

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Spring 2021

56th Annual Premier Sale

5th February, 2021

ONLINE ONLY

Wallets Marts, Castle Douglas

The 2021 Premier Sale will be held as an **online event (only)** conducted by Wallets Marts, Castle Douglas on the same date as previously. The catalogue is available online at **www.luingcattlesociety.co.uk/sales**, and hard copies are available by request, although all members and previous buyers will be sent a copy.

This year's entry has levelled at **160** head, comprising:

31 Pedigree Luig In-calf Heifers

90 Pedigree Luig bulling heifers

and

39 Pedigree Luig Bulls

All bulls have been sire verified (where possible), and breed society inspected along with their dams classified. All relevant herd health information will be available in the front of the catalogue.

****Please note: There will be no annual dinner this year****

Annual General Meeting

3rd February, 2021 at 2pm

Regrettably, having explored the options, the AGM will be held by Zoom video conference. The AGM will include two proposals for changes to the existing Byelaws - one which is a point of clarification after extensive review, and the other is a change to how Council Membership places are elected, which has been derived from Members' suggestions.

NOTES:

1. If you would like to participate, please RSVP to the Society by emailing secretary@luingcattlesociety.co.uk by noon on 27th January so that login details can be sent to you in advance of the meeting.
2. For ease of management in this format, any questions to be raised by Members should be emailed to the Society at secretary@luingcattlesociety.co.uk by noon on 27th January.

Important Dates For Your Diary

31 Dec 20

Deadline for Census Update on Grassroots

5 Feb 21

Premier Sale - **ONLINE ONLY** - Walleys Marts, Castle Douglas

28 Feb 21

Deadline for 2020 Calf Registrations - "Z"

19 May 21

Spring Female Sale - Dingwall & Highland Mart

entries close 16th April

HERD CENSUS and REGISTRATIONS

Please be aware that herd census information is due now. Accuracy of your herd composition on Grassroots is essential because it forms the basis for chargeable fees. It would be helpful if registrations were completed before your herd census, because all dams/sires remain available. ALL calves born to Luing females should be registered or birth notified annually.

Myostatin

In the Luing Population - Update

The Luing Cattle Society has embarked on a program of DNA testing using 50K SNP technology. The aims are to begin to catalogue the service sire population so that sire verification for all animals is possible within a few years.

Within a small population it is even more important to be confident in the genetics that you purchase and use within your herd.

Additionally, the LCS has taken the opportunity to explore the prevalence of the Myostatin gene (expressed in 9 different possible variants) within our population. It is not possible to report on a full set of results yet, but early indications are that the Luing has only F94L variant present in its population, at a prevalence of circa 17%.

The following diagram explains the various types of Myostatin and provides some clarity around both the non-disruptive type (F94L) and the disruptive types (NT and Q). The F94L variant is found in many UK beef breeds, including the Shorthorn population.



Myostatin Gene

Myostatin Variants
 "Double Muscle", reduced fat
 Possibly Harder Calvings

Non-Disruptive Variants
 Identified as +/+
 F94L, S105C, D182N

Disruptive Variants
 nt821, Q204X, C313Y,
 E226X, E291X, NT419

F94L
 More Muscle,
 No Extra Calving
 difficulties

nt821
 Most common in Belgian
 Blue & Parthenaise
 Higher Muscle, less fat
 Slightly heavier birth
 weight & lower calving
 ability

Q204X
 Most common in Charolais
 Higher Muscle, less fat
 Heavier birth weight &
 lower calving ability/Milk

Myostatin Carriers

**Homozygous
 Non-disruptive**
 +/+
 No disruptive
 effects

**Heterozygous
 Disruptive**
 nt821/+,
 Q204X/+
 Some effects

**Homozygous
 Disruptive**
 nt821/nt821,
 Q204X/Q204X,
 Q204X/nt821
 Noticeable effects