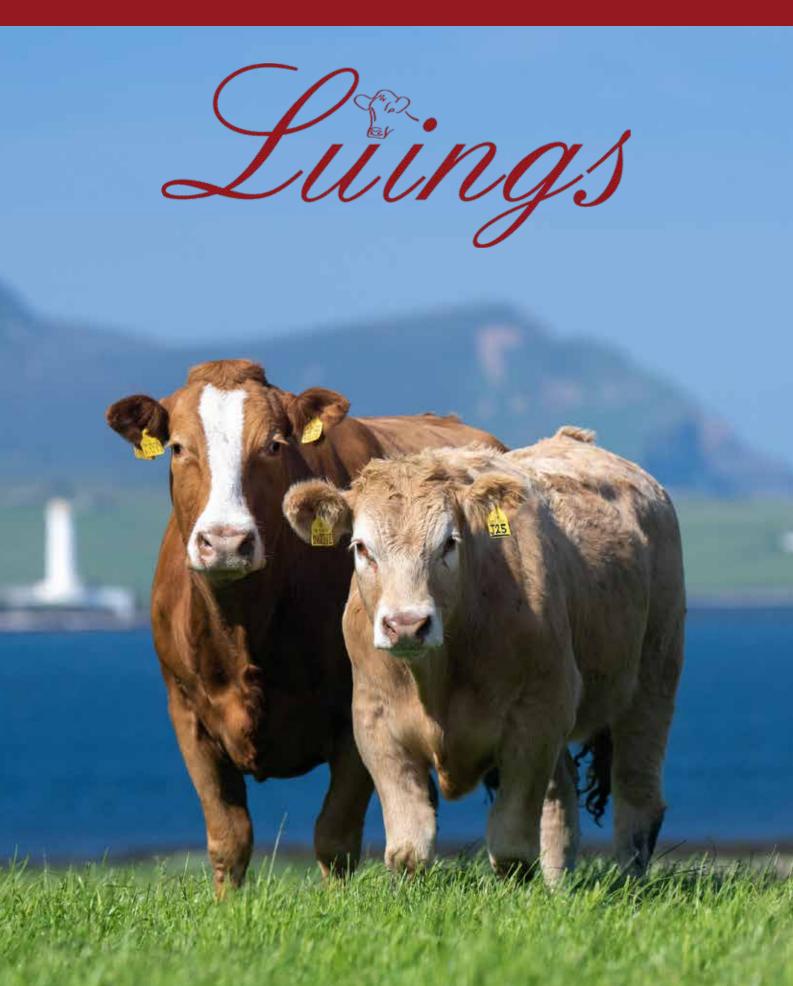
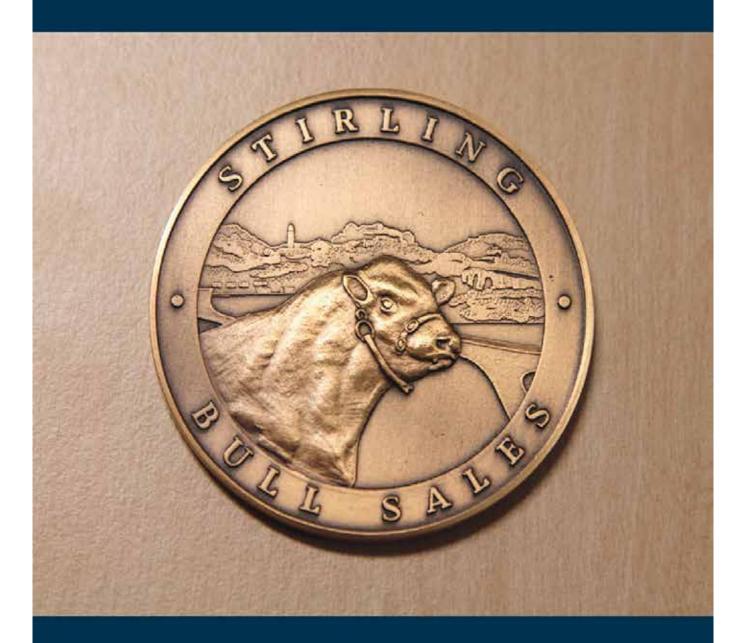
LUING CATTLE SOCIETY LTD.JOURNAL No. 57JANUARY 2024



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Galbraith Stirling Bull Sales

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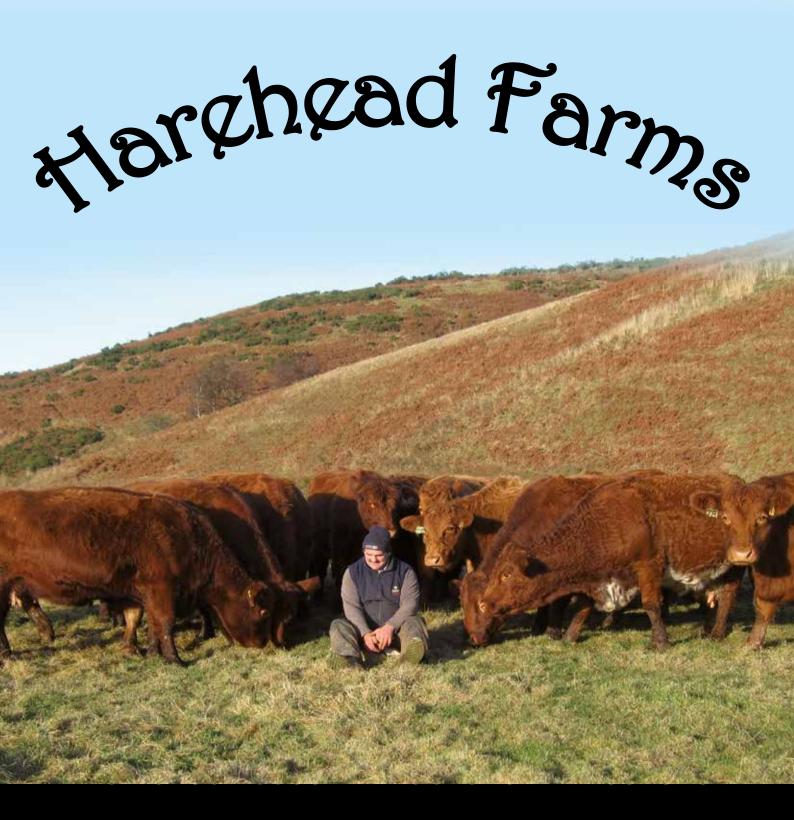
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Office Bearers and Members of the Breed Council 2023/24



Chairman

Stewart Wood, Garson, Sandwick, Stromness, Orkney Tel: 01856 841519

Vice Chairman

Ewan McCall, Culmaily, Golspie, Sutherland Tel: 01408 634347

Immediate Past Chairman

Neil McGowan, Shealwalls, Alyth, Blairgowrie, Perthshire Tel: 01828 633652

To Retire 2024

Neil Anderson, Crichness Farmhouse, Cranshaws, Duns Tel: 01361 890342 Graham Cakebread, Commonside, Hawick Tel: 01450 850210 Andrew Renwick, Craigdouglas, Yarrow, Selkirk Tel: 01750 82207

To Retire 2025

Billy Graham, Craigdarroch, Eliock, Sanquhar DG4 6LE Tel: 07920 859668 Andrew Barr, Milkieston, Eddleston, Peebles EH45 8QH Tel: 01721 730213

To Retire 2026

Robert McNee, Over Finlarg, Tealing, by Dundee Tel: 01382 380627 Finlay McIntyre, Dunalastair Estate, c/o Lochgarry House, Kinloch Rannoch, Perthshire Tel: 07493 246794 Janet Pringle, Loch Venachar Cottage, Brig 'O Turk, Callander, Stirlingshire Tel: 01471 545258

Billy Neilson, 27 Cruachan Cottages, Taynuilt, Argyll Tel: 01866 822106

SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES

General Manager, Secretary and Treasurer

Natalie Cormack, Dairy Cottage, Tower Road, Ayton, Berwickshire TD14 5QX Tel: 07592 139708 E-mail: 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

Fieldsperson

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

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Diary Dates

Luings

31st December 2023 Census update deadline (Grassroots)

Thursday 8th February 2024

Luing Cattle Society Annual General Meeting Canteen, Wallet Marts, Castle Douglas

> **Annual Dinner** Ernespie Hotel, Castle Douglas

Friday 9th February 2024

Wallets Marts, Castle Douglas **PREMIER PEDIGREE SALE** of in-calf and bulling heifers followed by breeding bulls (Entries close Friday 1st December)

Monday 19th February 2024

Stirling Bull Sales at United Auctions, Stirling Agricultural Centre

Thursday 29th February 2024

Deadline for 2023 born calf registrations (Letter C)

Wednesday 15th May 2024

Spring Breeding Sale Dingwall and Highland Mart (Entries close Friday 12th April)

Saturday 31st August 2024

Deadline(s): Bull inspection application form DNA hair sample submission (Bulls intended for breeding)

Saturday 26th October 2024

Autumn Breeding Sale at United Auctions, Stirling (Entries close Friday 13th September)

Saturday 9th November 2024

Production Sale - Cadzow Bros at Oban Livestock Centre (Provisional date)

Friday 6th December 2024

Closing date for Spring Sale Entries

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Luings

Chairman's Report





As we approach the end of my first year as Chairman of the Society, I have been reflecting on an enjoyable year thus far. I have tried to attend as many events as possible, given the workload at home. The weather has been very mixed around the country with everyone experiencing a decent spring but a very dry June (our 1st cut silage 49% dry matter). July tended to be wetter for most areas but since then we have had a decent spell and harvest finished end of September. We all felt the gales and wet in October which has made a very early start to winter, especially up here.

We had six new members elected on to the council in February 2023, and they have settled in well. Their contribution at meetings has enhanced our Council and we now have a good diverse group, that have all been distributed around all our sub committees.

Our sales have been strong throughout the year with Castle Douglas having a strong average for a great show of bulls, and heifers just under the 2022 average for a good show. As the season progressed, Dingwall had a good sale with a record top price of £6000 for a pair of bulling heifers.

Stirling in October saw a 100 per cent clearance and averages up considerably on the year for all classes, and the Cadzow Production Sale was a flier with cattle going all over the UK. Private sales through our fieldsman have been strong as well, along with many other private sales, sees the breed in a strong position going into 2024.

The Society has attended many events over the year, firstly the beef event at Dalwinston where there were some genuine enquiries for cattle, and we had a popular stand on the day winning the best Breed Society Trade Stand. As usual the Highland and Welsh shows were well attended with good displays of cattle on show. I would like to thank all breeders who supplied some great cattle for the displays at the shows and to all members who manned the stands at all the events.

Our Open Day in August was held at Craigdarroch, courtesy of the Graham family, and proved very popular as many members and non-members attended from all parts of the UK. the quality of cattle on show was outstanding, as was the surrounding landscape. This was a great example of cattle and sheep grazing the hills alongside nature, renewables, and a bit of forestry. It just goes to show when you work together and get the balance right there's room for everything on our farmland in Scotland, however we must never forget that food production is our main focus, and that will be the big battle with the Scottish Government.

As the Government is still dragging their heels on a future policy from 2026 onwards, the one thing that seems most important is to make more of our forage. It seems obvious that future policy will be focusing on reducing our carbon footprint, only being paid for demonstrating efficiency. This must surely play into the hands of the Luing Breed as we have the genetics to achieve this, whether this is a Luing cow on the hill, or an opportunity try and get our breed on more low ground farms.

Over the past year we have been working at updating our website to promote the sales of Luing beef and I think we have come up with a nice fresh webpage which is easy to use and promote our product well. If you are a breeder that has Luing beef and are not on our listing, please speak to the Secretary.

We are also offering a new sale at Stirling for bulls and heifers on the second week of the bull sales in Februray, expanding our Society Sale offering to promote the breed to a wider audience. By the time you read this we will know how many members have put themselves forward to stand for council as we have 3 members retiring in 2024.

Our move to Pedigree Cattle Services has now been going for 18 months and seems to be working well and has been a seamless transfer with more staff up to speed on grassroots and other software.

The Society has partnered with Signet and over the past few months have been working with Signet to get our pedigree records integrated into their performance recording analysis platform. This is nearly complete and we are expecting to be able to offer members fully funded access to performance recording with Signet for a trial period. Any member who wishes to partake in this is invited to contact the Secretary for further information.

Just to finish, there are many people to thank firstly to all the council members and members to have helped to put up and take down stands, and supplied cattle for the shows. The Graham family and their helpers, together with the many sponsors we had for the open day. And lastly, Natalie who does a tremendous job for the Society and has made my job very easy. Thank you to everyone.

I have met a lot of breeders and members over the past year and hopefully meet many more over the year in 2024.

Stewart Wood Luing Cattle Society Chairman



Rockcliffe Luing

Steven and Elaine Murray West Preston Farm Kirkbean Dumfries DG2 8AU T: 01387 880630 E: 07887 788835

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View from the Office





The Luing breed continues to expand its horizons and initiatives to highlight its position as the most ecologically efficient native breed in the UK. Alongside, DEFRA is actively transitioning its agricultural and environmental strategy, to includes a range of environmental measures which stipulate use of Native breeds, including Luing. These measures are well resourced and require registration documentation for qualification purposes. We are working hard to promote the Luing as the breed of choice for this scheme, particulary in the north of England, where the upland terrain is so suited to the Luing. The Luing ticks all the boxes in relation to ecological robustness given their increased ability to graze inferior swards more evenly, outwinter without poaching, maintain an exceptionally high fertility rate, and wean a high growth rate calf.

The Luing Council has approved the expansion of the Society Sale schedule to ensure that there is as much opportunity as possible for breeders to market genetics and buyers to have the opportunity to purchase Luing. In addition to the 3 current Society Sales, held at Wallets Marts, Dingwall and Highland Mart and Stirling, an additional sale has been scheduled within the February Bull Sales programme at United Auctions, Stirling. This will be held on the same day as the Simmental sale, as there is an obvious cross over of buyers.

The council have also approved funding for a trial with Signet. This will enable any breeder to submit their performance records to Signet in exchange for Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) and summary performance statistics reporting.

The Society will be funding this initiative for a period of two years, and during this period breeders will be able to access this service free of charge. The Society will submit birth weights with annual registration data, as long as these are uploaded as part of the registration process, and breeders will be responsible for submitting a weaning weight, or subsequent weight, at a later stage. Obviously, the more data that can be submitted, the more accurate the outcome. Please visit **Signet Breeding Services** (signetdata.com) for more information.

The Luing council has approved the continuation of the Sire Verification programme as a means of providing greater herdbook integrity, and more importantly, providing greater certainty at the point of breeding selection - important in a relatively small population. From 2022, all males intended for breeding will need to be sire verified. Breeders are encouraged to submit DNA tail hair samples as quickly as possible, and by 31st August of the year following birth at the latest, to ensure that a valid sire verification can be possible before the bull is put with females. The council also continues to monitor the F94L myostatin variant within the population through a testing programme for all males which are approved by the Society for breeding. Polling is also an increasingly popular test, and it is useful to know whether a male carries one or two copies of the polling gene, for sale purposes.

