

Journal – No. 53

January 2020

# *Luings*



**The Luing Cattle Society Limited**



Wallets Marts Castle  
Douglas Limited



## **"The Premier Market for the Premier Breed"**

### **FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020 FIFTY FOURTH ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE OF REGISTERED LUING CATTLE**

held under the auspices of the Luing Cattle Society

Wallets Marts are delighted to host the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Show and Sale of approx 200 Luing Cattle. The Luing breed has established itself as one of the most prolific suckler cows available in todays market. Therefore, a visit to Castle Douglas on 8<sup>th</sup> February is essential to anyone looking to source top quality suckler replacement stock.

Last year's sale saw 28 bulls sell to a top of 18,000gns and average £5,943.75 whilst 160 bulling heifers sold to 1,900gns and averaged £1,274.77 with 22 in-calf heifers topping at 3,200gns and averaging £2,295.68

We also have a strong demand for Luing Store Cattle at our fortnightly

## **WALLETS MARTS CASTLE DOUGLAS LTD**

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# The Luing Cattle Society Limited

Mount Blair, 10 Manor Gardens, Blairgowrie, Perthshire PH10 6JS

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# Luing



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## Diary Dates 2020

### **Thursday the 6<sup>th</sup> February**

The 54th Luing Cattle Society Annual General Meeting  
5.30pm Canteen, Wallets Marts, Castle Douglas

6.30pm to sit at 7.00pm Annual Dinner  
Market Hotel, Castle Douglas

The photographic competition is now online and results will be given at the dinner.

\*\*\*

### **Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> February**

**Wallets Marts, Castle Douglas**

#### **PREMIER LUING SOCIETY PEDIGREE SALE**

of in-calf and bulling heifers followed by bulls

9.30am: Judging of heifers in pens by  
Alan Cowens, Philiphaugh Estate, Selkirk

10.30am: Parade of bulls

12 noon: Sale commences

\*\*\*

### **Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> February**

**Last day for 2019-born calf registrations (letter Y)**

\*\*\*

### **Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> May**

11th Spring Sale at Dingwall Mart

\*\*\*

### **Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> August**

Open Day at Nunnerie, Biggar, Lanarkshire  
by kind permission of C.C. MacArthur & Co.

\*\*\*

### **Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> October**

47th Autumn Sale at United Auctions, Stirling Agricultural Centre

\*\*\*

### **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October**

Fifth Autumn Sale at H&H, St Boswells Mart

\*\*\*

### **Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> November**

Second Society-approved Production Sale from Isle of Luining  
at Oban Livestock Centre

# **The Luing Cattle Society Limited**

Mount Blair, 10 Manor Gardens, Blairgowrie, Perthshire PH10 6JS

E-mail: [secretary@luingcattlesociety.co.uk](mailto:secretary@luingcattlesociety.co.uk)

Web: [www.luingcattlesociety.co.uk](http://www.luingcattlesociety.co.uk)

Tel: 01250 872 897

## **Office Bearers and Members of the Board 2020**

### **Chairman**

Mr M. Thomson, Tillyrie Farm, Milnathort, Kinross. Tel: 01577 861992

### **Vice-Chairman**

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

### **Immediate Past Chairman**

Mr D. Stanners, Low Chesterhope Farm, West Woodburn, Hexham. Tel: 07919 337584

### **To retire 2020**

Mr B. Gilchrist, Rawburn Farm, Longformacus, Duns. Tel: 01361 890253

Mr P. Simpson, Poole Bank Farm, Troutbeck, Windermere. Tel: 01539 431014

Mr C. Young, Balintore, Hawksnest, Galashiels. Tel: 01896 860302

### **To retire 2021**

Mr. R.K. Bell, Roxburgh Mill, Kelso. Tel: 01573 450221

Mr. G. MacRae, 120 Newton of Ferintosh, Mulbuie, Muir of Ord. Tel: 01349 865409

Mr. G. Lawton, 57 Plas Isaf, Rhosmedre, Wrexham. Tel: 01978 790345

### **To retire 2022**

Mr. P. Crerar CBE, Newmains, Stenton, Dunbar. Tel: 01368 850240

Mr. S. Murray, West Preston, Kirkbean, Dumfries. Tel: 01387 880630

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

### **Society Representatives**

#### **Breed Secretary**

Una MacQueen, Mount Blair, 10 Manor Gardens, Blairgowrie, Perthshire PH10 6JS

E-mail: [secretary@luingcattlesociety.co.uk](mailto: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

