

# MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

July 2020

## **Dingwall Sale A Digital Success**

The annual spring sale at Dingwall went digital on 20th May, and despite initial concerns, was a resounding success, which grossed approximately £200,000. The sale comprised of 129 pedigree and commercial Luing cattle, and the online timed auction format allowed many to view and bid on cattle that would not have been able to travel to Dingwall.

Pedigree bulling heifers (82) averaged £1,650.29 with the top price being £3,171.00, twice for 25 month old heifers from Mr G. MacRae, Kintail, selling to J. C. Innes & Sons. Pedigree yearling heifers (5) averaged £848.40 and sold to £882.00 for a 14-month old heifer from Mr J. M. Haley, Lochan Farm, to Meikle Farms, Darvel, Ayrshire. Yearling Sim/Luing heifers (13) averaged £1,085.54 and sold to £1,344.00 twice from Messrs J. Lawrie, Tillyrie, selling to Mr C. Arnot, Hatton Mill. Un-registered bulling heifers (9) averaged £933.33 and sold to £1,134.00 twice from Welbeck Scottish Farms Ltd., selling to Messrs Tulloch Farms. Bulls (4) sold to 6,000gns (£6,300) for two 25 months old both from Messrs C. C. MacArthur & Co. Nunnerie Farm, one selling to Firm of Ernest Crawford, Blarghour Farm, and the other to Mr A. Kennedy, Mitchell Hill Farm.

Charles Symons, LCS Fieldsman, commented "It is extremely pleasing to see a nearly 100% clearance rate, especially given the unusual format, and even better to welcome many new buyers from as far south as Exmoor." Adam Hunter, Yorkshire, is delighted to have purchased the foundations for his new herd, having looked at all the native breeds he felt "Luings were by far the best of the native breeds". It is hoped that the Stirling sale can build on this success.

# New Contact Details

From 20th June, 2020

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## Members' Collection for Una

Dear Member,

I have initiated a collection for a present for Una to thank her for all the hard graft she has contributed to the Luing Cattle Society over the years, on behalf of the members. If you would like to join me, we could hand over a substantially larger gift, be it monetary or an actual item. Donations can be made by cheque and sent to myself at Dryden, Teviothead, Hawick TD9 0PP. The Board have agreed to me doing this.

In anticipation of your support, thank you.

Best wishes,  
Kirsty Dunlop

# Forthcoming Sales and Events

**31 Aug 20**

closing date for applications for bull inspections

\*application forms can be downloaded from

[https://luingcattlesociety.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Application\\_form.pdf](https://luingcattlesociety.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Application_form.pdf)\*

**24 Oct 20**

47th Autumn Sale - Stirling Mart

Entries close 19th Sept

**30 Oct 20**

Agri Expo - Borderway Mart, Rosehill, Carlisle

**14 Nov 20**

Oban Mart - Isle of Luing Production Sale

**4 & 5 Feb 21**

Premier Sale & AGM - Wallets Marts, Castle Douglas

**19 May 21**

Spring Female Sale - Dingwall & Highland Mart

**21 May 21**

Beef Expo - Darlington Mart, Co. Durham

**27 May 21**

NSA ScotSheep - Over Finlarg, Tealing, Dundee

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# DNA Genotype Profiling, Myostatin Profiling and Sire Verification

At its recent Council meetings, Council have discussed and decided to embark on a programme of DNA profiling, leading to sire verification of male animals for sale at Society sale(s). The reasons are two-fold: a) to inform the purchaser that sire verification has been completed, enabling certainty when choosing a stock bull from within a relatively small population, and b) to support the integrity of the herd book. Additionally, because of recent enquiries and efficiencies of testing, it makes sense to also test the same population for Myostatin profile.

The first part of the program will see service sires in use in 2020 being sampled and profiled to create a library on which to be able to sire verify males in the near future. Myostatin profiling this population will allow Council to develop a picture of prevalence within the breed. Hair sample kits will be sent out soon to those herds registering calves, and we are requesting a submission deadline of **end October 2020**. More information on Myostatin profiling can be found at <https://luingcattlesociety.co.uk/breed-development>.

The program is voluntary, but is 100% subsidised by LCS for 2020. Young bulls put forward for inspection in autumn 2020 will also be sampled, and this is also funded by LCS. Myostatin results will not be published unless the owner wishes this to be the case, but it is hoped that many will see the benefit of having this information available in sale catalogues.