The Luing Council has approved a trial to include Frame Score as an indicative measure of size for age, alongside both the shoulder height and scrotal size measures, currently displayed on pen cards. Additionally, a trial is underway to implement an age graduated scale for scrotal measurements, although it is stessed that all bulls forward for sales will need to meet a minimum 38cm, regardless of age.

Luing Council has approved The and implemented a new web page to promote Luing Beef, under the heading Native Beef www.nativebeef.co.uk. This has replaced the original "Where to Buy" page on the Luing website and went live in June 2023. There are a number of businesses highlighted on the site that are currently retailing or supplying Luing Beef directly to the public, and if you would like to be included, please don't hesitate to contact the office. The page also has a downloadable leaflet which can be used by breeders, butchers / retailers of Luing Beef, for information purposes.

A new sale entry platform has been rolled out by Grassroots, which is proving to be a very successful addition to our IT improvements. Breeders can enter sales using their Grassroots login, simply by ticking the animals that they want to enter. The cataloguing process is reduced at the office end, which is a huge bonus as well. It is intended to phase out the paper entry system as soon as practicably possible, in favour of the online platform.

In addition to the new initiatives, the Council continues to monitor and guide the business of the Society in relation to finances and governance, with the help of external resources in some cases. The financial report for the AGM will provide a more detailed scope of the finances, and it is pleasing to see a bit of confidence returning to the investment market in the past 12 months. The Governance Committee continues to oversee the council's adherence to its newly implemented Strategy Policy, which is a work in progress.

I'd like to thank the Council for their forebearance, help and guidance this past year, ably chaired by Neil McGowan and Stewart Wood during this period. Your Council is in good hands, and is ably supported by both Breed Development Officers and Charles Symons, who is an extremly valuable resource to both myself and your Society members.

> Natalie Cormack Luing Cattle Society Secretary







BEEF THE WAY IT USED TO BE

The ancestry of the Luing combines the historic breeds of Shorthorn and Highland lineage blends which, were part of the very essence of the 'Prime Scot' – the by-word for quality in London's Smithfield Market of the 19th century.

The Luing of today captures these traditional qualities of early maturing, marbling and tenderness from grass-fed systems that enhance taste and health benefits, while also delivering greater biodiversity and enabling the natural carbon-cycling capabilities of our soils.

OUR HERITAGE

The Story Behind Luing Beef

Luing (pronounced Ling) is a small, windswept Hebridean island on the West coast of Scotland, where kind soils and abundant rainfall make plentiful cow pasture between the rugged crags that give shelter from the wild Atlantic breeze. Visitors, taking the 200 yard ferry journey, can expect spectacular views and tranquility – with rush hour traffic only of contended cows ambling towards sweeter pastures. These cows are of the breed known as Luing – and this is the Island of their home.

The Luing of today captures these traditional qualities of early maturity, marbling and tenderness from grass fed systems that enhance taste (and health benefits) while also delivering greater biodiversity and enabling the natural carbon-cycling capabilities of our soils.

How Did Luing Cattle Come About

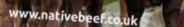
In the 1940's, three brothers embarked on a project to secure a source of cattle for their established farming businesses on the east coast. They were looking for a breeding ground for healthy, well-bred cattle that could be journeyed East to better grazings for further growing, nearer to market. With great ambition, they started by buying an Island and set about improvements. In securing the right cow herd their vision was to embrace the best of tradition with a new approach. Taking a well proven blend of breeding, they established a breeding philosophy, kept their own bulls and over the course of the following 20 years 'invented' a new breed.

These men were the Cadzow brothers: Denis, Shane and Ralph. The Cadzow family still run the farms on Luing today and share the custodianship of Luing cattle with breeders from all over the UK and beyond.



BEEF THE WAY IT USED TO BE

biends of Shorthorn and Highland lineage blends which, were part of the very essence of the Prime Scot' - the by-word for quality in London's Smithfield Market of the 19th century.



DOWNLOAD OUR LEAFLET FROM www.nativebeef.co.uk



WHAT MAKES LUING BEEF SPECIAL?

Luing cows are excellent environmental grazers. Their ancestors for centuries were the habitat management of the hills and uplands of Scotland, until making way to more sheep and then forestry. However, their nimble agility and natural appetite for rough forage make them ideal managers for environmental habitat control and they are increasingly finding a role for themselves in nature management. Hardy native cows, like the Luing, can reduce fire risk in established native woodlands while their disruption improves habitat for bugs, insects and further biodiversity.

When it comes to eating quality, marbling goes hand in hand with flavour and tenderness. Luing beef is renowned for its natural marbling ability.

WHERE TO BUY

- Marshall Farm Shop Roshvenhill Farm - Luing Beef Tebay Services Westmorland Peelham Farm Low Chesterhope Produce Fearn Farm Moorland Meat Incheoch Farm
- Aberdeenshire Inverness Penrith, Cumbria Berwickshire Northumberland Easter Ross Sheffield, Yorkshire Blairgowrie

FOR FULL DETAILS, CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITES BELOW

www.nativebeef.co.uk www.luingcattlesociety.co.uk

Luings

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Promotion and Events Committee

2023 has followed on from 2022 with an increaslingly packed events schedule, amid Covid rumbling on in the background. The Luing Cattle Society has participated in a busy year promoting the breed at a wide variety of events, to both members and non members alike. Our sales schedule has been relatively static, and very well supported across all four venues in 2023; Stirling, Castle Douglas, Dingwall and Oban. Stock on the ground is the best way to advertise the breed, and good sale averages and clearances demonstrate that Luing cattle are in demand. A new fixture is to be added to the schedule in 2024, and you will find Luing included in the United Auctions Spring Bull Sales menu in February.

The Luing Cattle Society has been represented with trade stands at Scotland's Beef Event at Dalswinton in early June, and then our usual spot at the Royal Highland Show at Ingliston later on in June. We were honoured to be awarded with the best breed society trade stand at the Beef Event, which had much to do with the quality of the cattle provided by Messrs Whiteford, Burnfoot, and Messrs McNee, Woodend. This was followed by a trip to the Royal Welsh mid July, and hard on the heals of some local shows, we held our annual Open Day by kind permission of the Graham family at Craigdarroch. We were fortunate with the weather on the day, after a particularly poor spell, and attracted 200 enthusiasts plus a considerable number of new faces. Craigdarroch looked after us exceptionally well and the visitors were treated to a tremendous herd of cattle among some pretty stunning scenery.

Newsletters and communication with members continue to include significant sections detailing the outcomes of Council deliberations, among all the other news items expected. Newsletters have begun to be distributed in electronic format alongide paper versions. Email addresses can be updated on Grassroots, so please make sure to keep your contact details up to date. Council continue to seek ways to reduce office and administration costs, while maintaining contact with members.

The promotion and events committee has met regularly, and continue to deal with a sizeable agenda. This committee continues to monitor the balance between private and auction sales. A system of charging was introduced in 2022, and Council will assess the impact this has had on the volume of private sales vs auction sales. While the committee accepts that not all members will want to support Society sales and there is healthy demand for private transactions, the committee continues to seek a balance which provides a route for all members.

The committee is also discussing methods for supporting those breeders who are marketing Luing beef. This process was initiated with a members' survey in 2022, which has informed Council around the types of marketing members are employing, and the patterns of sales coming forward. One of the outcomes of this work has been the development and launch of a new web page promoting Luing Beef. The web page is headed Native Beef and can be found by navigating to the Society's website and choosing the "Where to Buy" option. Further to this, a leaflet has been developed which is downloadable from the web page, along with promotional display materials.

The Promotion and Events Committee Chairperson is Andrew Barr, and please don't hesitate to contact him or the office if you have queries or can make constructive contributions.

Breed Development

Development committee The Breed has continued to fully fund DNA profiling for older sires, although the vast majority of these are now profiled. From January 2023 the Society has withdrawn funding for DNA analysis for all young males which are intended for breeding, both for sale and private use. Council have agreed that it is their intention to ensure that all male calves intended for breeding, registered from January 2022 onward, are sire verified ahead of being put with females, or by the time of Society sale, whichever is sooner.

The Society continues to monitor samples for Myostatin variants to build a more robust picture of the frequency of myostatin variants in the Luing population. This work continues, and the Breed Development committee continues to monitor results. To date, there have been nearly 1000 animals profiled, and 24% of the sampled population have one copy of F94L, which has been the only variant found. The incidence of F94L remains static in the population. DNA results have flowed somewhat better following relaxation of Covid restrictions, but there remain too many failures due to sample quality. The Breed Development Committee have instigated an age graduated schedule for measuring scrotal circumference, as a trial over the autumn inspection period. Results will be analysed in the spring and further discussion had in the spring. It is hoped that a greater number of bulls will be approved at the time of inspection, at a younger age. The 38cm threshold remains in place for a Society sale, regardless of age. Breeders still have the option to submit a vet measurement by 1st June (approx 2 year old) to prove acceptance for Society approval, all other traits having been passed.

Breed Development Committee The has embarked on a trial with Signet which aims to provide the opportunity for breeders to engage in performance recording subsidised by the Society. Minimum data recording would include two weights, although the more data submitted the better the result. Birth weights can be submitted at the time of registration, which will be transferred to Signet by the Society, while later weights can be submitted using Signet's online data submission form, simply by registering. The Society will be able to provide Estimated Breeding Values for sale animals (for those that submit data), which will help attract new buyers looking for this information. Within herd reporting is also valuable, providing detailed analysis on individual females which can identify trends and problems before they are evident in the herd. More information will be available once the data transfer has taken place and the first analysis has been completed.

The Breed Development Committee Chairman has been Robert McNee and its members are Neil McGowan, Neil Anderson, Billy Graham, Ewan McCall, Finlay McIntyre, Graham Cakebread and Andrew Renwick. Your Breed Development Officers are Neil McGowan and Robert McNee who would be more than happy to discuss any points in relation to breed development, DNA profiling, inspections and dam classifications.

Finance Committee

A small finance committee has been established to monitor cash flow, budgeting and investments. The members of this committee are Neil McGowan, Stewart Wood, Billy Neilson and Ewan McCall.

Remuneration Committee

Following guidance on governance matters, the Luing Cattle Society has also established a Remuneration Committee which has responsibility for managing employment and self-employed contractors on behalf of the Society. The committee consists of Ewan McCall, Andrew Barr, Neil Anderson and Andrew Renwick.

Governance Committee

On external advice the Council has established a committee which aims to oversee the implementation of Governance measures. The creation of a Handbook for Council members dominated 2021-2022 activities, and this has been followed by the creation of a Strategy Document and Risk Register later in 2022. These documents outline the responsibilities, guide policies, and provide a framework for Council to measure and check procedures in an objective manner. All of these documents have been well received and are available on the website for members to view, and potential Council members to review ahead of nomination. The Governance Committee has met in 2023 to review these documents and implement actions derived from this reivew, which aim to meet the goals determined within them. The members of the Governance Committee are Stewart Wood, Neil McGowan, Ewan McCall and Billy Neilson.





AL & AC McCall



All enquiries contact Ewan McCall 07917764390

Culmaily Farm Golspic Sutherland KW10 6TA

Visitors Welcome

(f) @culmailyfarm

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Around the Sales



LUING CATTLE SOCIETY PREMIER SALE 2023

10th February – Wallets Marts, Castle Douglas



The Luing Cattle Society held their annual PREMIER SALE on 10th February at Wallets Marts', Castle Douglas. Solid demand for good bulls into both commercial and pedigree herds resulted in an average of £7330, an increase of £768 on the year for 26 sold.



1st Prize Bulling Heifers - Craigdarroch - £1732

The pre-sale show of heifers, divided into bulling heifers and in-calf heifers, saw the father and daughter judging team of Sophie and Robert McCarlie of Wester Hassockrig, Shotts, choose a pair of bulling heifers consigned by William Graham & Sons, Craigdarroch as their winner of that section. This pair were both polled and sired by Craigdarroch Yoker, and were purchased by Jamie Gilchrist for Ettrickshaws, at £1732.

In calf heifers sold to a top of £3255 for a pair of heifers consigned by Robert McNee Ltd, Woodend, Armadale. This pair were summer 2020 born and sold in calf to Finlarg Viagra and Benhar Yankee, and were winners in their section in the pre-sale show. Purchaser for this pair EJ & A Fox, St Johns Kirk, Lanark. The incalf heifers averaged £1835 for 36 sold, back £278 on the year.

The 60 bulling heifers sold to a top of £2,153 and averaged £1586. Craigdarroch sold 6 to average £1890, and to a top of £2,153 for a pair of spring 2021 born polled heifers by Kirkland Yorkie and Plenderleith Wizzard, selling to K. Park, Dalpeddar. McCaig Farms sold a pair of spring 2021 born heifers, both by Craigdarroch Wren, to Messrs Rennie, Attonburn for £1,785. D & A



1st Prize In-Calf Heifers - Benhar - £3255

15

Barr sold 14 bulling heifers to a top of £1,995, averaging £1703 for the bunch. R & H McNee sold a pair of heifers at £1,680, while brother Andrew McNee sold a pair just behind at £1,628. AL & AC McCall, Golspie, averaged £1,575 for 6 spring born heifers, selling to a top of £1,680, which were purchased by Messrs Lamb, Girvan.



Lot 176 - Blackhouse Axel - 24,000gns

T. Renwick and Sons, Blackhouse had a tremendous sale, averaging an impressive £15,050 for 3 bulls presented. The best of this trio was Blackhouse Axel, a May 2021 born, Nunnerie Xenon son which went on to realise a sale topping £25,200. This heterozygous polled bull was keenly sought after as a stock bull, but ultimately went home to Nunnerie with Alistair and David MacArthur. The previous lot was Blackhouse Alonso, also a heterozygous polled genotype, but this time sired by Craigdarroch Vinnie out of a Benhar Magnum daughter, selling for £15,750 to Paddy and Sheila Crerar, Newmains, Stenton, East Lothian for their Lammermuir herd. Completing the trio was Blackhouse Alba, also by Nunnerie Xenon, which reached £4,200, purchased by L. MacLean.



Lot 175 - Blackhouse Alonso - 15,000gns

William Graham & Son, Craigdarroch also had a good day's trade, selling 6 bulls to average £8,050. The top from this pen was Craigdarroch Alves, a homozygous polled Kirkland Yorkie son, and is away to pedigree cows at Incheoch, at £16,800. Billy Graham also sold another homozygous polled half brother to his pen



Lot 172 - Craigdarroch Alves - 16,000gns

leader, Craigdarroch Alonso, for £8,000 to A. MacGregor, Allanfauld.



Lot 171 - Craigdarroch Alonso - 8,000gns

Just a bid behind on £7,000, Graeme and Fiona Cakebread, Commonside, took home Craigdarroch Ace, this time by well known sire Plenderleith Wizzard. Alistair and David MacArthur, Nunnerie, sold their only entry, Nunnerie Aaron, a Harehead Walker son, for £11,550 to Robert McNee Ltd, Benhar.