#### **Fieldsman**

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



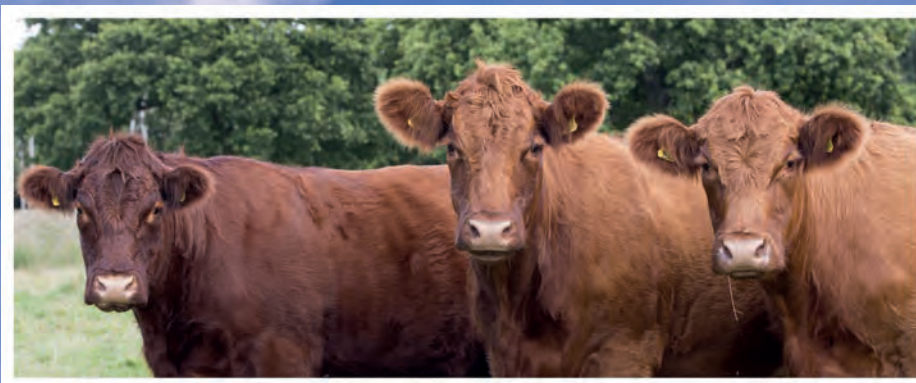
# **TYNEDALE LUINGS**



**D&A Stanners  
Low Chesterhope Farm  
West Woodburn  
Hexham  
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07919 337584/01434 270665**

**Breeding stock usually for sale**

**Visitors always welcome**



**BVD Accredited Johnes monitored**

# From the Chair



**What a summer we witnessed in 2019. We saw everything from the soaring heat of 35° at the Royal Welsh Show to showers, to heavy rain in-between some warm and sunny conditions that allowed shearing, silage and harvest to be (eventually) completed. One good thing to come out of this year is the tremendous amount of grass and cereal growth that will see the cattle and sheep through another winter.**

The Society has had a busy summer promoting the breed through attendance at the National Beef Association (NBA) Event at Junction 36, Cumbria; Scottish Beef Event near Old Meldrum; Highland Sheep by Thurso; the Highland Show and the Royal Welsh Show. We are indebted to Rory Bell, Philip Simmers, Ewan McCall and Iwan Davies for supplying heifers for these events, and to the Directors, the Fieldsman and Society members giving up their time and energy to promote the breed from the Society stand. "The best promoters are the farmers who work with Luing cattle daily." I cannot remember who said that, but it is very apt. This year, the Society held its annual Open Day at the Balcaskie Estate, Fife, by kind permission of Toby Anstruther. Thankfully, the weather behaved itself to allow 250 members

and friends to congregate at Lochty Farm to enjoy a tour through bulling heifers, Luing cows and calves running with the bull; then on to Luing cows with calves that were being mob grazed; lunch and stock judging at North Baldutho Farm before continuing the tour through the lots of commercial cattle. It was quite something to see how the cattle enterprise interacts with the organic conversion process and the principal idea of mob grazing to improve the organic matter and fertility of the estate lands.

At the time of writing, this year's Society sales have come and gone. From the Premier Sale at Castle Douglas, to Dingwall, to Stirling, then St Boswells, good quality in-calf heifers, bulling heifers, bulls and cows were well presented to the gathering that swelled the ringsides at all the marts. Despite the uncertainty within the agricultural sector due to politics, the Society sales went better than expected, with all four having clearance rates of over 90%. Then in November, it was to Oban Mart for the first Approved Society Sale, where the Isle of Luing had their Production Sale of in-calf and bulling heifers, bulls and in-calf cows. The sale was well attended, with quality stock going to many new homes.

This goes to show the hard work that Board members past and present have done to promote the breed, with cattlemen and women around the United Kingdom now taking notice.

I don't like to sound negative, but agriculture is being put under immense pressure from different directions. Brexit (sorry for swearing) has caused so much uncertainty, and after three years of stalemate, I think we all wish it to be concluded soon. Climate change is a big political subject that needs to be tackled head-on. Our industry needs to grasp this issue with both hands and let the politicians and public know we have been and will in the future be climate-friendly in our food production to feed the nation. A small minority of vegans and vegetarians have been aggressively spreading contemptible messages to the public with regard to meat production. What we eat is an individual choice, but they must remember that, whatever they eat, they will always need farmers. Rant over.

Finally, there are many people who are owed a lot of gratitude. Firstly, thanks to Kathleen, Rebecca and Fiona, who have been an immeasurable support to me; the Directors, and Neil, Una and Charles for their endeavours during the year. Bring on 2020.



# View from the Office



**2019 saw some changes, and with changes, we look at legacies. It was a year when we lost two life members, who have both left legacies in their own right.**

In January 2019, John Cameron, Monzie sadly passed away just weeks after his wife, Janet.

In September 2019, we were informed of the passing of Dr Bob Church, Lochend. (See their obituaries on pages 28 and 29.)

I have always been keen to hold on to our history and characters, as well as supporting and promoting the young members who are the Society's future. I hope our young and newer members will appreciate the work both these men did for our Society and breed.

We are so often told the latest way forward is a new and environmentally friendly method before it emerges that this was what our forefathers did. The idea is not the only thing being recycled.

On a daily basis, we see farming portrayed as a filthy and damaging industry.

