methane emissions, while also increasing feed conversion ratio and reducing cost of production. A trial carried out with young bulls fed RumiTech, showed an increase in loin eye muscle area.

Rumi Defence, which has antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. It enhances immunity and improves the function of vital organs such as the liver, which is undoubtedly under pressure with the level of performance expected from these animals.

Pedigree nutrition is at the heart of what we do; we have a team with a vast range of experience on hand to tailor nutrition plans to meet performance targets, to allow stock to be turned out to the highest standards and the base herd to be built to last.

Please get in touch to discuss how a Stockman's Choice nutrition plan can complement and enhance your management and genetics.


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

**Jill Hunter**  
**Harbro Beef & Sheep Nutritionist**  
**November 2022**

# Commonside Luings & Sim-Luings

LUING BULLS, LUING AND SIM-LUING HEIFERS  
MEMBER OF SAC PREMIUM HEALTH SCHEME  
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- BULLS BY NUNNERIE RAMBO AND LAMMERMUIR WULLIE AT THE PREMIER SALE -

## LAMMERMUIR LUINGS

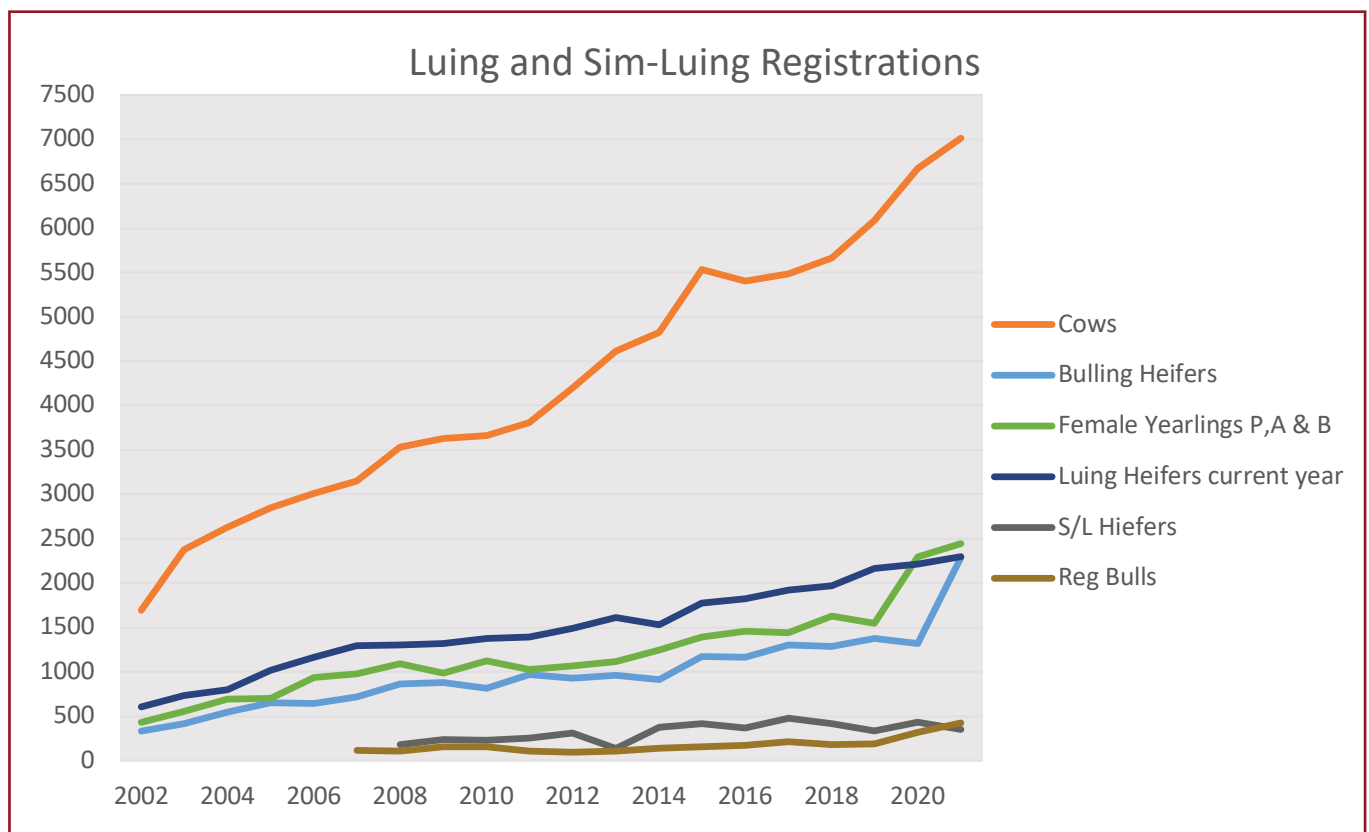
- STRONG LINES, LASTING RESULTS -

Visitors welcome - call Paddy or Sheila Crerar 01368 850240

# Luing Registrations and Sale Performance at an All Time High

The popularity of the Luing, due to its adaptability, continues to drive an increase in registrations for the Luing Cattle Society. From a total of 1694 cows in 2002, the breed has increased year on year to hold 7014 cows at 31st December 2021. Annual registrations of female calves has grown from 605 to 2298 over the same period, a near 4 fold increase. Herds

registering females have risen from 94 in 2010, to 150 in 2021. Sim-Luing heifer registrations have fluctuated over the same period, but have gone from 177 in 2010 to 349 in 2021, with a peak of 477 in 2017. Registrations of male calves also continues to follow the same increasing trend, rising from 102 in 2004 to 424 in 2021. The trends are depicted in the following graph:



