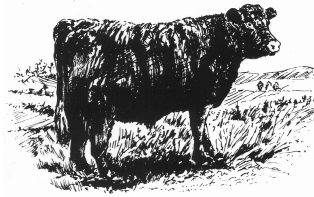


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PRESS RELEASE

A Good Sale for the Luings in Castle Douglas

A very strong line up of both breeding females and bulls bore fruit at the 45th Premier Luing Sale which took place on Friday 5th February at Wallets Mart, Castle Douglas. Once again there was a total clearance of the 148 females forward.

The bull trade was strong with 19 of the 24 forward selling to average £4,136 – up £167 on the year with four more sold. The top price of 13,000gns was paid by EJ & AM Fox of College Luings, Wooler for Benhar Kansas from Robert McNee Ltd. at Armadale. Kansas was the second youngest bull in the sale, weighing in at 840kg and measuring 56” at the shoulder with a good scrotal circumference of 42cm, this June 2008-born son of Dirnanean Geldof (current joint-top price record holder for the breed at 14,000gns from 2007) and out of a home-bred Luing Soldier sired dam had come from a very strong line up of Benhar bulls. The Benhar herd were also successful with their sale of Benhar Kyle to Steven Murray for 6,000gns. A memorable day was completed for the McNees with the sale of Benhar Kite at 5,000gns to new Luing breeder Tom Wilson of Brampton, Cumbria. They went on to reinvest some of their hard-earned cash with the purchase of College Kracker for 6,500gns from EJ & AM Fox.

Haltree Farm at Heriot paid 6,000gns for Harehead Kojak from Professor Penny of Harehead Farms in the Lammamuirs. D&A Barr of Milkieston, Peebles went to 5,000gns to get Harehead Kirk from the same stable. This price was matched by Luss Estates who paid 5,000gns for Welbeck Kracker from Welbeck Scottish Farms. Other top prices included 3,400gns paid by Alan Crockett of Claremore Luings, Castlederg, N.Ireland for Dirnanean Kenmore; 3,200gns by John Higgs Farms for Attonburn Krakatoa and 3,000gns was laid out by Ben Challum Ltd. for Attonburn Kings Ransom.

Pedigree Luing bulling heifers were bid to 3,000gns with 112 sold averaging £1,631 – up £240 on the year with 3 more sold. The top price was paid by Messrs Burke of Stewarton Farm, Peebles for a pair of heifers from W.Graham & Son, Craigdarroch, both sired by Clunie Figo and out of a home-bred cow and a Wooplaw cow respectively; this pair of heifers had been placed second in the annual Bank of Scotland sponsored heifer competition as judged by Messrs Cosgrave of Castle Luings, Co. Meath. The same consignors, selling at the Premier Sale for the first time, had the highest average at the sale of £2,572 for four heifers sold. Earlier on in the sale, strong competition for Milkieston heifers from D&A Barr led to a very impressive average of £2,191 for 15 sold; this average included a top of 2,500gns for a pair of Harehead Chieften sired daughters bought by David McRae of Coulshill, Aucterarder as well as 2,100gns paid by Paddy Crerar of Stenton, East Lothian for the first prize winning pair of heifers. A very

strong line-up of bulling heifers also saw good averages for Cadzow Brothers Ltd. who sold 27 to average £1,998; Galawater who averaged £1,680 for four; Merkland averaged £1,584 for 11; Arbigland averaged £1,533 for 5; Upper Chatto averaged £1,470 for 9 and Nunnerie who averaged £1,443 for 8 sold.

Robert McNee Ltd. from Armadale achieved an excellent average of £2,373 for ten in-calf heifers forward. This included a top of 2,500gns for a pair of Luing Eclipse sired daughters, sold to Paddy Crerar of Stenton, East Lothian. A pair of Benhar in-calf heifers had taken the prize for best in-calf heifers as judged by Messrs Cosgrave and sold for 2,200gns to Mr Calgen of Bridgegate Farm, Bathgate. Steven Murray of Rockcliffe Luings also had a very strong trade with 26 in-calf heifers selling to average £1,882 including a top price of 2,100gns achieved twice – first for a pair sold to Stewart Wood in Orkney and secondly to Malcolm McCall of Inverbrora, Sutherland. The in-calf heifers averaged £2,018 for 36 – up £567 on the year for 14 more sold.

Society Chairman Matthew Mauchlen commented, “We are delighted to have had such a strong trade for such a good offering of cattle. Given the harsh conditions over the last couple of months, and the fact that many consignors struggled to get feeding to some of the heifers sold today and even halter-train bulls due to icy yards, the prices achieved have reflected the huge efforts made by all in bringing out such a good standard of animal. This sale also saw the implementation of our new health policy whereby only stock from herds which are members of accredited health schemes could be entered. This policy, together with the confidence resulting from a very steady beef sector in 2009 has fed through to the breeding market and resulted in average prices for Luing cattle all increasing on the year by £167 for bulls to £567 in the case of in-calf heifers.”

The End

Notes to Editors:

- At the Society's AGM the previous evening, Matthew Mauchlen of the Ben Challum herd near Crieff was re-elected Chairman of the Luing Cattle Society for another year together with his Vice-Chairman Steven Murray of Rockcliffe Luings, on the Solway coast.
- Ted Fox of College Luings, Wooler, Bill Miller of Welbeck Scottish Farms, Berriedale and Alec Smith of Low More Howe Farm Ltd, Windemere were elected onto the Luing Board of Directors to replace Charlie Bell, Bruce Gilchrist and Andrew McNee who had all completed their three year terms.
- At the Annual Luing Dinner, Jim Brown of Fettercairn, Kincardineshire gave a very entertaining speech. £1,000 was raised at the raffle to be split equally between the Lewis Grassie Gibbon centre in Arbuthnott, Laurencekirk and Chest, Heart & Stroke in Scotland.

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