Every day, adverts, the news and topics in the education system point the finger at the "big bad farmers".

Social media has become one of the most powerful tools in today's society, and although it is not a natural tool for many, it could be the best way to make your voice heard. Every farmer ought to be out there, promoting what you do daily on your farm, promoting what

you are selling, showing the natural environment where you and your stock work and live, and showing the wildlife that thrives on your farm.

Every one of you has a healthy carbon footprint, and your management of the land allows wildlife to thrive. Your hills and parks are productive because your stock manage the habitat there.

By consistently demonstrating all this on social media, we may be in a position to educate a portion of the general public.

Aldi and Lidl have been the best supermarkets for helping to promote British farming with strong advertising, and in 2019, Aldi carried out a monthly promotion of native breeds in Scotland. As a Society, we worked with them to try to learn more about what we can do. Unfortunately, weather affects our sales, and bad weather reduced sales of burgers during the summer barbecue season. A figure of over 65% selling may be a starting point for us. It could be time to get the Luing brand out to shoppers as more individuals choose to buy through farm box schemes, which is an avenue I feel is more achievable for our breed at present. So, support those who have started down this route through farms and farm shops.

Chefs and food guides have been showing a great deal of interest in the flavours Luing meat has to offer. Quality over quantity is the most promising route for our breed. However, to make sure the carbon story becomes a helpful tool to us, we need to be more aware of where our store cattle go.

This brings me back to promoting the breed, and the Society continues to move into new areas and will remain open-minded about new ways of promoting the breed. It is worth reminding you too that you are the members, and your input is important to the message that we put out there. So, if you have ideas or views that could improve our voice in the industry, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Board or the Society office.

On a lighter note, well done to Rockcliffe Wizard, who showed us all

what a great nature Luings have when he had no peace from the West Preston pygmy goats. Have a look on YouTube to cheer up your day – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lns2eTU23w8>. They have all become social media stars.

Light-hearted moments like this remind us all of the fun that can be had with our livestock too, and this is your call to look out any humorous photographs, pictures from Society events or outstanding livestock photos for the annual photographic competition that opens over the festive season. Keep your eyes peeled for the announcement of the start of the contest, which will have a closing date of the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020.

So, from the Board and myself, all the very best for 2020.

## **Cattle Health Schemes Changes**

Due to a change in policy at SAC and Biobest, the Society can no longer access your herd health information and cannot prepare health declaration cards for pens. Therefore, it will now be the responsibility of the vendor to request pen cards from their health scheme provider. These are an essential part of the sales information as they are the only official verification of health status available to buyers. Please continue to return a Luing Society health form along with your entry to provide information for the catalogue. Our approach to health status has played a big part in the breed's success story, and we want to continue to show potential buyers how seriously we take this so all vendors will be expected to produce pen cards at forthcoming sales. If anyone has any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Society office on 01250 872 897.

**As of the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020, the Society will require members to organise pen cards from SAC – for the Premium Cattle Health Scheme – and Biobest – for HIHealth Herdcare.**

**Download details will always be available with entry forms on the website.**



# Society News

## 53rd Annual General Meeting

**The 2019 Annual General Meeting was again held in the Canteen, Wallets Marts, Castle Douglas on Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019 with an attendance of 70 members.**

Our Chairman, Dave Stanners, welcomed everyone to the AGM.

The Chairman reported that it had been a busy year for the Luing Cattle Society. Females had been a flyer at Dingwall, while the sales at Stirling and St Boswells went well. Though they had been not quite as good as the Premier Sale, we had done better than many other breeds. The quality of stock was reported as good and continuing to improve.

UK sucklers were highlighted as having a bright future, with Luing breeding cows increasing to over 10,000 in the present climate. Also, looking to life in the future after Brexit, we were reminded that we need to be ready for change, and that the Luing cow is versatile and thrives in all conditions, which will bring opportunities.

Promotional events for the year included the Royal Highland Show, Royal Welsh Show, Kilnsey Show and Borderway Agri Expo. Thanks were expressed to the members, Directors, Fieldsman and Secretary.

Events for 2019 kicked off on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May at the NBA Beef Expo one day after the Dingwall sale. This was followed by Scotland's Beef Event at Old Meldrum on the 30<sup>th</sup> May. Please help if available, your assistance will make the event a lot easier.

The 2018 Open Day was at the Lanton Estate by kind permission of Ian and Tocky McKie. We were treated to great weather, hospitality and cattle.

John Rutherford and Steve Hill did a tremendous job with the stock.

A staggering £6,000 was raised and split between two charities: the Teapot Trust and Glendale Agricultural Society's Children's Countryside Day.

This was Dave's last AGM as Chairman, and he expressed how much he had enjoyed his two years preserving and promoting the breed. He thanked Annabel, his wife, for her help and support, along with Vice-Chairman Mark Thomson, the Board of Directors, past Chairman Ted Fox, the Secretary and Fieldsman who travels miles spreading the word. It had been an enjoyable and challenging time for Dave.

