



*The Silent "U"*

# MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

## Advertising Stock For Sale?

Adverts are welcome for our "FOR SALE" page on [www.luingcattlesociety.co.uk](http://www.luingcattlesociety.co.uk) and Facebook. Adverts are FOC if using the Society's brokerage service, and £100 if not. Please contact Natalie Cormack / Charles Symons with a good quality photo and details.

*Luings*

Journal 2023  
Advertising Booking  
Forms Available



Download form and online booking...  
[www.luingcattlesociety.co.uk/publications](http://www.luingcattlesociety.co.uk/publications)  
Deadline 15th October

### CADZOW BROTHERS - LUING



4th ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE  
HIGH HEALTH STATUS  
PEDIGREE LUING CATTLE

UNITED AUCTIONS  
OBAN LIVESTOCK CENTRE  
SATURDAY 12th NOVEMBER 2022



JOHNES 1, IBR & BVD ACCREDITED SINCE 2012  
SIGNET RECORDED PERFORMANCE DATA  
SOLD PURELY OFF GRASS

Full Dispersal Sale of the

## CANDIES HERD

of Pedigree Luings

*Luings*



United Auctions, Stirling  
29th October

64 cows and calves  
with 4 stock bulls

18 In-calf Heifers  
37 bulling heifers

2 Young Bulls

BVD Accredited and  
vaccinated, Lepto and  
Rotavirus vaccinated  
Johnes 2

on behalf of W & G Tweedie, Brownsbank Fm, Biggar

Enquiries: Thomas Tweedie on 07802 166344

Charles Symons 01573 440207 / 07971 231885

## DNA SAMPLES

for bulls intended  
for sale or own use

Breeders are strongly encouraged to submit hair samples  
at the **earliest opportunity** - by end August would be ideal.

**Any older stock bulls not already DNA profiled - please send samples ASAP**

\*\*\*Young bulls intended for sale at Castle Douglas or Dingwall should also  
send samples at the earliest opportunity, if not already done so\*\*\*

*Luings*

# Chairman's message

Much has been going on in the Luings Society and this Newsletter gives me the chance to share some of our activity with you.

We have had a good reception at shows and events attended through the summer and I hope that the interest we have seen in the breed follows through in the upcoming sales season. High cull values ought to give cattlemen good reason to cash-in any cow not pulling her weight to make way for a heifer. This heifer needs to be low-risk health-status and a step towards a more efficient cow-herd – so where better to look than one of the upcoming Luings sales?

Your council have had a couple of meetings based around developing a future strategy and this has given us some more goals to be working towards. It is healthy to have a clear, common direction, but it is also good to reflect on some of the things that we have achieved in the last few years.

We have governance on a much steadier footing – helped with outside advice, a director's handbook, and a committee structure with terms of reference in place. Although there have been some fundamental differences of opinion in this board, there is a framework in place that allows us to manage that effectively. We have strengthened the Society's financial position, nearly achieving our goal of a 2-year buffer on running costs – helped through careful investment of funds, and dutiful financial management including a new accounts system.

DNA testing has been investigated, financed and delivered, with sire verification and myostatin status reporting on all sale bulls. 4 herds are now Signet recorded, with an offer on the table to extend this service to further breeders at no cost.

The Journal is a well published, informative review of our breed, people and events and an extra edition of the Society Newsletter includes a Council report to increase transparency. Podcasts and a video feature have helped us improve our digital presence. An increased workload of registrations, bull inspections and dam classifications have been dealt with efficiently, and we hope new members have been encouraged by Fieldsman's mentoring.