Sitting alongside these figures is a similarly strong performance in both pedigree and commercial sales in the most recently collated period. Total society sales turnover during the 2021 sales calendar was 1.162m gns. In total, Society Sales traded 578 females over the year to an overall average of 1769 gns. There were 34 young bulls sold through Society sales, to a top of 15,200 gns (twice), and an average of 5085 gns. Seventy-six cows went through Society Sales, including the dispersal of the Glenlyon Herd to average 1764 gns. Pedigree Luing in-calf heifers (62) sold to average 2102 gns and 364 bulling heifers averaged 1523 gns. Sim-Luing heifers (76) averaged 2713 gns for in-calf females and 1571 gns for bulling heifers.

The rise in popularity of the Luing female, having been selected for its hardy versatility, and milkiness, with sound locomotion and excellent mothering ability, has been in no small part aided by the Society's dam classification scheme. All dams of approved males for Society Sales, will have been classified as being above average (score 5) in important traits such as feet, locomotion, temperament, udder, teats, condition score and skeletal size. This system ensures that Luing females can calve at 2 years old, wean calves at 50% of their bodyweight at 200 days, and re-breed annually with longevity.

# Luings

## Social Media 2022

**Don't forget ...**

**DEADLINE** for 2021 calf registrations is **28th February**

Logon to [www.luincattlesociety.co.uk](http://www.luincattlesociety.co.uk) and choose the **LOGIN** option

**Annual Premier Sale**  
**ENTRY FORMS**  
available to download from  
<https://luincattlesociety.co.uk/sales>

Friday 11th February 2022

Walleys Marts, Castle Douglas

**31st August**  
Bull Inspection Application Forms  
[www.luincattlesociety.co.uk/stock-development](http://www.luincattlesociety.co.uk/stock-development)

**16th September**  
Autumn Breeding Sale Entries  
[www.luincattlesociety.co.uk/sales](http://www.luincattlesociety.co.uk/sales)

**14th October**  
Members' Journal Advert Deadline  
[www.luincattlesociety.co.uk/publications](http://www.luincattlesociety.co.uk/publications)

**Luings** CATALOGUE ONLINE NOW

**LUING CATTLE SOCIETY PREMIER SALE**

FRESH FROM FORAGE

**WALLEYS MARTS**  
Castle Douglas  
01556 502381

**Pedigree Luing Heifers and Bulls**

**Friday 11th February**  
Parade 10.30  
Sale 12pm

Sale Catalogues:  
[www.luincattlesociety.co.uk/sales](http://www.luincattlesociety.co.uk/sales)

**MEMBERS NEWSLETTER**

Advertising Stock For Sale?