Finally, there was a report of the sad news from the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2019 that John Cameron, Monzie had passed away, which was a loss of a great man for the Society.

Accounts for the year ended the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018 were presented, showing a profit for the year of £884 and General Reserves at that date of £81,754.

The team of office bearers were appointed for the year ahead as follows: Chairman – Mark Thomson (Tillyrie, Kinross), Vice-Chairman – Neil McGowan (Dirnanean,

Alyth). Directors Mike Halligan and Neil McGowan stepped down after three years. Billy Neilson also stepped down due to work commitments, while Chris Young agreed to stay on for a further year. We welcomed Paddy Crerar (Lammermuir, Dunbar), Steven Murray (Rockcliffe, Dumfries) and Hazel McNee (Finlary, Tealing) to the Board for a three-year term.

## 2019 Dinner

One hundred Luing breeders, members and friends enjoyed the annual gathering at The Market Inn. Newly appointed directors Hazel McNee and Paddy Crerar enthusiastically took on the task of selling the raffle tickets for the chosen charity – the Retired Farming Social Group. Luing members raised the amazing amount of £1,000.

## Premier Sale 2020

- The 55th Premier Sale will take place at Wallets Marts, Castle Douglas on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020.
- All bulls must be in the market by Wednesday night, and heifers must be penned by 12 noon on Thursday the 6<sup>th</sup> February.
- The minimum age for bulls sold at Society sales is 18 months on the day of the sale, and each bull must be in possession of a certificate indicating that it has been approved for pedigree use by the Society. In addition, bulls will be weighed at the sale and must meet the minimum height measurement of 52" at the shoulder. Bulls will be sold in age order, with the oldest bulls sold first.
- The minimum scrotal circumference measurement for bulls is 38cm. Measurements will be taken in the market and displayed on the pen card along with weight and height.
- All cattle presented at the Premier Sale must come from herds which are members of a Cattle Health Certification Standards (CHCS) accredited health scheme and must be vaccinated against BVD. Any cattle coming from a herd which is not accredited free of BVD must have tested negative for the virus.
- There is no minimum age requirement for pedigree Luing females presented for sale in February. Prizes will be awarded to the best pair of in-calf heifers and best pair of bulling heifers – to be judged in the pens on the morning of the sale. Any animal with a black nose or displaying unruly temperament will be rejected by the inspection panel.
- Vendors are solely responsible for ensuring that all animals forward are correctly double tagged.
- All cattle will be sold under the terms and conditions of the NBA Warranties.
- There will be an upset price for bulls of 2,000gns.

## Bull Inspection

The Board would like to encourage breeders 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 all of five or above (out of 10) will be approved for use.

## Registrations

All calves born in 2019 must be registered with the Society before the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Late registrations will be charged double fees and will only be allowed if the animal is under two years of age. The Society recommends members use the online registration process via the website ([www.luingcattlesociety.co.uk](http://www.luingcattlesociety.co.uk) – which can also be used to advise of deaths and transfers). Those who have not yet done so, please contact the office for further information and to obtain passwords. Note the increased charge remains of an extra 50p/cow for registrations received on paper.

## Transfer Fees

Note that the system no longer involves returning certificates for transferred cattle back to the office. Instead, the certificates are treated like cattle passports and move with the animal. Any female sold privately incurs a transfer fee of £10 per head + VAT, payable by the new owner. For bulls, the transfer fee has two tiers with a cut-off at 30 breeding cows (as listed on each herd's most recent annual return): herds from 1 – 30 cows will pay a transfer fee of £2/cow with a minimum fee payable of £25 + VAT. Herds of 31+ cows will pay £100 + VAT. Bulls and females sold at official Society sales (the Premier Sale in Castle Douglas, Spring Sale in Dingwall and Autumn Sale in Stirling) are transferred free of charge.

## Luing Website/Facebook

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

The Society website continues to prove a useful source of information.

## Cattle Health Policy

Since 2011, all official Society sales (Premier Sale in Castle Douglas, Spring Sale in Dingwall and Autumn Sale in Stirling) have had the same entry conditions in terms of cattle health; i.e. cattle will only be accepted for entry if they come from herds which are members of a CHCS 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, breeders must be dealing with the threat of BVD in their herds by testing and vaccinating against the disease and also testing and culling for John's disease. New risk level categories for John's will now be displayed for each herd.

# Around the Sales

## Castle Douglas

The Luìng Cattle Society staged its 54th annual Premier Sale at Wallets Marts, Castle Douglas on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019. Storm Erik tried to interfere with the pre-sale proceedings but failed.