Lot 152 - Nunnerie Aaron - 11,000gns

The late Prof Penny, Harehead sold two bulls, both by Finlarg Warrior, at £10,500 apiece, to Messrs Hyslop and Messrs Whiteford, Burnfoot, consecutively. Robert McNee Ltd, Benhar, sold away to a top of £9,450 for an early entry by Finlarg Viagra out of a Benhar Wrangler daughter, and this went home with EJ & A Fox, St Johns Kirk. Paddy Crerar recouped some of his earlier outlay selling Lammermuir Arthur, a roan coloured Nunnerie Rambo son for £8,400 to Harehead.



Lot 182 - Lammermuir Arthur - 8,000gns

Other leading prices: W.W. Dunlop & Son, Commonside £4,725 to J. Goodfellow; Robert McNee Ltd, Benhar £4,725, to J. Graham; R & H McNee, Finlarg £4,200 to R. Sutherland, Outchester Farms.



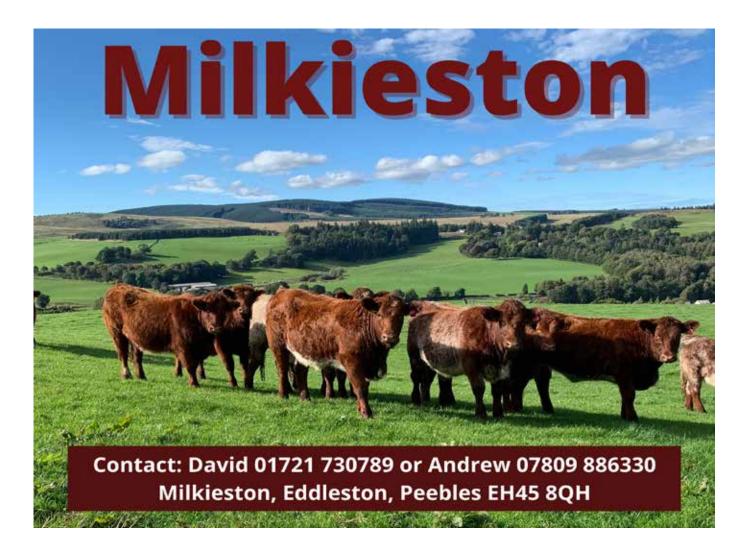
Lot 141 – Benhar Angus – 9,000gns

Sale Statistics

	Number	Average Price (gns)	Average Price (£)
Bulls	26	6,981	7,330
Luing In-Calf Heifers	36	1,747	1,835
Luing Bulling Heifers	60	1,510	1,586

	Av. Price (gns)	Top (gns)	Av. Price (£)	Top (£)	No. Sold
Bulls	6,981	24,000	7,330	25,200	26
T. Renwick & Sons, Blackhouse	14,333	24,000	15,050	25,200	3
C.C. MacArthur & Co, Nunnerie	11,000	11,000	11,550	11,550	1
Prof W. A. Penny, Harehead	10,000	10,000	10,500	10,500	2
Paddy Crerar, Lammermuir	8,000	8,000	8,400	8,400	1
William Graham & Son, Craigdarroch	7,667	16,000	8,050	16,800	6
Robert McNee Ltd, Benhar	5,833	9,000	6,125	9,450	3
W.W. Dunlop & Son, Commonside	4,167	4,500	4,375	4,725	3
R & H McNee, Finlarg	4,000	4,000	4,200	4,200	3
D & A Barr, Milkieston	3,250	3,500	3,413	3,675	2
AC & AL McCall, Culmaily	2,900	2,900	3,045	3,045	1
McCaig Farms, GleneIrig	2,100	2,100	2,205	2,205	1
In-Calf Heifers	1,747	3,100	1,835	3,255	36
Robert McNee Ltd, Benhar	2,364	3,100	2,482	3,255	11
S. Murray, Rockcliffe	1,583	2,150	1,663	2,258	18
John Haley, Lochan	1,200	1,200	1,260	1,260	7
Bulling Heifers	1,510	2,050	1,586	2,153	60
William Graham & Son, Craigdarroch	1,800	2,050	1,890	2,153	6
McCaig Farms, GleneIrig	1,700	1,700	1,785	1,785	2
D & A Barr, Milkieston	1,621	1,900	1,703	1,995	14
R & H McNee, Finlarg	1,600	1,600	1,680	1,680	2
Robert McNee Ltd, Benhar	1,550	1,550	1,628	1,628	2
AC & AL McCall, Culmaily	1,500	1,600	1,575	1,680	6
Paddy Crerar, Lammermuir	1,443	1,500	1,515	1,575	7
Prof W. A. Penny, Harehead	1,403	2,000	1,473	2,100	18
John Haley, Lochan	1,017	1,050	1,068	1,103	3
Grand Total	2,746	24,000	2,883	25,200	122







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LUING CATTLE SOCIETY SPRING BREEDING SALE 2023

17th May – Dingwall and Highland Mart

The Luing Cattle Society, in conjunction with Dingwall & Highland Marts Ltd. (May, 17th) sold 143 pedigree and commercial Luing cattle at their fifteenth Annual Spring Breeding Sale. Trade was brisk for increased numbers forward. Purchasers were geographically widely spread, with cattle going to Orkney and the north of England.



Pedigree bulling heifers (79) averaged £1857 and sold to a BREED RECORD top of 6000 gns, for a pair of 26 month old heifers consigned by AL & AC McCall, Culmaily, Golspie, both sired by Craigdarroch Texas. This pair also won the Best pair of Bulling heifers, judged by Mr Tom Lyth, Heatherhouse Farm, Tankerness, Orkney and sold to Paddy and Sheila Crerar, Stenton Newmains, East Lothian. Culmaily averaged £2776 for 16 bulling heifers sold, while Graeme MacRae sold 5 bulling heifers to a top of 2300 gns and an average of £2100. Gary MacKenzie, Fanblair sold 6 bulling heifers to average £2039. A small consignment of Luing In-calf heifers (4) from Rory Cameron, Monzie sold to average £1680. Similarly, a small consignment of Sim-Luing bulling heifers sold to a top of 2100 gns. Trade for younger heifers was more selective with 10 registered yearling Luing heifers from 3 different consignors averaging £898. Sim-Luing yearling heifers fared slightly better for 7 selling to average £1768 with a top of 2200 gns (Culmaily).

A significant consignment of unregistered Luing and crossbred yearling heifers was led by AL & AC McCall who continued their run, selling 6 to average £1400 and to a section top of 1700 gns. Dunalastair Estate, a first time consignor to this sale, sold 23 to average £1214, with a top of £1400 for a pair of 14 month old heifers by Monzie Shadow who will go on as breeding cows with Messers Crewe, Lockerbie.

Bulls (9) sold to a top of 5500gns and averaged £3138. Top priced bull, Blarghour Argyll, consigned by Mr J Macpherson, sired by Nunnerie Xecutive and out of Mitchelhill Lorraine H73. Blarghour is away to bull pedigree cows Paddy and Sheila Crerar, Stenton Newmains, East Lothian. Second top priced bull at 4800 gns, Blarghour Argyll Chieftain, will also go to bull pedigree cows at Messers Wilson, Geltsdale, Brampton, Cumbria.



Sale Statistics

	Average (gns)	Average (£)	Top (gns)	Number
Luing Bulling Heifers	1,769	1,857	6,000	79
AL & AC McCall (Culmaily)	2,644	2,776	6,000	16
Mr Graeme MacRae (Kintail)	2,000	2,100	2,300	5
Mr G. MacKenzie (Fanblair)	1,942	2,039	2,100	6
Mr. S.A. Nairn (Glenlivet)	1,800	1,890	2,000	14
Mrs C. Lamont (Glenelg)	1,550	1,628	1,550	2
Mr F. Scott Renwick (Lochbroom)	1,517	1,593	1,550	3
Mr Rory Cameron (Monzie)	1,469	1,542	1,700	8
R. W. Durham & Partners (Scotsburn)	1,430	1,502	1,450	5
Mrs. K.A. Tindall (Bracadale)	1,367	1,435	1,500	3
Mr S. Cadzow (Luing)	1,186	1,245	1,400	14
Welbeck Scottish Farms (Welbeck)	1,117	1,173	1,200	3



	Average (gns)	Average (£)	Top (gns)	Number
Luing Bulls	2,989	3,138	5,500	9
Mr J MacPherson (Blarghour)	5,150	5,408	5,500	2
AL & AC McCall (Culmaily)	2,500	2,625	2,800	2
Messrs P & A Bakker (Altnaharra)	2,400	2,520	2,800	2
Mr David J McLaughlin (Benclaitair)	2,400	2,520	2,400	1
Mr F.Scott Renwick (Lochbroom)	2,200	2,310	2,400	2
Luing In-Calf Heifers	1,600	1,680	1,600	4
Mr Rory Cameron (Monzie)	1,600	1,680	1,600	4
Luing Yearling Heifers	855	898	900	10
Mr. J. Haley (Lochan)	870	914	900	5
Mr Rory Cameron (Monzie)	850	893	900	4
Welbeck Scottish Farms (Welbeck)	800	840	800	1
Sim-Luing Bulling Heifers	2,100	2,205	2,100	1
Mr G. MacKenzie (Fanblair)	2,100	2,205	2,100	1
Sim-Luing Yearling Heifers	1,564	1,643	2,200	7
AL& AC McCall (Culmaily)	1,683	1,768	2,200	6
Welbeck Scottish Farms (Welbeck)	850	893	850	1
Unregistered Luing and Crossbred Yearling Heifers	1,170	1,228	1,700	33
AL & AC McCall (Culmaily)	1,333	1,400	1,700	6
Dunalastair Estate (Dunalastair)	1,157	1,214	1,400	23
Messers McCall	1,150	1,208	1,150	1
Welbeck Scottish Farms (Welbeck)	950	998	950	3
Total				143



Culmaily Heifers - Dingwall top price pair

LUING CATTLE SOCIETY AUTUMN BREEDING SALE 2023

28th October – United Auctions, Stirling



The Luing Cattle Society held their 50th Autumn Breeding Sale at United Auctions, Stirling, on Saturday 28th October, where a tremendous standard across all types were in demand, meeting a 100% clearance. The offering included consignments from regular consignors and two dispersals from Messrs Young, Balintore and Messrs Haley, Lochan, plus a batch of unregistered yearling heifers consigned by Dunalastair Estate, Pitlochry.



Champion Pair of In-Calf Heifers from Robert McNee Ltd - 3,400gns

The top priced pair of heifers realised 3400 gns apiece, and were a pair of Sim-Luing in-calf heifers consigned by Andrew McNee and family from Woodend Farm, Armadale, West Lothian. This pair of $2^{1}/_{2}$ yr old heifers by Finlarg Hendry, were purchased by Messers Thomson, Wester Tulloch, Midmar, Aberdeenshire. Robert McNee Ltd also sold their first Sim-Luing in-calf pair to a second top of 3100 gns and are also away to the same home. Messrs McNee, Woodend sold 12 to average 2992 gns, the top average of the day. Colin Little, East Bracklinn also sold 12 to average 2383 gns, and to a top of £3000 for a pair of heifers sired by Castle Rednock Innes, and due in March to a Limousin bull. Messrs McGowan, Dirnanean, sold 5 Sim-Luing in-calf heifers to an average of 2200 gns. Overall, 29 Sim-Luing incalf heifers averaged 2603 gns, and increase of 415 gns on the year.

A small consignment of registered Luing in-calf heifers (11) got the sale off to a flying start, with a consignment of 10 cracking heifers from Messrs Raper, Todholes, Otterburn, which averaged 2550 gns. This batch topped the section at 3000 gns for a pair of polled heifers by Culmaily Sheamus, in calf to a homebred bull, and are away to Messrs Ingleby, Malling Farm, Stirling. Luing bulling heifers were also up on the year, selling to a top of 2800 gns, and to average 1932 gns for 76 sold, an increase of 620 gns on the year. The top priced bulling heifer pair was consigned by C.C. MacArthur & Co, Nunnerie, and were sired by Harehead Walker. Nunnerie sold 13 heifers to average 2077 gns. Top average among the bulling heifers belonged to Messrs Renwick, Blackhouse who sold 11 to average 2482 gns and to a top of 2700 for their first pair sired by Finlarg Yukon, and purchased by Messrs Hunter, Dalchirla. Messrs Graham, Craigdarroch, sold 11 to average 2000 gns and to a top of 2500 gns for a trio sired by Harehead Yogi, who was purchased at the online sale held through Wallets Marts in Feburary 2021 for 15,500 gns. David and Andrew Barr, Milkieston, also sold 11 to average an equivalent 2000 gns, selling to a top of 2200 gns for a trio of polled heifers, purchased by Messrs Clarkson, Woodlands, Biggar. Una Hodge, Kirkland, Kirkconnel sold 15 bulling heifers to average 1707 gns, and to a top of 2300 gns for her first pair sired by homebred Kirkland Yeoman.

A reduced number of Sim-Luing Bulling heifers were forward compared with the previous year (67), but the 2023 total (24) sold to average 1875 gns and to a top of 2650 gns, an increase of 555 gns on the year. Messers Halligan and Burke, Nether Stewarton, Peebles once again achieved the best average of this section, selling 5 to average 2280 gns and a top of 2650 gns for a pair, purchased by Messers Meiklem & Sons, Lochran, Blairadam, Kelty. Mrs C.M. Reid of Boreland Farm, Peebles, had the next best herd average at 1915 gns for a batch of 10 heifers, that topped 2050 gns for a trio of Teviot Glenfiddich sired heifers, which were purchased by Messrs Innes, Dunscroft, Aberdeenshire. The remaining lots of Sim-Luing Bulling heifers were level and solid trade for smaller lots, topped by 4 heifers consigned by the Woodlands Trust (Janet Pringle) at 1800 gns.

The first of two dispersals, consigned by Chris Young of the Balintore prefix, dispersed their herd of Luing cows with calves at foot, and auctioneer Raymond Kennedy fielded brisk bidding for this well bred group of 25 mixed age cows. The best of these was a 2018 born 4th



calver with Benhar Woody sired steer calf foot, and back in calf to the same bull, selling to 2700 gns. In total 25 cows and calves sold to average 2050 gns, and 10 Luing bulling heifers sold to average 1560 gns, and to a top of 2000 gns.

The second dispersal, consigned by John Haley, Lochan, also enjoyed brisk trading, where 24 cows with spring born calves averaged 1937 gns, with a top of 2900 gns. The best of this herd was Floors X35, a 2018 born 4th calver with an april born heifer calf at foot by Kirkland Zavi, who went home with Messrs Laidlaw & Son, Craigannet Farm, Carronbridge.

A consignment of unregistered bulling heifers (eligible for registration) (11) from new vendors, Dunalastair Estate, Pitlochry, had a top of 1750 gns and averaged a pleasing 1614 gns for the batch, split between 4 different buyers.

