

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Summer 2021

SPRING BREEDING SALE

19th May, 2021

LIVE SALE WITH ONLINE SUPPORT

Dingwall & Highland Marts, Dingwall

The 2021 Spring Breeding Sale will be held as a **live sale with online bidding support**, conducted by Dingwall & Highland Marts, Dingwall on **19th May**. 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 **108** head, comprising:

85 Pedigree Luing Bulling & Yearling Heifers

8 Sim-Luing Bulling & Yearling heifers

12 Crossbred Bulling and Yearling Heifers

3 Pedigree Luing 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. All Society sales are conducted under the terms of the NBA Warranty, a copy of which is also available on the website.

Council Roundup

The Council have had their first meeting, which was very productive, and began to tackle the many issues on the Agenda. The various sub-committees were re-populated with new members, and a summary of issues discussed is as follows:

Governance

- all aspects of governance will be reviewed and updated over the next year, to include training around roles and responsibilities for all Council members.

Breed Development

- The Society will continue to encourage DNA analysis for sire verification and myostatin.
- Funding will continue in 2021 for any males in breeding service older than 31st December 2019, not having been DNA profiled previously.
- Funding will also continue for the first 4 males from any herd from the 2020 calf crop, that are intended for breeding. Thereafter the cost responsibility will be on the breeder.
- All vendors for all Society sales are encouraged to have males DNA profiled, sire verified (if possible) and myostatin tested for inclusion in sale catalogues, where possible.
- The timeline for (possible) compulsory sire verification and myostatin profile will be discussed once the initial results are collated. Results remain at an information gathering stage.

Promotions and Events

The promotions and events committee has been tasked with:

- investigating external marketing support options
- planning the photographic competition - held over from February 2021
- procuring feature articles for updating website content, journal content and pre-sale editorial
- reviewing the "For Sale" protocol for website/social media advertising

CHARITY AUCTION PROCEEDS

The Luing Cattle Society held a Charity Auction ahead of the Premier Sale which was extremely well supported by our membership for both donations and purchases. The Society has been able to contribute £4000 to our chosen charity; **My Name's Doddie Foundation**. This charity, set up by Doddie Weir, raises funds for Motor Neuron Disease, which Doddie himself suffers from. We were pleased to be able to donate such a large amount to this worthy cause, so **THANK YOU** to everyone for your contributions.

**MY
NAME'S
DODDIE**
foundation

Luing's

Rules, Regulations and Byelaws Update

The AGM agreed two amendments to the Rules, Regulations and Byelaws, as follows:

- 2yr old calved heifers will be included in the registration fee (Herdbook fees) from 2021 born calves onward. The new fee structure will be applied on your invoice created in 2022.
- From 2022, nominations for places on Council will be made by appropriate nomination, and Members of Council will be elected by a ballot of the membership, should there be more nominations than places coming vacant. Nomination forms will be circulated (or provided in downloadable format) in the autumn with a submission deadline that will allow enough time for Council to consider the nominations. Voting papers (if necessary) will be subsequently circulated to the membership ahead of the AGM.

Please find the updated rules, regulations and byelaws on our website at <https://luingcattlesociety.co.uk/society-rules>.

LUING OFFICE UPDATE

Despite not having any events to attend the office has been pretty busy over the last 11 months. It is great to have many of the bigger chunks of annual tasks behind us, and great to see many of you registering 2021 calves as they happen. Grassroots is a valuable tool for us and I note that there is a cloud platform version in a testing phase, which I look forward to rolling out to our members as soon as it is ready. If anyone needs an update on their login details for Grassroots, please get in touch and I can provide this. There has been a good response to the call for hair samples for older bulls in use within your herds and you will note from elsewhere that the Society has committed to continued funding (2021 only) for profiling of older herd sires, which have not yet been profiled.

Preparation for the Dingwall sale is upon us and I look forward to being able to meet some of you in person there. It is hoped that we will also get an Open Day later in the summer. We have had an increasing number of enquiries for Luing semen and it would be useful to collate a library of available semen for this purpose to be available on the website. If you hold straws of Luing semen that you would like included in this register, please email with the relevant details to include export qualification and a photo of the bull, if possible.

Important Dates For Your Diary

Spring Female Sale - Dingwall & Highland Mart

19 May 2021

SOCIETY OPEN EVENT / FARM WALK

(provisionally scheduled for August or September and will be dependent on prevailing restrictions)

Photographic Competition (re-scheduled)

Summer 2021

Deadline for Census Update on Grassroots

31st Dec 2021

FIELDSMAN'S ROUNDUP

Following on from a hugely successful Premier Sale there has been unprecedented interest in Luing cattle. We have fielded enquiries from all parts of the UK from both members and potential members. There has been great demand for Luing bulls from both established Luing breeders and people using a Luing bull for the first time to bull various breeds, in particular Simmental cross cows. There will be a small selection of quality bulls forward at Dingwall, as noted above. If you are unable to purchase at Dingwall please contact us after the sale and we will do our best to find what you require. Likewise, if you have a bull to sell please let us know and we will try to place it for you.

Sim Luing yearling heifers have been in demand also, and have been placed into Lanarkshire, Northumberland, Cumbria, Norfolk and Northern Ireland this spring. Three of these placements are to people who are new to the breed.

We still have enquiries for Luing cows if anyone has any to sell. The Luing cattle Society is going from strength to strength with new or potential new members in contact on a regular basis, this can only be good for all the committed breeders who are already members of this fabulous society.

Anyone wishing help with anything to do with Luing cattle please feel free to contact me at anytime, if I can't help you hopefully I will know someone that can.

C. J. Symons

**Contact details: Tel: 01573 440207 Mob: 07971 231885
Email: cjmsymons1@gmail.com**