The pre-sale show was judged by Stewart Wood, Stromness, Orkney, who selected the champion pair of in-calf heifers from Robert McNee Ltd, Benhar, selling to Messrs Burke, Eddleston for 3,100gns. Reserve champion in-calf heifers went to D. & A. Stanners, Tynedale. Top price for in-calf heifers was 3,200gns from Robert McNee Ltd, being purchased by Messrs Burke. The overall average for 22 in-calf heifers forward and sold was 2,411gns (£2,296).

The champion pair of bulling heifers, awarded to Prof Penny, Harehead, went on to sell for 1,450gns to Messrs Herdman, Demesne, Alnwick. Reserve champion pair of bulling heifers went to P. Crerar, Lammerview, selling for 1,900gns to M. Phillips, Mains of Minnydow, Springholm. Top price for the bulling heifers was 1,900gns (Lammerview & Craigdarroch), with the overall average for 160 bulling heifers forward and sold being 1,338gns (£1,275).

Demand for Luìng bulls made for strong trade. Of the 31 bulls forward for sale, 28 found new homes, giving a clearance rate of just over 90%, with three bulls being purchased for over 10,000gns. Top price, from R. & H. McNee, went to Finlurg Warrior, finally being purchased by Prof Penny, Harehead for 18,000gns. Next at 17,000gns was a bull from Prof Penny, Harehead, Walker, being purchased by Messrs McArthur, Nunnerie. Robert McNee Ltd went on to sell Benhar Wrangler to Kedzlie Farms for 10,000gns. The overall average for bulls was 6,241gns (£5,944).



Dingwall sales

## Dingwall

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> May, the 11th Anniversary Spring Sale was held at Dingwall Mart. A full ring attracted buyers from as far afield as Wales and Northern Ireland. The sale judge was Stuart Nairn, Clashnoir Farm, Ballindalloch.

## RESULTS

### Luìng Bulling Heifers

1st – J., J. & R. Cameron, Monzie.  
2nd – Mr G. MacRae, Kintail.

### Luìng Yearling Heifers

1st – J., J. & R. Cameron, Monzie.  
2nd – Mrs K.A. Tindall, Bracadale.

### Sim-Luìng Yearling Heifers

1st – A.L. & A.C. McCall, Culmally.  
2nd – M. Thomson, Tillyrie.

Starting the sale off were the Luìng bulling heifers. One pair was sold for 2,750gns by G. MacRae, Kintail to James McCaig Farms, Wester Jawcraig, Falkirk. F.S. Renwick, Lochbroom sold a pair for 2,600gns to the same buyer. J., J. & R. Cameron, Monzie also sold a pair for 2,600gns to Messrs J. & P. Callion, Skreen Road, Dromore, NI. The average was £2,110.

G. MacRae, Kintail sold Sim-Luìng bulling heifers for 1,620gns to Messrs J. & P. Callion, Skreen Road, Dromore, NI.

Yearling Luìng heifers topped 950gns for a pair, with Mr J. Haley, Lochan selling to Messrs J. Caygill & Partners, Rylstone, Skipton. The average was £859.

Yearling Sim-Luìng heifers sold for 1,600gns from A.L. & A.C. McCall, Culmally to A. & A. McKay, Knockanean Farm, Cawdor, Nairn. The average was £1,076.

The top price for bulls was 3,100gns for Monzie Wolf Maol, from J., J. & R. Cameron, Monzie in a shared purchase between F.S. Renwick, Lochbroom and Shinness Luings, Shinness. Culmally Warrior sold for 3,000gns to the Backmuir herd, and Craigdarroch Wilf for 3,000gns to J.C.D. Fenwick, Aber herd, Wales.

## Stirling

On the 26<sup>th</sup> October, the Luìng Cattle Society held its 46th Autumn Sale at U.A. Stirling.

The judge was Andrew Marchant, Clonhie Farm, Thornhill, Dumfries.

## RESULTS

### Luìng In-Calf Heifers

1st – Robert McNee Ltd, Benhar.  
2nd – C. Little, East Bracklenn.

### Sim-Luìng In-Calf Heifers

1st – Robert McNee Ltd, Benhar.  
2nd – C. Little, East Bracklenn.

### Luìng Bulling Heifers

1st – T. Renwick & Sons, Blackhouse.  
2nd – C.C. MacArthur & Co, Nunnerie.

### Luìng Bulling Heifers

1st – T. Renwick & Sons, Blackhouse.  
2nd – C.C. MacArthur & Co, Nunnerie.

### Sim-Luìng Bulling Heifers

1st – Philiphaugh Estate, Selkirk.  
2nd – M.G. Halligan & A.C. Burke, Stewartson.

### Golden Jubilee Cup – Best Overall Pair of Heifers

T. Renwick & Sons, Blackhouse.

Luìng bulling heifers reached a top price of 1,900gns for a pen of two from T. Renwick, Blackhouse, sold to Prof Penny, Harehead. T. Renwick, Blackhouse sold 14 to average £1,553; C.C. MacArthur & Co, Nunnerie sold 16 to average £1,483; W. Graham & Son, Craigdarroch sold 11 to average £1,394; Glenlyon sold five to average £1,292; and Philiphaugh sold four to average £1,273. The overall average was £1,259 for 74 sold.