Summary and Averages

COLLECTIVE SALE

	Average Price (gns)	Average Price (£)	Top (gns)	Number Sold
Luing In-Calf Heifers	2,495	2,620	3,000	11
Mr J Raper	2,550	2,678	3,000	10
R & M Whiteford	1,950	2,048	1,950	1
Luing Bulling Heifers	1,932	2,028	2,800	76
Mr Billy Renwick	2,482	2,606	2,700	11
Mr A J MacArthur	2,077	2,181	2,800	13
Mr D. Barr	2,000	2,100	2,200	11
Messrs W Graham & Son	2,000	2,100	2,500	11
Mrs. U. Hodge	1,707	1,792	2,300	15
Messrs A.R. Mundell & Son	1,600	1,680	1,600	3
Mr C J Young	1,560	1,638	2,000	10
R & M Whitefordl	1,250	1,313	1,250	2
Luing Yearling Heifers	805	846	850	11
Mr N.H. Horsfall	805	846	850	11
Registered Luing Cows	1,233	1,295	1,400	3
A & M Whiteford	1,400	1,470	1,400	2
R & M Whiteford	900	945	900	1
Sim-Luing In-Calf Heifers	2,603	2,734	3,400	29
Mr Andrew McNee	2,992	3,141	3,400	12
Mr C Little	2,383	2,503	3,000	12
Messrs Finlay McGowan	2,200	2,310	2,200	5
Sim-Luing Bulling Heifers	1,875	1,969	2,650	24
Mr M. Halligan	2,280	2,394	2,650	5
Mrs C.M. Reid	1,915	2,011	2,050	10
Mr C J Young	1,900	1,995	1,900	1
The Woodlands Trust Scotland	1,763	1,851	1,800	4
A & M Whiteford	1,450	1,523	1,450	2
R & M Whiteford	1,300	1,365	1,300	2
Unregistered Luing Bulling Heifers	1,614	1,694	1,750	11
Dunalastair Estate	1,614	1,694	1,750	11
Total				165

DISPERSAL SALES

	Average Price (gns)	Average Price (£)	Top (gns)	Number Sold
Dispersal Luing Cows	1,994	2,094	2,900	49
Mr C J Young	2,050	2,153	2,700	25
Mr. J. Haley	1,937	2,034	2,900	24
Dispersal Luing In-Calf Heifers	1,967	2,065	2,000	3
Mr. J. Haley	1,967	2,065	2,000	3
Total				52



Benhar

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CADZOW BROS 5th ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE 2023

11th November – United Auctions, Oban

Cadzow Bros, Isle of Luing held their 5th annual production sale at Oban, conducted by United Auctions on Saturday 11th November, where 106 head sold to an overall average of 1913 gns, an increase of 450 gns on the year. Averages for all types of females were on par with last year's trade, and once again brisk bidding saw the lots disperse widely across the UK and Wales. Rising 2 year old purebred heifers in calf to a variety of Luing genetics, due in spring 2023, were most keenly sought after averaging 2597 gns for 30 sold, an increase of 1182 gns on the year. The top price for in calf heifers peaked at 3100 gns twice, the first of these was Luing Arduling B59, a february 2022 born daughter of Luing Rambler. She sold in calf to Luing Zenith, due March 2024, selling to Messers Dodd, Tundergarth Mains, Lockerbie. The second to reach 3100 gns was Luing Ardluing B81, a red March 2022 born Wooplaw Thor daughter. This one had Luing Crusader on her dam's side, selling in calf to Luing Zenith, and was also purchased by Messrs Dodd, Tundergarth Mains, Lockerbie.



Pair of Bulling Heifers

Summary Statistics

Bulling heifers were a buoyant trade, averaging 1532 gns, up 407 gns on last year, and for 53 sold. The top priced bulling heifers at 2000 gns for 3 different lots went to Messers Dodd again, with the other two away to Northern Ireland with Messrs Maginn. These spring 2022 born heifers were sired by homebred bulls, Luing X-Am, Luing Wallaby and Luing Yoda.

Of the 5 bulls entered, only one found a new home. Luing Bennett, a February 2022 Luing Rambler son, realised 5000 gns and is away for pedigree work at Messrs Atkinson, Penrith.

The best of the cows on offer was an in-calf second calver, Luing Bardrishaig Z45. She sold back in calf and due in the spring to Luing Axle and is away to Messers Jardine, Dumfries. Twenty-two cows sold to average 1662 gns, with a top of 2600 gns, a lift of 693 gns on the year.



Luing Bennet SV - 5,000 gns

	Average (gns)	Average (£)	Top (gns)	Number
Luing In-Calf Heifers	2,597	2,727	3,100	30
Luing Bulling Heifers	1,532	1,609	2,000	53
Luing Cows	1,757	1,845	2,600	22
Luing Bulls	5,000	5,250	5,000	1
Total	1,913	2,008		106



FINLARG HERD



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26

Luings

Out 'n About – Portmore Estate





Stephen Little, Farm Manager, Portmore Estate

Portmore Estate is nestled against the breathtaking backdrop of Portmore Loch, and the estate is owned by the Reid family. The farming enterprise contributes to most of the running of the estate, also incorporating a family shoot, and Portmore Loch is let to a fishing syndicate. Mrs Reid has a beautiful garden, which is very much Mrs. Reid's pride and joy. The garden is open in the summer months and all proceeds go towards charity.

Prior to me coming to Boreland, I worked with Luings when I managed Upper Chatto Farm for 11 years and a couple of years helping Rory Bell with the Plenderleith herd, when I was selfemployed. At this time, I also served 3 years on the Luing Council, where I met many good friends through the Society.

I have been at Portmore Estate for 5¹/₂ years as working farm manager at the main farm, Boreland, and this is where I live. Portmore Estate covers 3400 acres and is located in the Moorfoot Hills. It rises to over 2000ft, with a mix of black heather hill, some good mixed grazing, improved pastures and good ground for winter fodder, which is limed and tested annually. There are 30-35 acres of fodder rape sown for fattening lambs, along with large owned areas of forestry and mixed woodland, managed by Scottish Woodlands.

My team round me are Ryan Brotherstone, stockman, and local freelancer Frazer Smith helps out in busy periods. My Partner Suzanne runs the farm office and our sons Matthew and Rory help with lambing and around the Estate in the summer.

Previously, the estate used to comprise of two farms. Westloch was sold and the farming enterprise was condensed solely to Boreland



Tillyrie Van Damme



Farm which initiated a transition of both the cattle and sheep systems. The sheep enterprise consists of 1420 hill North Country Cheviot Ewes, 800 are bred pure with the rest to the traditional Bluefaced Leicester and Suffolk x Beltex tups. A further 120 Cheviot Mule Ewes are put to the Suffolk Tup. We marketed over 400 breeding ewe lambs last year and we sell around 15, 2shr Cheviot tups at Lockerbie and Longtown.

The Luings have been a valuable addition to the estate, being outwintered they have really improved the hill grazing for the sheep. Having bought females for 4 or 5 years to build up numbers, we are now a closed herd and are reaping the benefits, especially for the sheep enterprise. The herd currently stands at 73 cows and heifers going to the bull this year, and intend to maintain the herd at this level going forward.

Approximately half will go to the Simmental and the rest to pure Luing bulls. The main stock bull is Tillyrie Van Damme, with a few going to a home bred bull, Portmore Aristrocrat, who's dam was was a 15 year old Craigdarroch cow and his sire is Craigdarroch Vamp. The cows that go to the Simmental are served by the main stock bull, Teviot Glenfiddich which we purchased this year, along with another 15- month-old bull from the Teviot herd, called Ntamack.

The build up of the herd over the last 5 years, has come about from purchases of bulling heifers and a couple of cows at the GlenLyon dispersal sale. We have been selling Sim-Luing bulling heifers at the Autumn Breeding Sale at United Auctions, and have enjoyed good averages over the last 5 years. Pure bred Luing males are largely marketed through the Society, off farm. There are few Tillyrie Van Damn bull calves kept this year, and if a couple make it that's fine, but breeding quality commercial females and steers is our objective.



The majority of Luing steers are fattened on grazing and concentrate feed and go through Highland Meats, while the remainder come inside for a short time on silage and concentrate. Steers averaged 330kg dead weight by the end of November last year (18-20 Months old). A number of Simmental sired steers are finished along with the Luings, and the remainder go to St. Boswells through the store ring.



The calves are weaned mid-November, and they come in onto good quality pit silage and start off on a couple of kilos of concentrate, increasing slightly over the winter, and are on straw bedding. When they go back to grass, they are used very much as a management tool, in smaller groups.

My ideal Luing female is medium stature, and with good thickness, maintaing her flesh through the winter on the hill. She has a nice sweet head with good female traits and a broad muzzle to help her foraging ability on the hill. Also, she has to be good on her legs and feet with a great temperament. Retained females will have a good wide pelvis with a high fertility rate (last year 63 cows and heifers scanned, all in calf, with 5 sets of twins) and tight udder is essential. These traits are beneficial because we are calving as well as lambing at the same time, so less time calving and suckling calves makes life a lot easier as everything is calved outside.

The cows are drawn to selected bulls and are used very much for grassland management for tiding up the fields over the summer. After weannig, mid november, the cows are split into two groups, treated for fluke, worms and ticks



and returned to the hills. Depending on the winter, the cows are just fed minerals and left to utilise the hill roughage until around Christmas time, when we start to feed haylage with a bale unwinder every second day. The cows receive loose minerals over winter and calving tubs 6 weeks prior to calving, with a few mag rolls used post calving.

The Luings on Portmore significantly contribute to keeping fertilizer, feed and straw costs down, while really helping to manage grazing. They are very comfortable on hill grazing, even when outwintered, and are contributing to our environmental diversity on the estate. The current number will remain similar as we feel this is the right balance to run along side the sheep enterprise.

Our strategy includes the Luing because we think the Luing cow has a promising future. Subsidy payments are uncertain over the next few years, and she can be kept very frugally but still leaves a very good profit margin.





Carbon Audit Case Study – Luing Suckler Herd

The carbon footprint below is based on a 22 hill spring suckler herd of Luing cattle located in the North of England. This is a supplementary enterprise to the main farm. The ground is 100ha of rough grazing, 1400ft above sea level, which is currently enlisted in Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier options, which limit the management and stocking density of the cattle. The cattle are at grass year-round, with male calves, and females not intended to enter the breeding herd sold at six months of age. The farm has one Luing stock bull. Due to the land type, the grassland cannot be reseeded, no fertiliser or lime can be applied. The cattle receive a payment from Defra under the Native **Breed Scheme.**

A carbon audit has been carried out on farm to determine how efficient the cattle are, given the land type and conditions the cattle live off. A carbon audit was carried out using the programme Agrecalc which is a whole farm carbon auditing tool. The carbon audit can break down the efficiency of the Luing herd based on enteric fermentation, manure management, fertiliser, purchased feed, purchased bedding, fuel, electricity and other (crop residues, lime, transport, and waste). These figures are benchmarked against other beef enterprises. and in this case against another 295 suckler herd farms across England and Scotland (various breeds, location, and topography). The table below displays how well this herd of Luing cattle have performed expressed as kg of CO2 equivalent (e)/ kg of deadweight (dwt). The opportunity level suggests whether the farm is producing less emissions or more in that category. If emissions from the enterprise are lower than the comparisons the opportunity level will show as 'Low', if emissions for the enterprise are up to and including 25% higher, the opportunity will be 'Medium', and where emissions are more than 25% higher the opportunity level with be 'High'. Areas which are flagged as a high opportunity level suggest this could be an area where management could be improved to bring down the emissions associated with this category. Low opportunity level suggests a good job in this sphere.

Luings

Carbon is closely related to the profitability of the farm. The higher the output (animal sales) with fewer inputs (feed, fertiliser etc), the lower the carbon footprint, and generally the higher profit margin.

	* kg CO₂e/ kg dwt	Opportunity Level	Comparison
Enteric Fermentation	37.32	Medium	30.01
Manure Management	12.01	Medium	9.70
Fertiliser	0	Low	4.47
Purchased Feed	1.89	Low	3.48
Purchased Bedding	0	Low	0.59
Feed	0.16	Low	1.23
Electricity	0	Low	0.04
Other	0	Low	1.10
Total Emissions **	51.38	Medium	50.33
Other: crop residues, lime, transport and waste			



Enteric Fermentation

Enteric fermentation is the amount of methane produced in the digestion of feed by ruminant livestock. The diet of the cattle will influence this number. On this farm, per 1kg of dwt emits 37.32kg of CO2 e. Factors that influence this number include the animal's diet and general animal performance. The nutritional quality of the grassland is poor due to being rough grazing, which will result in a low digestibility value (D value) of the feed, causing a significant proportion of the feed to be inaccessible to digestion. Therefore, additional feed will need to be sourced to ensure animal requirements are met and performance is not compromised. Enteric fermentation is also altered significantly by average liveweight and number of livestock. Generally, the better the livestock performance, emissions per kg output from this source should be lower. This farm achieved a calving percentage of 95%; however if this number were to be lower, we would expect the emissions to increase as there is less output to dilute these input emissions over. Due to the good calving percentage, and low mortality on this farm (0%) a good enteric fermentation value has been achieved, despite the poor land type. Calves on this farm typically achieved a daily liveweight gain (DLWG) of 0.9kg/day. If this figure were to increase the enteric fermentation would reduce further as animals will either be sold sooner or be mated earlier.

Manure Management

Manure management is methane from manure production and storage (ruminant and monogastric). This relates to how the manure is deposited on the farm, i.e. where livestock are kept and proportion of time in each situation, e.g. liquid slurry, slats, FYM, deep bedding, in bye grazing or rough grazing. Given that these animals are outside year-round all manure is deposited on the ground at source. Consequently, manure applications cannot be tailored to grass/ crop requirements, nor stored until it is required. There will be a higher level of volatilisation, leaching and run-off from deposited or applied manures. If the cattle were housed the manure could be stored and handled in a more efficient manner which would result in a better manure management emissions result. However, housing cattle may require bedding and electricity etc which may lift emissions in other areas.

Fertiliser

This block of land receives no fertiliser, and therefore has zero emissions associated with this, and as a result has a low opportunity level. Although fertiliser is not a practical option on this land due to topography and the current environmental scheme, in other situations efficient fertiliser usage can enhance the carbon footprint and be economically viable on a beef farm to increase crop productivity. Fertiliser applications can lift the yield of grass crops which would reduce the reliance of bought in forage, and the need for compound feed. To gauge the effectiveness of fertiliser within a farming system, it would be beneficial to carry out a 'what if' scenario to monitor a positive or negative response upon whole farm carbon equivalent emissions and profitability. If the emissions from fertiliser are high it would suggest that its use is not as efficient as it could be, and implementing management techniques such as nutrient management plans, variable rate application etc should be adopted.