On the downside, we have had 3 resignations from Council – for different reasons, but all based around disapproval of a decision on Myostatin. To fully explain the issue, I need to make you aware of a DEFRA document known as Zootechnic regulations. This is the legal framework around which Breed Societies must operate. We can implement our own rules, but when push comes to shove – it needs to fit within these regulations. The Council has long debated the F94L myostatin variant within the breed coming to no clear conclusion. A compromise was thought to have been reached by preventing a 2-copy bull becoming Society Approved (and effectively barring from Society Sales). The Council agreed that this compromise would be subject to checking it was feasible and legal to implement. In the interest of transparency, this indication was communicated at the first chance, to members through a Newsletter. It has become clear that to implement such a rule would be a contravention of the Zootechnic regulations. This means that any challenge would be indefensible in court, and we would not be fulfilling our obligations as Company Directors. Therefore, the Council rightly agreed not to implement the ruling, but to leave things as they stand - myostatin results will be published and buyers can make informed decisions when selecting a bull.

I am clear that our decision making has been correct, and additionally I am confident that a ruling would be unnecessary in the first place as it is clear we have a healthy population of both cattle and cattlemen, to ensure the right cattle will be selected to suit the variation in systems and markets.

The change in our secretarial contract to Pedigree Cattle Services has started to take effect. The net result should be no change in service to membership, but with access to a bigger team of people, (Natalie will have others in the office trained in Grassroots), there becomes a degree of security that the Luings Society has not seen before. We are fortunate to have someone of Natalie's ability and knowledge working with us. We have so far shared her with AHDB and some other commitments, and we will

Cont'd

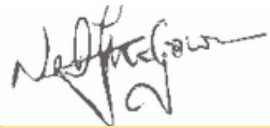
continue to share her with the Aberdeen Angus Society – but her time on Luings can be better directed with some of the admin covered by other team members.

I mentioned our strategy at the start. We have a draft document, which includes some exciting goals for the breed and we are anxious to get on with building on them. Some of the highlights include:

- Helping those who are or would like to sell Luing Beef directly to the consumer (some initial groundwork underway).
- We want to develop what we know about cattle performance in member herds to help with future marketing.
- There is strong support for a Youth development programme, (if a bit short on ideas at the moment).
- Facilitate sales – if customers contact the Society looking for Luings, we want to make sure every effort is made to follow that up, help them source appropriate cattle and encourage Society membership – whether through Society auctions or private sales.
- More membership events, update website content, new membership services – the list goes on.

We are looking for people with the talents and energy to refine this strategy and help take it forward into positive action for the Society. If you have the drive to join the Council, please let us know and fill in the enclosed application form to come and get involved.

Finally, I am saddened to share the news of the passing of Joan McLauchlan, who will be known to many of you as the wife of long-standing Society Fieldsman, Ronnie. Joan will be remembered as a strong member of the Ballachulish community, but also of the Luing family and will be greatly missed. Our thoughts are with Ronnie, Fraser and all her family.



## AUTUMN BREEDING SALE

29th OCTOBER 2022  
United Auctions, Stirling

### Collective Sale Comprising

2 Pedigree Luing In-Calf Heifers  
31 Sim-Luing In-Calf Heifers  
89 Pedigree Luing Bulling Heifers  
11 Pedigree Luing Yearling Heifers  
75 Sim-Luing Bulling Heifers  
2 Unregistered / Crossbred Heifers

### CANDIES DISPERSAL

64 Cows with spring calves  
18 In-Calf Heifers  
39 Bulling Heifers  
6 Bulls




# Important Dates For Your Diary

## **Luing Journal Advertising**

Application and Artwork Deadline - 15th October

## **Autumn Breeding Sale**

**&**

## **Candies Dispersal**

Saturday 29th October, 2022

United Auctions, Stirling

## **Cadzow Bros 4th Annual Production Sale**

12th November, 2022

Oban Livestock Centre

## **Premier Sale Entry Deadline**

9th December 2022

## **Deadline for Census Update on Grassroots**

31st Dec 2022

## **Premier Sale**

Friday 10th February 2023

Wallets Marts, Castle Douglas

## **Registration Deadline**

28th February 2023

# **Council Nominations**

The Luing Council has 4 retiring members at the next AGM for which nominations are sought for these four places. In addition, there are 2 one year terms to be filled. A nomination form is included with this mailing which must be fully completed and **returned to the Secretary by Tuesday 8th 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. 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.