Luìng heifer calves followed, with 11 selling from N. Horsfall, Rannoch, topping at 750gns for a pen of three to H.J. Harbinson, Dyke Farm, Falkirk. The average was £670 (up £28 on the previous year).



Sim-Luing in-calf heifers followed the Luings, with top price being 2,400gns for a pair from Robert McNee Ltd, Benhar, selling to Mr C. Thomson, West Tulloch, Midmar, Aberdeenshire. This gave Robert McNee Ltd, Benhar an average of £2,258 for 14. Mr C. Little, East Bracklinn sold 12 to average £1,824; the Woodland Trust Scotland, Finglass sold eight to average £1,496; and the James Hutton Institute, Hartwood Home Farm, Shotts sold six to average £1,269. The overall average was £1,827 for 40 sold.

Sim-Luing bulling heifers topped at 1,550gns from M.G. Halligan & A.C. Burke, Stewarton, sold to James Foster, The Riddings, Bolton Abbey. M.G. Halligan & A.C. Burke, Stewarton sold four to average £1,654; John Lawrie (Tillyrie) Ltd (per M. Thomson) sold seven heifers, averaging £1,463; Philiphaugh Estate (per A. Cowen), Philiphaugh sold eight to average £1,437; and Mr P. Crerar, Lammermuir sold four to average £1,391. The overall average was £1,332 (up £103 on the previous year) for 32 sold.

## St Boswells

Harrison and Hetherington held its Annual Luing Sale, with trade selective. Topping the day's trade was a pen of Sim-Luing in-calf heifers at £1,300 from Lanton Estate. Bulling heifers saw a top price of £1,080 for a pen of Luing heifers from Philiphaugh Estate. Taking control of the judging was Mr G. Dodds, The Pavilion, Melrose.

## PRIZE WINNERS

### Best Pair of In-Calf Luing Heifers

Lanton House

### Best Pair of Luing/Sim-Luing Bulling Heifers

Rawburn

### Bulling Heifers

Luing – £1,080, £1,020 Philiphaugh

Simmental – £1,160, £1,125

(4) Wauchope; £1,020, £1,000

Ettrickshaws (2); Boreland (2)

### Cows in Calf

Luing – £1,020 (2) Langlee Mains

## First Approved Sale – Oban Livestock Mart

The first Approved Society Sale took place at Oban Mart on the 9<sup>th</sup> November when the Cadzow Brothers, Luing held their inaugural production sale of 93 in-calf and bulling heifers, bulls, in-calf cows and cows with calves at foot.

The sale commenced with 23 two-year-old in-calf heifers. The overall average was 2,130gns (£2,236.96), with a top price of 4,000gns (£4,200) to Mr D. Sawrij, Kedzlie Farm, Blainslie.

Next up were 34 bulling heifers, reaching an average of 1,423gns (£1,494.71), with top price being 1,800gns (£1,890) to S. & L. Dodd, Tundergarth Mains, Lockerbie.

Six three-year-old in-calf heifers followed, to average 2,208gns (£2,318.75), with a top price of 2,600gns (£2,730) to J. Jardine, Fairgirth Farm, Dalbeattie.

Seven bulls were forward for sale, with four bulls selling to average 4,050gns (£4,250.50), with Luing X-TRA being bid to 6,000gns (£6,300) by Welbeck Scottish Farms, Ousdale Farm, Caithness.

Three cows with calves at foot followed, to average 1,566gns (£1,644.99), selling to a top price of 1,900gns (£1,995) to Pat Wilson Farms, Loanleven Farm, Perth.

Last to go through the ring were 20 in-calf cows, which went on to average 1,490gns (£1,564.50), with top price being 3,050gns (£3,202.50) to J. Jardine, Fairgirth Farm, Dalbeattie.



*In-calf champions Castle Douglas Benhar*



*Luing bulling heifer champions, Stirling*





# Luing Open Day 2019



**On a dry day in July, the 2019 Luing Cattle Society Open Day took place at Balcaskie Estate, Anstruther, courtesy of Toby Anstruther. Well over 200 people from Somerset to Aberdeenshire attended the event to see the farming operations of Balcaskie Estate.**

Attendees were welcomed to Lochty Farm with refreshments on arrival before introductions by Mark Thomson (Chairman), Dave Nicol (Farm Manager) and official speaker Andrew McCornick (President of NFUS).

Parts of Balcaskie Estate are classified as “species-rich” and are consequently protected. So a low stocking density is essential to maintain the condition of the ancient grass leys. Calves are weaned at eight months and brought into straw-bedded yards for the winter, to feed on silage, homegrown cereals and pulses.