Purchased Feed

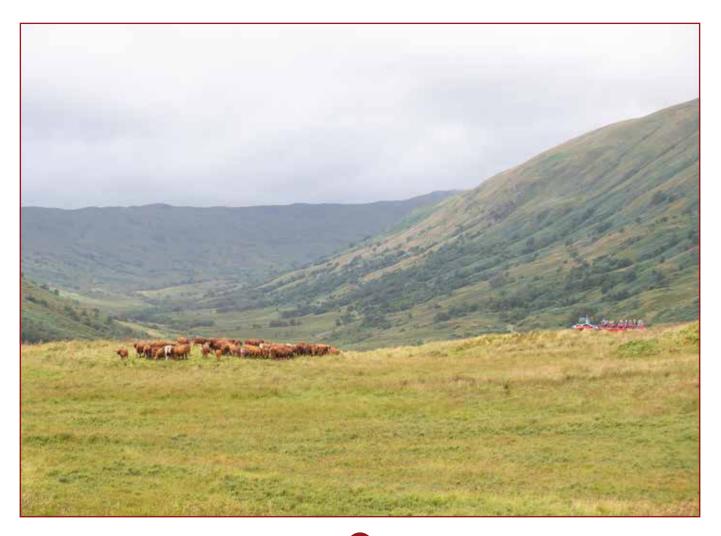
The Luing cattle on this farm emit 1.89kg CO2 e for every 1kg of dwt, generating a low opportunity level. Due to these cattle being able to utilise grass efficiently for growth and reproduction, there is a low requirement for purchased feed. Farmers which can produce all their own suckler feed, e.g. grass, barley, beans etc, will have a low value associated with purchased feed. Therefore, to improve this value farmers should look to maximise grass quality and yield, potentially through frequent reseeds, and aiming to take multiple cuts of silage. However, on this particular farm, grass quality is restricted by topography and environmental schemes.

Purchased Bedding

Due to the cattle being at grass year-round, there is no emissions associated with bedding. Farms where cattle are housed on straw bedding will have a higher level of emissions associated with bedding compared to those on slats/cubicles. Therefore, if these cattle were to be housed it would be encouraged to have them on a slurrybased system.

Fuel, Electricity and Other

The Luing cattle have low levels of emissions associated with fuel, electricity, and emissions. Roughly 2001 of fuel is used to check the cattle annually. If the cattle were housed, and if silage/ hay was made on farm this number would be significantly higher due to a greater reliance upon machinery. Similarly, as cattle are not housed there is no requirement for lighting, resulting in a zero figure for electricity emissions. On farms where cattle are housed the choice of lighting can greatly reduce the emissions associated with electricity. If light bulbs were 100% efficient all electrics would be converted to light with no heat production. Generally, LED bulbs are 90% efficient, compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) bulbs 85% efficient, but incandescent bulbs are only 10% efficient. Therefore, farmers should look





to replace inefficient light sources with those which are more efficient and result in better task lighting. Total Emissions

The total emissions are a sum of the emissions from each category. The Luing herd in this particular enterprise have a total emission of 51.38 CO2 e for every 1kg of dwt, which from the opportunity level suggest this is a standard figure. Although the overall carbon footprint is not in the low category, the key message here is that the Luing cattle can be comparable to many suckler farms whilst utilising poor unproductive ground on which other breeds would be unable to perform.

Carbon Audits for You

If you are interested in how a carbon audit can promote efficiencies on your farm, please contact myself, Olivia Ward at SRUC/SAC. Using the Future Farm Resilience Fund, it may be possible to carry out carbon audits free of charge on your farm.

> Olivia Ward 07584 386091 olivia.ward@sac.co.uk



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Luings

Unlock the Potential of Your Herd with Epigenetics



Jill Hunter, Beef & Sheep Nutritionist

At the end of World War 2, Germany sought revenge on the Dutch who had not helped their war effort, by blockading Holland. This meant food and fuel supplies were limited, resulting in restricted food intake, with calorie intakes dropping as low as 500 per day and poor living conditions across the country. By the following spring, allied forces regained control and with it, diets and living conditions were very quickly back to 'normal'. However, the consequences of the famine would live on.

The consequences were longest lived for babies which were **conceived** during the famine. The Dutch kept meticulous records, meaning babies were followed for the rest of their lives. In a family where the first sibling was conceived before and another conceived during the famine, but were then raised the same, the second sibling was generally more susceptible to ill health; obesity, high blood pressure, heart disease and schizophrenia. Whereas parents and other siblings went on to have reasonably 'normal' lives.

This shows nutrition and stress at point of conception has an influence throughout the offspring's entire life. This is the concept of 'Epigenetics' in practise.

The same is true when we consider bulling and by getting our management and nutrition right just before and throughout bulling, we can influence which performance genes are switched on and how this goes on to enhance overall lifetime performance of the subsequent calves.

According to the most up to date AHDB figures, **18%** of suckler cows in the UK are not producing a calf each year.

Sometimes reality is difficult to face, however if we want to improve as an industry, we need to know the start point. We're being constantly reminded to 'increase efficiency' and 'reduce carbon footprint' to 'be more sustainable'. There can be confusion and jargon around sustainability, but surely the best thing we can do to improve the sustainability AND ultimately the profitability of our herds is to carry less passengers. More cows in calf, having a calf every year on their birthday and rearing calves with as little input as possible, is surely the ambition of most breeders? More live calves means more to show and more to sell, after all.

Luings

To supplement suckler cows with the vitamin and mineral package to allow them to benefit from this positive epigenetic effect in their calves, along with getting more cows in calf and more calves on the ground, it would be fair to budget £30-35 per cow for the year.

Super Suckler SEC mineral pack has been used for more than 10 years across Scotland and is available as a lick bucket, as a powdered mineral or as cow rolls.

The key focus is on:

• Supporting immunity through supplying selenium in an organic form like Sel-plex, which is absorbed into the body as though it's a protein, meaning it gets into colostrum and milk to help newborns keep warm, boost the immune system and get calves off to a good start.

• Looking after the long-term health of the cow, her pregnancy and the calf on the ground by having the right level of vitamin E and antioxidants, along with all the essential macro minerals such as magnesium and calcium to avoid grass staggers, slow calvings and retained cleansings.

• Boosting fertility in a range of ways, including the right level of copper and from a source which has a positive impact on rumen health and is not affected by molybdenum (which can lock up copper on some farms).

Of course, mineral supply and requirements differ between geographic areas and even farm to farm. As part of the nutrition service at Harbro, a forage mineral analysis can be carried out to determine what is being provided by your forage and the recommended feed rate of Super Suckler SEC mineral can be tailored for your herd. This is supplied alongside a nutrition and management plan to help maximise fertility. Occasionally, a bespoke mineral is required to bridge the gap between supply and requirement.

So, here's my challenge to you: Could a Harbro fertility master plan help you to unlock the potential of your herd this year?

Luings Feature in Orkney Herds



Whilst the Luing breed was developed on the west coast of Scotland, their influence and popularity has spread far and wide, and up on Orkney they have filled a niche on the hills and cliffs of this isolated island in the middle of the North Sea. On an island which prides itself on the quality of its cattle, Orkney is the ideal home for these hardy cattle, which can not only survive, but thrive in any of the adverse conditions from the sea-shore to the mountain tops that Orkney can throw at them, and it can certainly throw some!

Over the past twenty years there have been several herds established up here and the current Chairman of the breed, Stewart Wood, was one of the first to introduce Luing cattle here when he bought his first heifers over in 2007 and establishing the Garson herd, after being impressed with quality at Benhar. He decided to buy some heifers with calves at foot from Benhar and incalf heifers from the Castle Douglas sale after hearing good things about the breed. They went for a lowland type of cow, which they felt would suit their type of system at Garson, good on their feet, mobile and with good maternal lines, all in all, a good native suckler cow.

Garson Farm runs to some 500 acres on the mainland of Orkney and rent further 100 acres with Stewart the 4th generation farming here after his great grandfather moved there in 1908. He farms with son Gareth with his Grandson, Ruari, showing an interest also, where they run 170 cattle, with the Luing cattle at the heart of the business. They are building the Luing females up, currently running around 50 cattle pure whilst others are run with the Simmental bull, producing Sim-Luing suckler cows, of which they run around 100. The Sim-Luing females are then bulled with a Charolais bull, producing quality, easy fleshed calves with good DLWG. Theses calves are sold at 12-14 months old as stores through Orkney Auction Mart in Kirkwall, bought by finishing units in Aberdeenshire, who appreciate the quality and

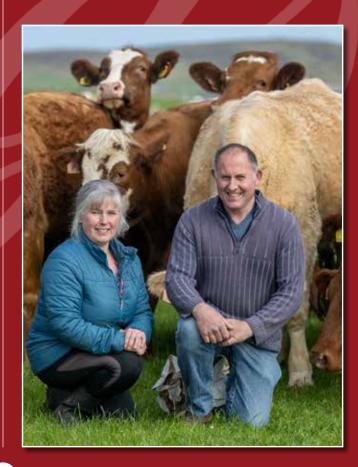




performance of these cattle. Anything sired by a Luing or Simmental bull is kept entire and sold as bull beef at 12-13-month-old, selling via ABP on the deadweight grid. Stewart feels that the Luing cattle provide the perfect type of suckler cow, which combines hardiness with productivity, converting forage well, especially with an emphasis on the maternal lines, which are passed on to their progeny.

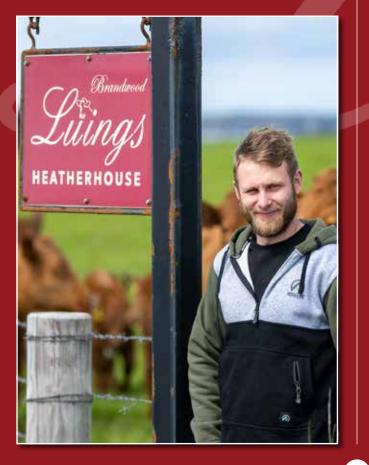
Another breeder who brought Luings across to Orkney, ironically came from even further North, as Brian Ridland and his partner Fiona moved there in 2008 with their son Campbell, who was 5 at the time. Brian and Fiona established themselves on the rugged island of Orkney as innovators and leaders within the agricultural scene on the island and further afield. They run two farms on Orkney with Aikerness around 400 acres, which has within its fences the Broch of Gurness, an iron age village. In 2022, after managing it for five years they had the chance to purchase the Hall of Clestrian, an 1800-acre farm, comprising quite a bit of hill ground as well as plenty of sound inbye too, running down to the sea and with excellent views of Hoy just over the water. Clestrian also came with its own backstory, famous for being the birthplace of Victorian explorer John Rae, who helped discover the North West Passage and find the fate of the Franklin expedition. The couple run the farm together along with a full time worker, and Campbell help too when he is not working in the oil industry, a major employer on the Islands. The Silwick herd had previously been established on Shetland back in 2002, after Brian's brother had seen some at an open day and recommended Luing. When they made their move to Orkney the cattle came with them and they now form the backbone of the buisness, running 60 pure Luings which are split between

Luing and Simmental bulls, with a further 120 Sim-Luings running with the Charolais bull. They find that these cattle, all going back to the Luing on the maternal side, thrive well off grass, with Charolais sired calves out of Sim-Luing females selling at 11 months old, weighing up to 420kgs. All the bullocks are sold as stores in the spring, coming up to a year old, at the local Kirkwall market and in Thainstone. They used to sell some Sim-Luing breeding heifers, but now keep them, where they fit in well on the hill farm, and have helped increase their numbers.





In 2011 the Luing Society held a hugely successful open day which was jointly hosted at Garson and Aikerness with well over 200 visitors turning up from all over the UK as well as many local Orcadians, all interested to see how the Luings were faring in the middle of the North Sea. Many eyes were opened to the quality that Luing cattle offered, with their versatile ability to raise a strong calf and do well off marginal grass, an important factor in these outlying places, where bought in feed is so much more expensive. One of those who made the trip to the open day was Tom Lythe from Rossendale, deepest, darkest, Lancashire. He, along with his parents, had bought their first Luing cattle in 2005 and were running 20-30 pure cattle on the moors down there. He came to the open day and fell in love with the island, vowing one day to return and farm full time. His chance came in 2017 when he spotted an advert in a paper for Heather House Farm, a 280 acre unit near Tankerness on the Orkney mainland. Opportunities like this don't







come along often so Tom along with his parents didn't hesitate to take the plunge, moving up as soon as they could push the purchase through. He is now running just over 100 head of cattle plus followers, with around 50 pure cattle running alongside 50 Sim-Luings. Tom finds that both the Luing and the Sim-Luing bullocks grow and fatten well off the grass without the need for much extra feed, and this trait helps their profitablility, turning grass into weight, selling pure bullocks deadweight at weights of up to 650kgs inside 18 months. His focus at the moment, is on breeding his own quality replacements, with an eye on the maternal lines, as well as looking to selling a few bulls in the future, either locally or making the big trip to Castle Douglas someday. He is also looking at selling some pure heifers at the Dingwall sale at some stage too. The Sim-Luing bullocks are sold store through Kirkwall auction mart, and as the other breeders testified, they are sought after by finishers for their ability to flesh up quickly. Surplus heifers are sold privately and are also through Aberdeen and Dingwall, where again they are popular as they have built up a great reputation for being good, reliable suckler cattle.

Tom feels that one of the main strengths of the Luing breed isn't just the cattle, as good as they are, but also the Society too. Tom views the Society as a big family, where everyone knows each other and is willing to help each other too. The Society has a strong social side of sales in particular, where breeders all have the best interest of the breed at heart, confident in the knowledge that the stock they produce will go on and thrive, no matter what the weather or even the state of farming in general...the Luing cow will face it all head on and come out the other side thriving, and if cows could, smiling too.



Cadzow Isle of Luing, Oban

A SAC ELITE I "Robust, predictable "Commercially pressu

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Out 'n About -WildLuing

Luings

Diversifying into focus on Nature and Tourism compliments the Luings on Luing

Farm

On the farm, we have just had our 5th 'Luings from Luing' production sale in the United Auctions livestock market in Oban. The Luing cattle continue to go from strength to strength and it was truly great to see many of the Luing Cattle community as well as plenty of new faces from all over the UK. Over the last few months, Jo, Chris & Bobby have been trialling different grazing methods and investigating the benefits of regenerative mob grazing for both soils and grasses.

As many may have seen, we have been working with the Norwegian GPS virtual fencing system called Nofence. After some initial training with a single wire fence, the cattle responded well to the collars and after just a couple of days they were out of the training area and back out onto the hill ground moving as a herd from 'virtual' pasture to pasture allowing the ground to get some recovery time before the stock returns. In conjunction with some conventional mob grazing, we've been seeing multiple benefits, not only with fodder volume and quality, but with improved pregnancy rates and greater efficiency during the calving periods as well. We initially tested the theory on the ArdLuing herd which Jo looks after and have subsequently begun trialling mob grazing across the entire herd with a view to improving our pasture quality and soil organic matter. Ultimately, from an agribusiness point of view, the desire is to reduce our dependency on artificial and mechanical inputs and consequently improve financial efficiency.



Nature Restoration Fund



This year we began collaboration plans with NatureScot using their Nature Restoration Fund. We named the project 'Turning the Tide', and it aims to rebuild diversity and restore nature across the landscape of Luing and Scarba. We received a full funding pledge and have already begun the work with an aim of finishing by spring 2025. The initial phases of the project include the creation of a wetland area and wildlife corridors. The Wetland area will comprise of shallow and deeper waters over a couple of acres which will allow multiple insect, bird and aquatic species to thrive. Surrounding the water, a stock fence will be put in place, and we plan to plant a series of native broadleaf tree to match the recent woodland creation plantations we undertook in 2021/22. Surrounding the silage parks and some of the hill ground, we are updating and installing tramline fences which have a 3 to 4m gap between them, again we plan to plant trees and hedges which will grow into ecological corridors as well as offer the land and livestock some shelter from the harsh westerly winds.