Download form and online booking...  
[www.luincattlesociety.co.uk/publications](http://www.luincattlesociety.co.uk/publications)  
Deadline 15th October

**CANDIES HERD**  
of Pedigree Luings

**OPEN DAY**

**GLEN FINGLAS**

BY KIND PERMISSION OF THE WOODLAND TRUST & JANET BRINGLE

**AUGUST 19th, 2022**

**Luings** Journal 2023 Advertising Booking Forms Available

Download form and online booking...  
[www.luincattlesociety.co.uk/publications](http://www.luincattlesociety.co.uk/publications)  
Deadline 15th October

If you are in need of a little inspiration for Christmas gifts

Visit the website for a few ideas  
[www.luincattlesociety.co.uk](http://www.luincattlesociety.co.uk)

**Luings**

### DNA Analysis for males intended for breeding

\*includes all sires of calves to be born in 2022\*

If not already profiled, please take a clean hair sample and put in a clean bag with ear number on the bag and send to:



*Luings*

Luings Cattle Society, 1000 Road, Ayrton, Wiltshire

### Spring Breeding Sale



Wednesday 18th May

**ENTRY FORMS**  
available to download at  
<https://luings.co.uk>

### DIARY DATES

DNA Hair Sample Submissions (for bulls intended for breeding) recommended by 31st August

**Cadrow Bros Production Sale**  
United Auctions Oban - 13th November

**Photographic Competition Entry Deadline**  
30th November

**Premier Sale Entry Deadline**  
10th December

**Premier Sale**  
United Auctions, Castle Douglas - 11th February

*Luings*



*Luings*

**SPRING BREEDING SALE**



**CATALOGUE now available**

### BULL INSPECTION APPLICATION FORMS

are available for download at (editable PDF)  
[www.luingscattlesociety.co.uk/breed/development](http://www.luingscattlesociety.co.uk/breed/development)

**ONLINE FORM ALSO AVAILABLE**  
same address (bottom of the page)

**\*\* Application deadline 31st August \*\***



### Luings registrations and sale performance at an all time high

The popularity of the Luings, due to its adaptability, continues to drive an increase in registrations for the Luings Cattle Society.

From a total of 1094 cows in 2020, the breed has increased year on year to hold 2014 cows at 31st December 2021. Annual registrations of female calves has grown from 606 to 2256 over the same period, a near 4 fold increase, merit registering females have risen from 94 in 2010, to 150 in 2021. Sim-Luing heifer registrations have fluctuated over the same period, rising from 177 in 2010 to 477 in 2021. The trend graph below shows a similar strong pedigree and commercial

recently calving period. Total society sales turnover during the 2021 sales calendar was 1,62m gns. in total, Society sales traded 578 females over the year to an overall average of 1769 gns. There were 34 young bulls, sold through Society sales, to a top of 35,200 gns (power) and an average of 5848 gns. Seventy six cows went through Society sales, including the dispersal of the Glenyon Herd to average 1764 gns. Pedigree Luings in-calf heifers (92) sold to average 2157 gns and 364 heifer heifers averaged 1523 gns. Sim-Luing heifers (73) averaged 2713 gns for in-calf females and 1671 gns for heifer heifers.

The popularity of the Luings female continues to be a key driver for its handy versatility for pedigree and commercial use.



**AHDB**

### Shape the future of beef and lamb

Register **now** to have your say on the support we offer

### AUTUMN BREEDING SALE

United Auctions Stirling  
Saturday 29th October 2022

Entry forms available to download from  
[www.luingscattlesociety.co.uk/sales](http://www.luingscattlesociety.co.uk/sales)



Entry Deadline  
Friday 16th September

*Luings*

### 31st December - Herd Census Updates

And why not complete your registrations at the same time?

<https://breeds.grassroots.co.uk/Auth/Login?BreedCode=LUING>



*Luings*

### AUTUMN BREEDING SALE

United Auctions, Stirling  
Saturday 29th October

Catalogues available for download at  
[www.luingscattlesociety.co.uk/sales](http://www.luingscattlesociety.co.uk/sales)

**332 Head**  
Comprising:

- In-Calf Heifers: 2 x Luings, 31 x Sim-Luing
- Bulling Heifers: 89 x Luings, 75 x Sim-Luing
- Yearling Heifers: 11 x Luings
- Other: 2 x Crossbred/Luings

**CANDIES Dispersal**

- 64 cows - with spring born calves at foot
- 37 bulling heifers & 18 In-Calf Heifers
- 4 Stock bulls & 2 young bulls



*Luings*



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Northern Marts**

01434 605444

Hexham & Northern Marts, Tyne Green, Hexham  
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# MONTHLY SALES OF NATIVE BRED CATTLE INCLUDING TOP QUALITY LUINGS FROM NORTHUMBERLAND AND THE SCOTTISH BORDERS



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Email: [office@raclement.org.uk](mailto:office@raclement.org.uk)  
Website: [www.raclement.org.uk](http://www.raclement.org.uk)

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# Luings

## The Royals 2022



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