In their second spring, at 12 – 14 months, the young stock return to the estate’s best pastures where they are split into groups according to nature and growth rate.



Housed again for their second winter and fed on the same homegrown diet, fat cattle will be ready between October and July. They will have spent their entire time on the farm eating homegrown fresh grass, cereal and other fodder.

The tour started with a drive through the bulling heifers before a stop to see Luing cows and calves running with a Luing bull, then Luing cows with calves at foot on a mob grazing system. As part of its ongoing conversion to organic farming, the estate has been working with the Soil Association Scotland to look at mob grazing cattle over the last three years. Each day, the cows and calves are moved to a new paddock of fresh grass. The grass was lush and thick, and the cattle ate and trampled the sward in each paddock. The overall plan is to build up the organic matter of the soils and make the future of the cattle enterprise from birth to slaughter viable.

The next stop was North Baldutho Farm, where the estate provided a very hearty lunch.



There was also an opportunity to complete the stock judging, with the overall winner being Rhuaridh Lawson, North Cassingray Farm, Largsward.

Once everyone was fed and watered, and the clouds were beginning to darken, the tour continued with a drive through two lots of Sim-Luing cows with calves at foot, running with native breed bulls.

On returning to Lochty Farm, refreshments were served with the closing speech by Chairman Mark Thomson, who gave the stock judging results and announced a total of £800 had been raised on the day for the chosen charity of Fife RHET CI.

The lucky winners of the two-night stay at Crerar Hotels were Neil MacDonald and his partner, Sandra. Neil now lives in Edinburgh but is originally from Benbecula and was brought up with Luings as his father was keen on them and attended the first open day on Luing. His brother still farms at home, and Neil makes regular trips back to help out.





# 2019 – Balcaskie Estate



RHET aims to provide an opportunity for every child in Scotland to learn about food, farming and the countryside, and to create a wider understanding of the environmental, economic and social realities of rural life.

RHET Fife is the local branch of the charity, which offers young people the opportunity to experience the countryside through fully risk assessed farm visits, as well as arranging speakers in schools, competitions and several full-day events. All its activities are provided by volunteers from the farming community.

Visits are to working farms where pupils can see first-hand where their food comes from and what goes on in the countryside.

In the last academic year, RHET Fife arranged 145 farm visits and 120 classroom talks for young people in the Fife area.



## **Luing Open Day Supporting Local RHET**

The Luing Cattle Society raised £800 at its annual Open Day at Balcaskie Estate, Anstruther in July.

The money raised was for RHET Fife CI (Royal Highland Education Trust Fife Countryside Initiative).

The charity was chosen by the Society's host on the day, Toby Anstruther.

Society Chairman Mark Thomson later presented the charity with a cheque on behalf of the Society.

The photo above shows Balcaskie staff with Farm Manager Dave Nicol (centre). Left to right: Ross Nicol, Jim McLure, Angela Mills (RHET), Dave Nicol, Carole Brunton (RHET), Mark Thomson (Luing Cattle Society), Robert Wilson, Andy Scott and Murphy the dog.



## **STOCK JUDGING RESULTS**

### **Overall**

- 1st – Rhuaridh Lawson
- 2nd – Gary Christie
- 3rd = Craig Campbell
- 3rd = Richard Wilson

### **Juniors**

- 1st – Rhuaridh Lawson
- 2nd – Marcus MacRae
- 3rd – Robin Moffat

### **Ladies**

- 1st = Sheila Kerr
- 1st = Fiona McCrae
- 3rd – Moraj Turzynski

### **Males**

- 1st – Gary Christie
- 2nd = Craig Campbell
- 2nd = Richard Wilson



# Johne's Disease – the Impact on Scottish Herds

**I would like to thank all the members of the Luing Cattle Society who completed the survey for my dissertation. I have condensed my dissertation to let everyone see the results from my research. Thank you for your time and honesty in filling in my survey.**

Johne's disease can have an economic and welfare impact on a herd of beef cattle. In Scotland, in 2010, it was estimated that there was a prevalence rate ranging from 7.5% to 27.5% in Scottish herds, causing estimated losses ranging from £13.9 million and £50.9 million. Johne's disease is caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies *paratuberculosis* (MAP). Once a herd is infected, it is hard to eradicate Johne's disease due to its nature and the lack of scientific knowledge about the disease. MAP has a complex cell wall structure, which allows it to survive for long periods of time in all kinds of different environments. It can live for up to nine months in water, 11 months in slurry, and 47 months in soil.



**Figure 1: An infected cow's intestine (top) and a non-infected cow's intestine (ADGA, 2018).**

Once the MAP organism has been ingested, it latches on to the wall of the small intestine. Specialised cells, called M cells, in the intestine wall take up the bacteria. Normally, ingested bacteria would be killed, strengthening the immune system against any future invasions. However, some MAP organisms survive this process due to their hard cell wall being impossible to penetrate.