The NRF fund aims to restore species and habitats, protect our marine and coastal areas, and eradicate invasive, non-native species, as well as improving the health and wellbeing of local communities. The projects it supports take practical steps to help against the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss and restore Scotland's natural environment. Special thanks to Jenny at SRUC Oban for all her time and help putting the application together.

Shoot



The Isle of Luing shoot had also grown this year with the arrival of wee Oscar Smith, Darren (the Gamekeeper) and Alison's youngest. Darren and his team have been busy making use of scrubland and again planting trees throughout the year in areas that are less suitable for livestock. Shooting is offered from September until January and combines some exciting early season Partridge with well-presented Pheasants. We see a lot of interest from teams looking to come and stay for 2-4 days and combine driven shooting with walked up and a day's stalking or out on the boats fishing and taking in the wildlife. The shoot has proved popular and this season we're working with 14 drives and are putting on 20 driven days. The management of vermin that comes with rearing game birds has seen a fantastic uplift in native species on Luing, we've seen a marked increase in the number of Godwit, Curlew, Lapwing & Oyster Catcher as well as other migratory birds. Additionally, Hares and Otters are thriving on the island, alongside young stock in the spring.

WildLuing

The natural balance on Luing includes its herd of Luings, alongside otters and seals which are commonly found. The largest of the Slate Islands prospered in the late 19th century, when 15 quarries produced hand-cut slate that roofed buildings all over the world. But the industry dwindled after the Second World War, when slate production on the mainland became speedier and cheaper, and the guarries flooded. The island's population of more than 600 people trickled away and now only about 167 people live on Luing. Not only is there no pub but there has not been one for a century. The small village store keeps unorthodox hours. The wildlife, meanwhile - common and grey seals, red and fallow deer, otters and birdlife - is thriving. Luing is being re-established as somewhere to visit if you want to switch off, reconnect with nature and live in absolute, soulenhancing peace. During lockdown, seeking new opportunities, it was decided it was time to make a few changes.

After almost of two years of planning and construction, we opened our doors at WildLuing to guests in the Spring of 2023. WildLuing consists of 8 self-catered glamping suites which are accompanied by our pièce de résistance, The Observatory! The Observatory sits at the heart of the site and for those coming to stay in larger groups, you can take the observatory with its fully functioning kitchen, dining and living space. The open-plan Observatory is designed as WildLuing's focal point. A communal meeting area which has multiple functions, but which is primarly somewhat of a big sensory hug after the island's all-encompassing quiet. It is decorated with a huge dining table, and allaround windows overlooking Torsa bay. There



is a high-spec kitchen stretching to one side and a large, comfortable lounge to the other. Evenings are characterised by tumblers of Lussa gin or Jura whisky while the amiable WildLuing team prepare incredible suppers – which feature Luing beef, oysters from the bay, and fresh local langoustine and lobster.

With a summer of individual bookings and events, we have been working alongside charity groups like the Scottish Coastal Cleanup and have hosted a successful feast night and cook school with the brilliant Perthshire-based Ballintaggart team and have an upcoming Yoga Retreat.

Sustainability is a keyword and activities include walking, cycling, guided kayaking and sea safaris. The island is dotted with ruins and has plausible Viking graffiti. A covered Rib can take guests across to Scarba, another enigmatic island for a short walk and lunch in a bothy. The journey takes you past a sea eagle's nest, seals and otters playing, and close to the choppy waters of the legendary Corryvreckan whirlpool, which forms above an underwater pinnacle of rock. Hiking on Scarba is relatively easy, past trees clad in lichen. Heather-covered slopes plunge down into the sea, their ridges often crowned by stags. The bothy is ramshackle, but has an inviting open fire and the chef lays out a splendid lunch. Jack explains "Stags come down to the beach when they realise they are no longer king of the hills". The emphasis on Luing has altered to focus on its diversification enterprises, but these are very much in conjunction with its core farming activities, which centres around the herd of Luings. The cattle and wildlife are very much complimentary, and landscape and location lends itself extremely well to blending all these aspects.



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Luings

Director Profiles

Luings

WOOD, Stewart (Chairman) (Appointed 2021)

Stewart is married to Wilma and has two grown up sons, Gareth who now work fulltime on the farm and Chris and family have moved back to Orkney and works in the construction industry.

We farm 620 acres (95 rented) on Orkney and run a herd od 170 suckler cows, and just over 300 breeding ewes and grow 65 acres barley and 10 acres oats, all for home use. We bought our first Luings in 2007 and now have 60 cows and heifers at the bull this year with most of them bred pure to increase the numbers, there are 90 Sim-Luing crossed with the Charolais, we also have a few Angus x Luing heifers coming into the herd and seem to be performing as well, along with our small herd of Charolais cows.

Most of the cows are calved in the Spring (30 Autumn) and most of the progeny sold in the Spring. All the Luing and Sim-Luing heifers suitable for breeding are retained.

All males out of the Luing cows are left entire and finished at 13-14 months and sold dead weight. We are pleased with the weights and confirmation they are achieving, showing how versatile the Luing cow is.

Our flock of sheep consist of around 100 Cheviots crossed with the Blueface Leicester, to produce the Cheviot Mule. The remainder of the flock is now mostly Cheviot Mules, with Texel tups being the main sire for them, all lambs are finished on the farm. There are also small flocks of Texel and North Country Cheviot.

In 2011 we took the decision to diversify our business and being in Orkney with a strong tourism market we built three new self-catering cottages and opened for business in 2012.

McGOWAN, Neil

(Immediate Past Chairman)

Neil and Debbie farm in a family partnership at Incheoch, at the foot of Glenisla, home to the Dirnanean herd. Neil's parents, Finlay and Judy started in Luings with the purchase of Dirnanean farm in 1977. The current herd of about 150 cows are partly bred pure for replacements the rest crossed to produce Sim-Luings. Heifers are calved at 2yo and pure steers finished off grass at around 18 months. Incheoch is also home to a 50 cow Simmental herd and flocks of Lleyn and Texel ewes, with a ram and bull sale held on the farm. Having worked successfully with performance recording in maternal sheep, Neil was the first breeder to record Luings on the Signet system. Daughter, Tally, is studying to be a vet in Edinburgh and Angus, Agriculture in Newcastle. Neil's passion for the Luing stems from a family history with the breed, but is driven by his vision for the suckler cow of the future – where he sees Luing as the robust, maternal bull of choice for most commercial herds.

ANDERSON, Neil (Appointed 2021)

Started as farm manager at Harehead Farms in 1987, working for the late Prof Penny. We purchased our first Luing heifers at the Oban sale in February 1988. Harehead is an upland/hill suckler and sheep farm in the Lammermuir hills. We have Luing and Sim-Luing cows, along with Blackface, Cheviot, Mule, Texel and Bluefaced Leicester sheep. I enjoy selling heifers and bulls at the annual society sale at Castle Douglas, Sim x heifers with calves at UA, Stirling as well as private sales of breeding females and bulls.

GRAHAM, Billy (Appointed 2022)

Married to Fiona with two children Ruaridh 10 and Isla 8. Farmed at Craigdarroch since 2000 along with my father. We run about 1650 blackface ewes and 60 Luing cows all kept pure and out on the hill all year.

BARR, Andrew

(Appointed 2022)

Married to Nicola with two children, Isla 13 and Alistair 11. The fourth generation to farm at Milkieston near Peebles which is a 900 acre upland farm and been in the family for 100 years. In partnership with my dad David we run 110 Luing cows all bred pure with heifers being sold at the society sales at Stirling and Castle Douglas. We have 1000 ewes, 350 Blackies, 250 Lairg type Cheviots and 400 Scotch Mules.

McCALL, Ewan (Appointed 2022)

Ewan and wife Claire and their 2 children Isla (6) and Alan (3) farm at Culmaily Farm Golspie with Ewan's parents Angus and Evelyn. Culmaily extends to 600 acres with an additional 170 acres of rented grazing is home to 100 Luing and Sim Luing cows and 300 cheviot and cheviot mule sheep with 200 acres of barley grown for the malting market and some retained for feed.

After finishing a BSC honours degree at SRUC Craibstone Ewan travelled to New Zealand and Australia for almost 2 years working on farms and for contractors, returning home In 2007 to farm with his parents.

The Luing herd was started in the 1960's when Ewan's grandfather Alan farmed at Kildonan Helmsdale and then moved to Culmaily in 1971. The first bull was Luing Agent who was crossed with shorthorn crossed highland cows and progeny was then graded up to form the foundation cows.

The Luing cow suits the system at Culmaily with cows being out wintered on stubbles and then moved up onto the permanent pasture during the summer months. All cattle are spring calvers and heifers calve down at 2 years old. In recent years male Luing calves have been left entire and finished at 13/14 months. There is a closed herd policy with surplus heifers being sold at the Dingwall society sale, a few bulls are kept to also be sold at Castle Douglas and Dingwall sales.

Sim Luing calves are sold store in March through Dingwall mart and any suitable yearling Sim Luing heifers sold at the Dingwall Society sale.

McNEE, Robert (Appointed 2023)

Robert and his wife Hazel and their children Kate and Alan farm at Over Finlarg Farm, Tealing, which extends to 740 acres with some grazing ground rented. Both the sheep flock and the suckler herd are now completely closed, with only home bred replacements used for breeding tups and bulls bought at auction.

Hazel and Robert lamb 900 ewes along with 200 ewe hoggs, comprising of 600 hill type north country cheviot ewes of which 200 are bred pure and the remaining crossed to the Bluefaced Leicester for producing cheviot mules. 200 Blackie ewes are crossed with home bred crossing Bluefaced Leicester to produce scotch mules, with the result being tupped with the Texel and sold as hoggs with lambs at foot. There are also 100 pure Texels, and pedigree Bluefaced Leicesters which are used for breeding tups for home use and shearlings for the commercial market.

Over Finlarg accommodates 180 pedigree cows of which 100 are Luings and the remainder being pedigree Limousins and a few Simmentals. The Luing is ideal for our farm and we enjoy producing both pedigree Luings and Sim-Luings, selling both bulls and heifers at Stirling and Castle Douglas.

CAKEBREAD, Graham (Appointed 2023)

Along with my wife Fiona and our three children Caitlyn, Amy and Lucy we run a family partnership

at Commonside, Hawick. Commonside is a traditional tenanted hill farm that extends to 2500 acres, along with 300 acres rented nearby.

The cattle herd consists of 110 Luing cows, part of which are bulled pure to produce replacement heifers and a small number of bulls to be sold, mainly at Castle Douglas. These cows are out wintered and only come in briefly at calving. We strive to uphold the traditional maternal values of the Luing cow while also producing a marketable commercial calf. The remaining Luings are bred to the Simmental bull producing Sim-Luing bulling heifers for a regular buyer. We have also recently established a small herd of pure Simmentals.

The mainstay of the sheep enterprise is a flock of 1700 Lairg type north country cheviots, predominantly bred pure to produce saleable two shear tups and breeding stock. 400 ewes are crossed with the Blueface Leicester to breed the increasingly popular cheviot mule. A small flock of 30 pure texels produce tups for the commercial market.

McINTYRE, Finlay (Appointed 2023)

Formerly an auctioneer, Finlay is Farm Manager at Dunalastair Estate, Kinloch Rannoch, running approximately 150 Luing cows and followers. All progeny are finished on farm. Dunalastair also runs 3500 hill sheep.

RENWICK, Andrew (Appointed 2023)

Andrew farms with his father, Billy, at Craig Douglas and Blackhouse which is situated in the Yarrow Valley between Selkirk and Moffat in the Scottish Borders. The farm is an extensive hill unit rising to 2000ft . The majority of the land is hill grazing with a small amount of in-bye. The family run a total of 1300 Blackface ewes which are kept pure with around 40 tups sold each year at Stirling, Dalmally and Lanark. Andrew also runs a small flock of pedigree Texels.

Luings were first introduced to Blackhouse in 2006 from the Westwater dispersal, replacing Blue Greys. They are run as a closed herd of 50 cows with the best heifers kept for stock and the rest sold at Stirling breeding sale as bulling heifers. A few of the very best male calves are kept as bulls to be sold at Castle Douglas and the rest are castrated and sold as store around 16 months old.

Luings have been very successful at Blackhouse, their hardiness meaning they are well suited to the hill ground. They are all calved outside and their excellent temperament makes them easy to handle and they fit well into the current farming system.

NEILSON, Billy

(Appointed 2023)

Farm Manager for Dr Huntington, Bonawe Farm, Crofter and owner of Cruachan Herd. Former commissioner of the Crofting Commission. A lifetime's experience with cattle from the family dairy farm through to management of various Argyll farming units.

PRINGLE, Janet

(Appointed 2023)

Janet Pringle - I have a croft in the south end of the Isle of Skye, that is home to my own herd of cows while I currently Contact Farm at Glen Finglas, Callander for The Woodland Trust Scotland. Glen Finglas is 12,000 acres. I have been here since 2013. It is significantly important for ancient wood pasture and newer regenerative woodlands. We carry 80 spring calving Luing cows and retain all heifer calves. These calves are grown on before being sold privately and at The Society sale in Stirling during October. All cows and most young stock are outwintered. Male calves are weaned and sold store. Glen Finglas is an extensive grazing system. The cattle are here to keep the wood pastures in shape and to lessen the fire risk across the hill glens while contributing to the overall biodiversity of the place. I have help delivering the farm contacting from my partner of 25 years lan and niece Catherine. We also have a family farm in Kinross where we also keep cattle.

Glen Finglas has a small stock of sheep. There are 200 blackface and 200 cheviot cross ewes run in hill parks and on the low ground around Loch Venachar. These are lambed outside from late April onwards to coincide with the tail end of calving. The sheep form part of one of the longest hill grazing trials in Europe. This research is carried out by the James Hutton Institute, who I also do contract work for.

Cattle have been ever present in my life. Growing up on west coast hill farms I feel it is a real privilege to be continuing as many of my family have done before me. Its great to be working with the luings and involved with the society helping to promote and ensure a future for the breed.

SYMONS, Charles (Fieldsman)

Recently retired from full time farming, Charles and Mary have now moved to The Priory at Morebattle. This is a 20-acre property and Charles spends his spare time training sheepdogs. There are 3 acres of gardens to maintain so they will still be very busy. Hopefully there will be more time to dedicate to the job of Fieldsman, a job thoroughly enjoyed. When on bull inspection and cow classification duty hopefully there will be more time to have a look around herds and spend more time with members rather than the usual rush in and out. Anyone wishing to discuss anything Luing please don't hesitate to contact your fieldsman.



