

The Silent "U"

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN BREEDING SALE

United Auctions, Stirling

218 Head comprising:



20 Sim Luing Bulling Heifers	84 Luing Bulling Heifers
56 Sim Luing In-calf Heifers	28 Luing In-calf Heifers
16 Grade A Bulling Heifers	1 Luing calf at foot
13 Grade B bulling Heifers	

31st OCT

DNA SAMPLES

Before heading into the 2027 breeding season, all bulls need to be DNA tested and sire verified

Luing Cattle Society
Pedigree House
6 Kings Place, Perth PH2 8AD
01738 448349

All DNA samples and postal correspondence should be sent to this address.

Office update

COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

The Luing Council has 3 retiring members at the next AGM for which nominations are sought for these three places. You should have already received an emailed nomination form (also available on the website under 'Useful Information' which must be fully completed and returned to the Secretary by **Thursday 5th November**. Nominees must be fully paid members and be seconded by two other fully paid members (Proposer and Secunder), both of which must be declared on the form. Should there be more nominations than places available, an election will be held. Nominees are encouraged to provide a biographical profile, which will be circulated with ballot papers in the event of an election. Biographical notes should consist of your background, agricultural business profile, experience with Luings, and importantly, skills that you can bring to Council. Proposed nominees are invited to review the Luing Cattle Society's DIRECTORS' HANDBOOK ahead of agreeing to nomination, which is available on the website on the publications page. Proposed nominees will be expected to have read and agreed to abide by the terms of the handbook, having signed their nomination form. Proposed nominees are reminded that as Council Members, company directors have legal responsibilities, and behavioural expectations, to the business of the Luing Cattle Society

PREMIER SALE & STIRLING BULL SALES

Vendors are reminded that young bulls intended for sale at Castle Douglas or Stirling should be sire verified and DNA tested before sale entry. Please send DNA samples to the office at the earliest opportunity. As we are now past the August deadline for DNA samples, it cannot be guaranteed that results will be available before the sale entry deadline of **FRIDAY 4th DECEMBER**. Please only enter animals for Castle Douglas **OR** Stirling.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

To be in with a chance of getting your photo in the 2028 Calendar, you are invited to submit up to 3 photos between the 4th & the 20th January 2027.

Entries should be sent by email to stephenlittleboreland@gmail.com

****Landscape photos preferred for the Calendar****

New Research Project for Livestock Vaccines

Vaccines are a good way of protecting livestock from diseases which can cause poor health and welfare in animals and also have a negative financial impact on farms. However, for many diseases there are either no vaccines available or the vaccines that are available do not completely prevent disease. Development of new vaccines can take a long time and an important early step of vaccine development is finding out which parts of the target virus/bacteria/parasite (also known as antigens) should be included in a vaccine.

One set of genes that play a critical role in selecting which antigens can stimulate a protective immune response are the Major Histocompatibility Complex (MHC) genes. The MHC genes come in a huge number of variations - in humans, there are over 30,000 different versions. Mapping that diversity and understanding how this affects antigen selection has helped scientists build computer tools that speed up vaccine development for human diseases.

In a new study (Accelerating the identification of T-cell antigens for livestock vaccines) scientists from a number of research institutions are working together to develop an equivalent system to accelerate vaccine design for livestock species. To achieve this, they need to sample large numbers of cattle and sheep representing the different breeds that make up the UK national herd/flock so that they can understand the diversity of MHC genes in these populations. The research team is reaching out through breed societies to ask farmers to help with the study by providing samples (5-10ml of blood) from their animals. Where possible, it is hoped that this sampling could be coordinated with sampling being completed as part of routine veterinary work, so minimising any additional work for the farmers participating.

The research team hope that the new computational tool will contribute to the development of new vaccines against a wide range of diseases including bovine TB, blue-tongue virus and Johne's disease. If interested please contact either the Luing Society or Dr Tim Connelley from the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, University of Edinburgh (timothy.connelley@ed.ac.uk) who is a member of the research team.

Chairman's Message

Summer has been and gone in what seems like a blink of an eye. It has been a summer of contrasts with severe drought in England and Wales and a very growthy summer here in Scotland. The wet weather has continued up here in the north with many still battling away at harvest. The weather played a huge role at the 60th anniversary open day on the Island of Luing. Blue skies and very welcome sunshine on our backs as we travelled from the ferry back to the farm sheds by tractor and trailer. On our tour we got to see the cattle in the environment the Luing was bred for with stops on the way. First stop was with Shane, Jack and Archie where we learned about the history of the breed and where they are today with the farm and their diversifications. Next stop, it was over to Euan Ferguson and Neil McGowan with a chat about signet recording. At the newly created pond Jenny Love of SAC and farm vet Alastair Carswell spoke to us about animal health and the diversifications for biodiversity. We continued back to the farm steading where Tristan Carre discussed the importance of fertility testing bulls, Jo then went on to explain how she used the fertility testing as a management tool. By this time, we had all worked up a hunger and thirst, our hosts did not disappoint with a fine spread put on for us. I thoroughly enjoyed the day, and it was great to have a bleather with so many folk. A massive thanks to the Cadzow family, Jo and the whole team on Luing for welcoming us all to the island and putting on such an enjoyable day.

The autumn breeding sale at UA Stirling is just around the corner and with a healthy 218 head on offer this is a sale not to be missed. Bruce Gilchrist will be on hand for any queries and introductions for those who have not already met him. With a few bull inspections under his belt Bruce has settled into his role of breed manager well.

The breed development committee have been discussing the young breeder's workshop at our last sub-committee meeting. We have set a date of the 5th of December at SRUC Easter Howgate to kickstart the programme. Activities will include stock judging, bull handling and sale preparation workshop along with halter making. We would encourage as many young breeders along as possible and let Jenna know if you wish to attend for catering requirements.

Once again, at this time of year council are seeking 3 new council members. Nomination forms have been emailed out and made available on the website in the useful information section. This is an opportunity to work with the existing group to further the Luing breed. For those who are thinking of putting themselves forward, please have a look at the Director's Handbook which is available on the website.

Important Dates

LUING JOURNAL ADVERTISING

Application & Artwork Deadline- 19th October

AUTUMN BREEDING SALE

Saturday 31st October, 2026

United Auctions, Stirling

CADZOW BROS ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE

14th November, 2026

Oban Livestock Centre

PREMIER SALE & BULL SALE ENTRY DEADLINE

4th December, 2026

Enter online via Grassroots now

YOUNG BREEDERS WORKSHOP

5th December, 2026

SRUC, Easterhowgate Farm, Penicuik

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 4th February, 2027

Wallets Marts, Castle Douglas

PREMIER SALE

Friday 5th February, 2027

Wallets Marts, Castle Douglas

STIRLING BULL SALE

Monday 15th February, 2027

United Auctions, Stirling

Breed Manager: Bruce Gilchrist

Mob: 07733 580089 Tel: 01890 840736

Email: bruce.gilchrist99@outlook.co.uk