As time passes, more specialised cells are drawn in to try to kill the bacteria, causing the intestine wall to thicken, as shown in Figure 1. The wall of the top intestine shown is much thicker due to the number of specialised cells building up. This allows fewer nutrients to pass through, which results in the animal becoming undernourished and losing body condition as essential nutrients cannot be absorbed.

The aim of my dissertation was to investigate the financial impact that Johne's disease has on Luing cattle in Scotland.

One hundred and fifty questionnaires were sent to Scottish Luing Cattle Society members to collect the data needed to carry out this project. The questionnaires received a response rate of 32%.

The answers showed that Luing cattle breeders were undertaking more than one management practice to try to reduce the risk of their herd being infected with Johne's disease. Eighty-three percent of herds were members of either the *Premium Cattle Health Scheme* or the *Biobest HIHealth Herdcare* scheme, with a further 13% starting in a health scheme in 2019.

Sixty-six percent of breeders used the test and cull approach as a way of controlling Johne's within their herd, with all herds using this approach having had a case of Johne's disease at some point. Fifty-four percent of the herds would class themselves as closed herds. However, many of these were still buying in bulls, which puts the herd at continued risk of Johne's disease.

Respondents were asked if they would be willing to pay more for level 1 cattle, with 13 herd owners saying that they would be willing to pay £400 – 500 per head for animals that have come off a proven level 1 herd. Another 12 herd owners were willing to pay £200 – 300 per head for animals from level 1 herds.

Prices were researched to find out how much each management strategy would cost a herd to implement versus the potential decrease in prices for cattle from an infected herd.

A cost-benefit analysis was carried out on the case study herd to establish the exact level of benefits to a herd of implementing management strategies and staying at risk level 1.

This case study was carried out on Tillyrie Luings, which have had incidences of Johne's disease within their herd. They currently run an 84-cow herd, which is presently at risk level 2. Since 2012, they have spent £3,176.60 on testing for Johne's disease and have implemented management strategies to reduce the risk of infection. They only buy in risk level 1 cattle and follow a test and cull policy.

In conclusion, through reading the current literature on Johne's disease, it was established that it is a very complex disease that is hard to control once established within a herd. Carrying out the research for the dissertation made it clear that the only way to manage the disease would be to implement various management strategies to reduce a herd's risk of infection. The research showed that Luing cattle breeders were proactive in implementing management practices to try to protect their herds. However, they struggle to get a grip on the disease due to the unreliability of available tests and the challenge presented by cattle not showing symptoms of the disease in its early stages but still shedding and infecting other cattle.

If a herd can reach risk level 1 and maintain this status, then it can benefit from a higher valuation due to there being more of a market for animals with higher health status. It is hard to put an exact financial figure on the impact Johne's disease has on a herd, as many owners do not keep records of losses from the disease.

Herd owners must decide if the cost of implementing management strategies can ultimately bring sufficient benefits in the form of higher prices achieved at market for their animals and having a more productive herd of Luing cattle.

**Fiona Thomson**

ADGA (2018). *Johne's Disease*. [Online] Available from: <https://adga.org/johnes-disease/> [Accessed 23 November 2018]



# *Culmaily Luings*

Luing bulls and bulling heifers for sale at Castle Douglas  
and Dingwall Society Sales  
Sim Luing Heifers available privately



**Contact:**

Ewan McCall, Culmaily Farm, Golspie, Sutherland KW10 6TA  
Tel. (01408) 634347 or 07917 764390. Email [ewanmccall@hotmail.com](mailto:ewanmccall@hotmail.com)





# Dirnanean

## Functional Efficient Robust

Signet recorded herd



*'Our 160 Luing cows are bred to the Simmental to produce Sim-Luing heifers to sell—or the Luing for our own replacements and some spare. The 65 'stud' cows have 2 crossbred calves on the ground before they get a chance to breed a pure calf. They have all calved at 2yo, never missed rearing a calf and boast an average calving interval of 364 days. These cows have been selected to be medium framed and easy fleshing, easy to handle and bring in a good calf without creep. ...take advantage with a Dirnanean bull!'*



Stock bulls:

Dirnanean Senator (P)  
Drinkstone Panamar (P)  
Luing Warpath

by Berryfell Landmark  
by Buckholm Kramer  
by Luing Lad

P5: a full sister to stock bull Senator - with her polled bull calf by Drinkstone Panamar.

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

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



## WORKING GENES

ON FARM RAM SALE

Thurs 3rd Sept 2020

Full Production Sale of:

Texel & Lleyn 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.

Photos from the '19 sale (l-r):

Dirnanean Xplorer (P) – high Maternal ebv son of D. Vincent  
Incheoch Jenson (P) – curve-bending Telstar son.

Lleyn—dam's 3rd consecutive twin, high fat, good maternal ebvs.  
All sold to repeat customers.