Luings

Open Day - Craigdarroch Farm By kind permission of the Graham family, including Una Hodge August 8th, 2023



















C<u>RAIGDARROC</u>H



This year's sale bulls, all polled (5 homozygous)

October 2023



July 2023

William Graham & Son



Craigdarroch Farm Eliock Sanquhar DG4 6LE Tel: 07920 859668



Enquiries Welcome

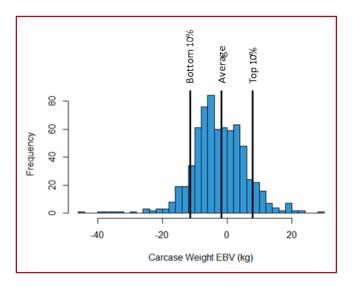




AHDB's National Beef Evaluations provide EBVs, an estimate of the genetic merit, for all breeds and crossbred cattle across the UK. As well as three maternal traits, NBE provides EBVs for five important carcase traits which allows breeders to select breeding animals to maximise profit. These traits include days to slaughter, carcase weight, EUROP conformation and fat score and average daily carcase gain. NBE uses national data sources, including BCMS and data from many of the largest abattoirs and processors, including records of over 13 million finished animals.

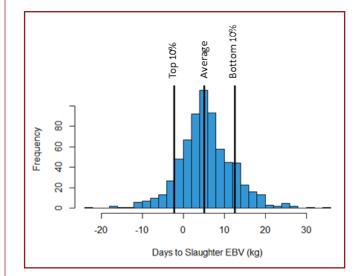
The National Beef Evaluations December publication contains carcase trait EBVs for over 49,000 Luing cattle born since 2010. This is more than double the number in the previous evaluation and this huge increase has been possible due to the new inclusion of the Luing Cattle Society pedigree data through the new performance recording initiative with Signet Breeding Services.

This graph shows the variation in carcase weight EBV across the breed, with an average of -1.8kg. From these results, we'd expect, on average, a calf from a top 10% bull to have a carcase weight around 10kg heavier than a bottom 10% bull. This has a direct impact on income from finished animals, meaning animals by these top bulls are worth around £40-£50 more at slaughter.



For days to slaughter, Luing have an average EBV of +5.2 days. For this trait, lower EBV values are more desirable as animals which finish more quickly cost less to raise. Here, the difference between top and bottom 10% sires is around 14 days, which means we'd expect the calves of top 10% bulls to finish on average 7 days earlier

than those by bottom 10% bulls. The value of these saved days varies for different farms, but this will reduce input costs, as well as reducing environmental impact.



For more information about the National Beef Evaluations, visit **ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/ national-beef-evaluations** where you can search for EBVs for your cattle. NBE EBVs will also be available alongside performance recorded traits through the Signet database.

If you're interested in using data to help breed better cattle, more tools are now available to Luing breeders through Signet. More information is available on how to begin performance recording on page 53.

Harriet Bunning, Lead Animal Genetics Expert AHDB harriet.bunning@ahdb.org.uk



Bonnie and Wild, Edinburgh

🗗 Fearn farm 🦉 🖉 🞯 Fearn_Farm 🧭 🥙 @FearnFarm

F

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Signet Recording Initiative

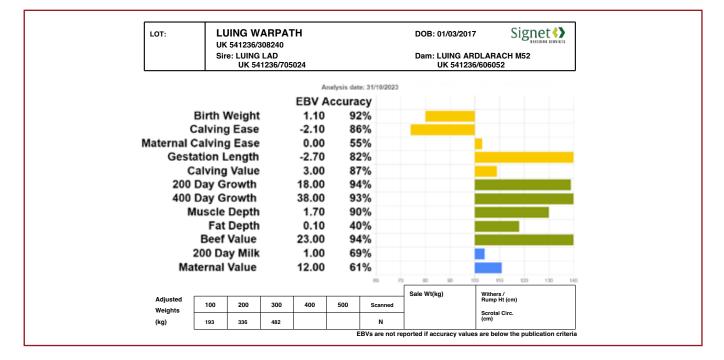


The Luing Cattle Society have teamed with Signet to provide the opportunity for all Luing breeders the facility to submit data to Signet for the purposes of their calculation and publication of Estimated Genetic Selection tools (aka Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs). Signet will provide estimated genetic predictions of performance on useful traits such as Age at first calving, Calf Survival, Lifespan, Calving Ease, Birth Weight, 200 day calf performance. Additionally, carcase data supplied by participating abattoirs is providing the opportunity to return EBVs on carcase related traits such as days to slaughter, carcase weight, carcase conformation, fat classification and average daily gain. Results will be presented in easy to read and easy to interpret ways such as the example below.



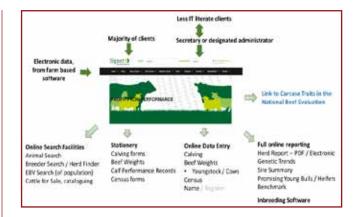
Tebay Butchery Farmshop

Another application of the published results is a similar graph for each animal in sale catalogues. Publication of this data is provided for breeders to be able to have the confidence of additional data, over and above the visual appearance of the animal, to make selection decisions. Luing bulls will have the benefit of pedigree, dam classification stats, and EBVs in sale catalogues.



Data Submission

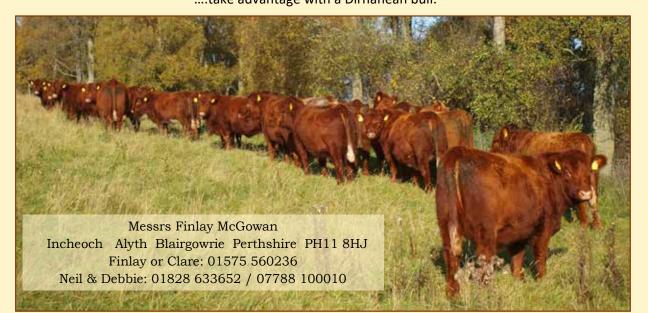
The more data the better, because it increases the accuracy of the prediction. However, a birth weight and weaning weight for youngstock will achieve basic publication. Birth weights can be submitted with registrations, and weaning weights can be submitted online using the Signet online platform (login required). Birth weights can be estimated using the birth weight leg tape, available from the Society office. The Luing Cattle Society is funding a breed-wide subscription fee on a trial basis, in order to enable all breeders the opportunity to participate. If interested, please get in touch with the office or Signet to get started.





'Our 160 Luing cows produce Sim-Luing heifers to sell—or Luings for our own replacements and some spare.

The 70 'stud' cows all calved at 2yo and brought a calf to weaning every year. They have been selected for weaning efficiency, calving interval, udder and teat scores, docility and longevity. The result is a medium framed, easy-fleshing cow (Mature cows: Frame Score 6.0, 645kg at CS 3.1).take advantage with a Dirnanean bull.'



www.incheochfarm.co.uk



WORKING GENES **ON FARM & ON LINE SALE**

Tues 10th Sept 2024 Full Production Sale of: Texel & Lleyn rams Simmental, Luing & Angus bulls 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.

Pictures from the '23 sale (1-r):

- Incheoch Niko (PP) easy-calving, easy-fleshing, easy-handled.
- Texel Shearling top 10% index, £950 to Lleyn X ewes.
- Lleyn Shearling—top maternal and parasite resistance figures.
- Dirnanean Barham (P) Panamar son—to Ettrickshaws



Luings

Fieldsman's Report



As I approach the end of my tenth year as fieldsman I thought it might be worth reflecting on those years and noting some of the changes and progress made within The Luing Cattle Society.

1. Pedigree Luing females within herds registering cattle have virtually doubled. The rise in numbers has undoubtedly been helped by the versatility of the Luing cow. Luing cows thrive under virtually any management system from living in the highest hills in the harshest environments to living on some of the best livestock land in the UK. Their adaptability means they can out winter on the roughest terrain as well as in winter on slats. There are herds of cows living next to the sea and herds that regularly graze at 3000ft. Their ability to produce excellent females and top quality carcasses from the surplus males I feel is second to none.

2. The rise in new herds being established continues at a good pace and within this there has been a large rise in the average number of cattle in each herd. The society has been trying to spread Luing cattle throughout the UK and this is definitely happening with new herds set up in most areas. The move into new areas is especially being helped in England by those that have joined a countryside stewardship scheme and as part of that scheme they are accessing the native breed supplement.

3. There as been a great influx of new members. At the February council meeting the directors approved 12 new members; I can't remember such a large number ever being approved at a council meeting before.

4. The move towards polling of cattle is gathering pace and when someone telephones me looking for a bull it is now generally the first question they ask. The second question is always about health status and I feel we are at the front of the field regarding this. Anyone new to the breed always asks for an explanation of the dam classification scheme which gives the buyer the confidence to buy knowing that the dams have been independently inspected especially when a number of these bulls are sold without the purchaser seeing them.

5. The addition of a fourth society sale on behalf of Cadzow Bros at Oban is now a fixture in the sales calendar. This along with the establishment of a brokerage service for members has increased the number of outlets for Luing cattle as well as giving more options to potential purchasers.

6. The establishment of Webpage to help those that market their own Luing beef.

7. DNA of all bulls for sire verification and myostatin status. All bulls 2022 born onwards must be sire verified if to be used for pedigree breeding. All bulls going to society sales must be myostatin tested, which informs purchasing decisions.

8. The society funding free signet recording for two years. Like myostatin this is a personal choice as to which way individual breeders go but there is little doubt there are some potential new buyers that are interested in animals with performance records.

9. We now promote Luing cattle at many more shows and events than we used to which will hopefully lead to a further expansion of the breed.

I would like to thank all of the members who are good enough to give me hospitality as I travel the countryside on your behalf; your generosity is greatly appreciated. I think all members should thank the people who generously supply the stock for stands to help promote the breed, without these people we really would struggle. I would ask that if anyone wishes to help to promote the breed by providing stock for stands to get in touch. I would like to thank the directors for their help and support, they really do put a huge amount of work in on behalf of an ever growing membership. Finally but not least I would like to thank Natalie for all the hard work she does. Natalie works tirelessly and her attention to detail is second to none making my life so easy.



Measuring Testicles

Luings

Young Member Feature





Tally McGowan from the Dirnanean herd reports on moving to Edinburgh as a vet student

I have grown up around Luing cattle and think they're pretty cool. I love the way the sunlight catches their red hair and think they look quite majestic out at grass. To be perfectly honest I'm more of a sheep person myself although I do love a good steak, and cattle seem to be a bit better at living which is a bonus.

I'm currently in second year studying to be a vet at Edinburgh and am really enjoying it. We started with about 130 on our course and the majority are girls – around 15 are guys. First year was mainly focused on getting to grip with all the anatomy of a dog as well as looking at different pathogens and parasites. It was quite a lot of new words and a lot to get your head around at first but it was interesting which I think makes it easier to learn.

I spent my Spring holiday doing a lambing in Northumberland for a couple weeks and then came home to give some lambing tours. I enjoy seeing how different farms do things and really enjoyed my lambing away from home, enough so that I'm going back for a turkey placement this Christmas. As for the lambing tours, I think it's important to be able to share the whole lambing experience with people (only the best bits of course) and I was really surprised at how many people wanted to come, and the range of ages too - we had grannies fighting children for milk bottles. I hope doing this will mean that more people will have a higher respect and interest for what goes on in the farming world and will be able to support it.

We have 12 weeks of placements to do in our first two years which are animal husbandry based and the university has some stipulations about what species to do them with and such like. I spent my summer on placements with racehorses, a Shetland pony stud, a dairy, a pig farm, at a guide dog centre and finished at a cattery. Each placement brought its own challenges (especially cats - not going to be specialising in feline medicine), but overall, I really enjoyed them and learnt a lot. I think it was a really good thing to do getting to know the basic husbandry as well as the more complicated stuff and most of the placements let you get so hands on which I think is really the best way to learn. I am so grateful that everyone has been so open and willing to answer questions and help me learn and I got a lot out of it.



This African Buffalo was beyond all veterinary assistance!

I then used the money I raised from holding the lambing tours to fund a trip to Tanzania, finishing the summer climbing Kilimanjaro and going on safari, even spotted the worlds largest ruminant - the giraffe! I made it home in plenty of time for scrubbing up tups for the sale at home though.

Second year is a lot more focused on comparative body systems. So far we've learnt about locomotion in cattle and horses, the digestive system across most basic species, metabolism, cardiovascular and respiratory systems. It's all been really interesting so far and the lecturers are all fantastic and seem really enthusiastic to teach us. When I get the chance to I quite like going home to see the dog and my family, and there's always plenty of hands on work to do there too.

I think some of the most important bits I've learnt so far is the importance of preventive healthcare and sustainability. Luing's are suited to both due to their hardiness and ability to thrive.

I think going forward we need cattle that will be able to do well being grass fed as there is a larger push for sustainability. I think cows are fantastic animals being able to convert grass into such a delicious product whilst managing grassland to create better habitats – and looking damn good when doing so.



Registrations, Charges and Useful Information THE YEAR LETTER FOR CALVES BORN IN 2023 is C and 2024 is D

A full copy of Society rules, regulations and byelaws is available at **www.luingcattlesociety.co.uk/society-rules**

Luing Male and Female Registrations

- 1. Each Herd Book Year will end on 31st December.
- 2. Breeders are required to update their herdbook list (herd census) as at 31st December either online by lodging deaths, sales and transfers (online preferred) or via a paper annual return upon request to the office.
- 3. On-line registration and herd census options are now available using the link on the website at www. luingcattlesociety.co.uk/login. This will re-direct you to our online database provided by Grassroots. A username and password can be obtained by contacting the Breed Secretary on secretary@luingcattlesociety.co.uk or by using the password request facility in Grassroots. Use of the online system for all herdbook based transactions is encouraged. Alternatively, a birthing summary form can be used to register via a paper-based system and all calves born in that year should be entered. This must be fully completed for all calves to be registered: i.e. UK tag, date of birth, name and/or management tag, colour, horned/polled and sire. Breeders are encouraged to notify all other calves born (date of birth, UK tag and sire) so that full records can be kept for every breeding female on the database.
- 4. Registrations (both online and paper based) must be done / returned to the Breed Secretary by **28th February** of the year following the year of birth. Early registrations are encouraged. **Any registrations received after 28th February will be charged double fees.**
- 5. Any animals which are first presented for registration over 2 years of age can only be considered for Appendix B, and will attract double registration fees.
- 6. Pedigree certificates will be issued for all calves fully registered, and will be forwarded electronically. Registration certificates are not issued for birth notifications.

Sim-Luing Female Calf Registrations

- 1. Entries will only be accepted from members of the Luing Cattle Society Ltd.
- 2. To be eligible for acceptance into the register for Sim-Luing females, heifer calves must be:
 - a. out of Pedigree or Appendix A Luing females registered in the Herd Book of the Luing Cattle Society and, b. sired by a Simmental bull registered in the Herd Book of the British Simmental Cattle Society Ltd.
- 3. All calves should be registered by the 28th February following their year of birth.
- 4. Following verification of the registration of both the dam and the sire by the Luing Cattle Society, the Sim-Luing heifer will be accepted for entry into the register and a certificate issued.

Charges

An Annual Subscription is due annually on 1st January and members will receive a renewal notice around early January. The Annual Subscription is £50.00 incl. VAT (£41.67 + £8.33 VAT). Any member not settling membership fees within two months of issue of invoice may, at the discretion of Council, lose his/her rights of membership. Payment of Annual Subscriptions by standing order is encouraged, and the bank details are available on our website at **https://luingcattlesociety.co.uk/publications**.

Registration Fees

1. Pedigree Luing

Registration fees (Pedigree, Appendix or Sim-Luing) are charged on a sliding scale based on the number of breeding cows (i.e. females over 2 years of age) held on Society records for each herd at 31st December of the year of birth, of the calves being registered. This includes full Pedigree and Appendix A and B cows and Sim-Luing females.

Breeding Females (>2 yrs)	Registrations completed online	Registrations completed on paper
1-25	£8.50	£9.00
26-50	£8.00	£8.50
51-100	£7.50	£8.00
101-250	£7.00	£7.50
251+	£6.50	£7.00

2. Sim-Luings

If only Sim-Luing heifer calves are to be registered, the registration fees will be as follows:

Number of Calves registered	Registrations completed online (per head)	Registrations completed on paper (per head)
1-15	£9.50	£10.00
16 or over	£8.00	£8.50

3. Individuals who feel that they have a special case will have the opportunity to appeal and the merit of the case will be considered by the Council.

4. Breeders will be invoiced when registrations are processed, at the end of each respective registration period.

Transfer Fees

All animals purchased at Society Sales (males and females) will be transferred free of charge.

Transfer fees are incurred by the purchaser (unless previously agreed with the vendor) upon the transfer between herds, of any full Pedigree or appendix female animal purchased outwith a Society Sale (purchased privately) at $\pm 10.00 + VAT$ per female.

Transfer fees are incurred by the purchaser (unless previously agreed with the vendor) upon the transfer into the purchaser's herd, for bulls purchased outwith Society Sales (privately) on a two tier basis, as follows:

- 1-30 breeding females (as listed on each herd's list on Grassroots) ± 2 /cow, with a minimum fee payable of ± 25 +VAT
- 30+ females £100 + VAT

Bull Inspection

- 1. No bull can be sold at a Pedigree Luing Sale until it has been inspected by an appointed representative of the Society and has been accepted as conforming to the standards as laid down by the Society, including a minimum height and scrotal circumference. Breeders must apply to the Society for this inspection by 31st August each year.
- 2. The bulls will be inspected as soon as is reasonably possible and the dam of each bull will be classification scored at the time of the bull inspection. Dams must be presented for inspection if they are still on the farm regardless of whether they have been scored in previous years. The age of the dam at the time of assessment and the number of calves she has had will be taken into consideration to ensure potential buyers know the scores relate to a young cow yet to fully prove herself.
- 3. Bulls passed for entry into a Society sale will have their pedigree record updated on grassroots. Bulls not to be entered for a Society Sale but otherwise deemed suitable for pedigree breeding will also have their pedigree record updated on grassroots.
- 4. Breeders are encouraged 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 of 5 or above (out of 10) will be approved for use.

Society Sales

- The Society holds 4 Official sales:
 - The 60th Premier Sale will take place in Wallets Mart, Castle Douglas on Friday 9th February 2024.
 - Stirling Bull Sales United Auctions, Stirling Agricultural Centre Monday 19th February 2024.
 - Spring Breeding Sale Dingwall and Highland Mart, Dingwall Wednesday 15th May 2024.
 - Autumn Breeding Sale United Auctions, Stirling Saturday 26th October 2024.
- Premier Sale all bulls must be in the market by Wednesday night and heifers must be penned by 12 noon on Thursday 8th February.
- The minimum age for bulls sold at Society Sales is 18 months on the day of the sale and each bull must have been approved for pedigree use (by inspection) by the Society, in association with the rules on bull inspection set out in the Society's rule and byelaws. In addition, bulls will be weighed at the sale, and must meet the minimum height measurement of 52" at the shoulder and have a scrotal circumference of at least 38cm. Bulls will be sold in age order with oldest bulls sold first. Measurements will be taken in the market and displayed on the pen card.
- All cattle presented at Society Sales must come from herds which are members of a CHeCS accredited health scheme and must be vaccinated against BVD (both males and females). Any cattle coming from a herd which is not accredited free of BVD must be individually tested negative for the virus.
- A health declaration form must be submitted with an entry form, the information from which will be displayed in the sale catalogue.
- **NO minimum age** is required for pedigree Luing females presented for sale. Any animal with a black nose or displaying unruly temperament will be rejected by the inspection panel.
- Vendors are responsible for ensuring that all animals forward are correctly identified in relation to current identification regulation.
- All cattle will be sold under the terms and conditions of the National Beef Association Breeding warranty. A copy of the relevant breeding warranty can be found at **www.luingcattlesociety.co.uk/sales**. Both vendors and purchasers are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the terms, especially timescales for notification, ahead of sale/purchase.
- The upset price for bulls is **2,000gns**.

Luing Website/Facebook (www.luingcattlesociety.co.uk)

The Society website and social media pages continues to prove a useful source of information on the breed from commercial beef producers wanting to find out more about Luing cattle and for breeders needing to download sales entry forms, application forms, or sale catalogues. Another very useful feature is the 'stock for sale' pages, which is available to all members. Adverts are free of charge if using the Society's brokerage service, and £100 if not.

Cattle Health Policy

Since 2011, all official Society sales (Premier Sale in Castle Douglas, Spring Sale in Dingwall and Autumn Sale in U.A. Stirling) have had the same entry conditions in terms of cattle health; entry is only permitted from herds which are members of a CHeCS (Cattle Health Certification Standards) 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, herds must be specifically managing BVD and Johne's disease. All stock forward for Society sales are expected to have been vaccinated for BVD (see above), originate from a BVD accredited herd, or have individually tested negative ahead of departure from the holding in accordance with the ScotGov initiative.

PLENDERLETH

At home in the Cheviot Hills

In-calf heifers by Plenderleith Xocet

60

RORY BELL: 01573 450221 or 07740697600

LUINGS, SIM-LUINGS & SIMMENTALS

Luings

Events 2023







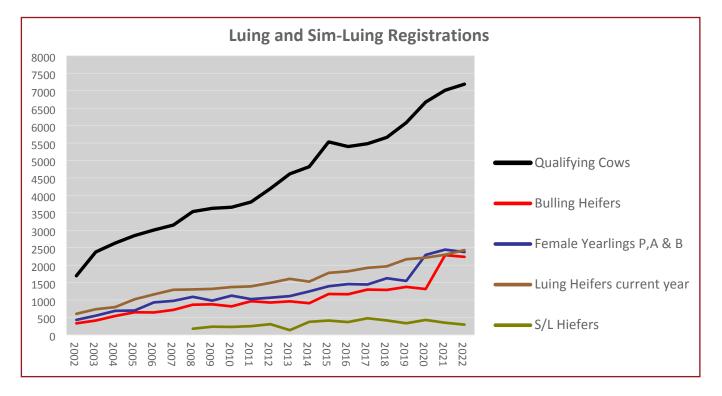




Luing Registrations and Sale Performance Driving Demand

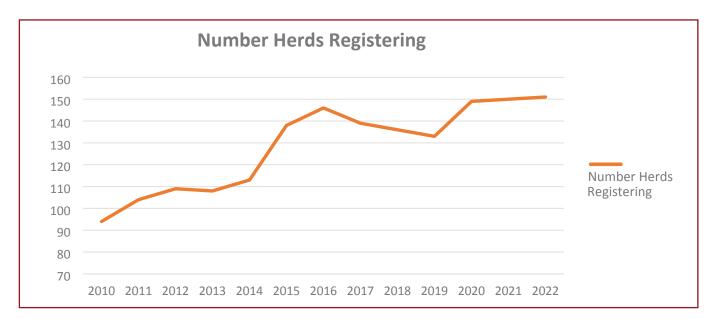


The flexibility of the Luing, together with the genetic variability within the breed is appealing to more systems, resulting in an increase in popularity of the Luing. From a total of 1694 cows in 2002, the breed has increased year on year to 7090 breeding females at 31st December 2022. Annual registrations of female calves has grown from 605 to 2433 over the same period, a 4 fold increase. Sim-Luing heifer registrations have fluctuated over the same period, but have gone from 177 in 2010 to 295 in 2022, with a peak of 477 in 2017. Registrations of male calves also continues to follow the same increasing trend, rising from 102 in 2004 to 496 in 2022. The trends are depicted in the following graph:



Herds registering females have risen from 94 in 2010, to 151 in 2022. This represents total registrations, including Sim-Luing heifer calves.

It is interesting to note the pattern over time, where herds registering calves have dropped, particularly between 2016 and 2019.



Sitting alongside these figures is a similarly strong performance in both pedigree and commercial sales in the most recently collated period. Total society sales turnover during the 2023 sales calendar was £1.4m. In total, Society Sales traded nearly 500 females over the year to an overall average of £1950. There were 36 young bulls sold through Society sales, to a top of £25,200, and an average of £4990. Seventyfour cows went through Society Sales, including the dispersals of both the Balintore and Lochan Herds to average £1970. Pedigree Luing incalf heifers (90) sold to average £2174 and 268 bulling heifers averaged £1729. Sim-Luing heifers (54) averaged £2734 for in-calf females and £2035 for bulling heifers.



The rise in popularity of the Luing female, having been selected for its hardy versatility, and milkiness, with sound locomotion and excellent mothering ability, has been supported by the Society's dam classification scheme. All dams of approved males for Society Sales, will have been classified as being above average (score 5) in important traits such as feet, locomotion, temperament, udder, teats, condition score and skeletal size. This system ensures that Luing females can calve at 2 years old, wean calves at 50% of their bodyweight at 200 days, and rebreed annually with longevity.



Troutbeck Luings

Pip Simpson



Tel: 07713122828 Email: pip.simpson@btinternet.com

SAC High Health Status **BVD** Accredited Johnes Level 1 TB4 Area

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Young Bulls & Heifers For Sale All Bulls Semen Tested **Myostatin Free**

64

Luings

Annual Dinner 2023





65

Dam Classification -Luings An Independent Assessment Luings for Breeders

Luing breeders are using dam classification to enable them to identify females with the strongest maternal traits within their respective herds along with good conformation and structural soundness. Additionally, dam classification data enhances the sire selection process by supplying relevant data at the point of sale. To enable the classification process, the Luing Cattle Society utilises its Breed Fieldsman to score dams of young bulls put forward for approval, and publishes these scores alongside the bull's entry in a Society sale catalogue. This is a highly accepted additional tool for members to enable them to accelerate progress within their breeding programmes and offer an improved functional suckler cow, along with sons bred from these functionally correct dams.

The initiative, believed to be the most comprehensive of its kind offered by any beef breed society, provides the following classification scores:



The linear classification is an objective assessment of how the animal compares to breed average for each of the scored traits. When buying a bull at sale it is usually not possible to see his dam, so seeing how she has been classified is a good indication of how good she is and what maternal traits will be passed to his offspring. Additionally, an approved Luing bull indicates that his dam has an overall score of 6 or above on each of the classification scores noted below.

General Information			
Date of birth			
Age at 1st calving			
Average calving interval			
Number of calvings			
Number of sets of twins			
Classification Scores			
Feet			
Hind Legs			
Udder			
Teats			
General Observation Scores (within Herd)			
Temperament (1 = flighty, 10 = docile)			
Condition Score (1 = lean, 10 = excessive fat)			
Skeletal size (1 = small, 10 = very large)			

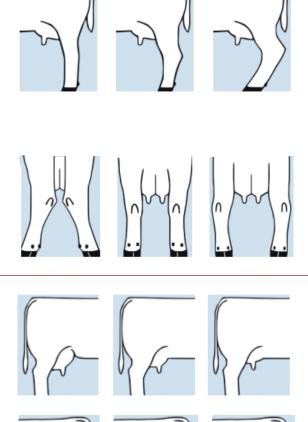
An explanation of each of the Classification traits

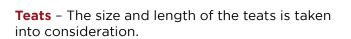
Feet – Angle at the front of the rear hoof measured from the ground to the hairline at the hoof. The steepness of the angle and the splay of the toes is taken into consideration. Toe length.

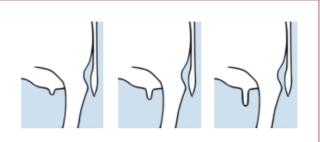
Hind Legs – The angle and "sickliness" of the rear legs is taken into consideration from both the rear and side views.



Udder – The size and attachment of the udder is taken into consideration.



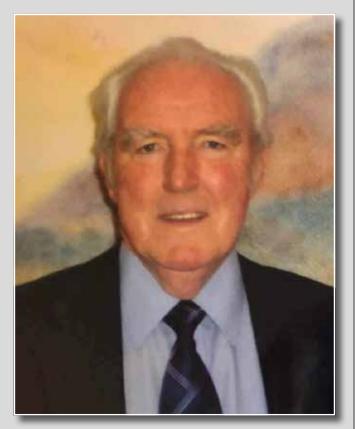




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Obituary

RONNIE McLAUCHLAN (1935 – 2023)



William Angus Ronald McLauchlan, known to everyone as Ronnie, was born on the 2nd of May 1935 at Balnadrum Farm in Pitlochry, the home of his paternal grandfather. He grew up on Ballnialich Farm outside Pitlochry, alongside his younger brother Hamish. His early teenage years were spent on Murthly Home Farm where his father had taken the job of Farm Manager, but he lost his father when he was only 16 years old.

Ronnie enrolled at Lawers Agricultural College in 1951, but a year later a bout of rheumatic fever hospitalised him for 6 months and he never finished the course. An 18 month spell with a seed merchant in Perth was followed by employment with his uncle Peter at Monzie, Blair Atholl. His uncle took on the Haugh of Tulliemet at Ballinluig and Ronnie was put down there to help run it.

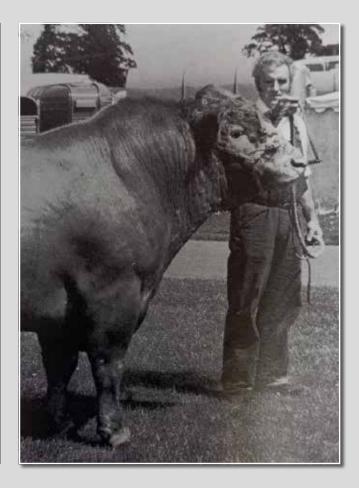
Through Young Farmers he met his late wife Joan, and they were married in January 1958 at Logerait Church. They stayed on at the Haugh for another 2 years and during this time Fraser was born in January 1959, before the family headed West to Gorteneorn on a wet Saturday in November 1959. The first few months were very wet, as it sometimes can be in Ballachulish (!) and Ronnie is reported to have remarked to Joan "we will give it 5 years here then find another farm", but they were to remain there for more than 60 years. The family expanded with Fiona in July 1960, Trish in May 1963 and Eilidh in June 1967. With the addition of extra land the livestock numbers grew and the first Luing bull was purchased 1966 which started a life long connection with Luing cattle. Ronnie was appointed a director of the Society in 1970, and in 1972 he took on the full time role of Fieldsman for the Society - a full time job that took him all over the UK inspecting herds, so a shepherd was employed to do the work on the farm. After 2 years and too much time away from farm and family he went part time and eventually retired from the job in 1997 after 25 years. Ronnie knew farmers from Lands End to John O' Groats because of this work and enjoyed taking Joan and close friends Robin and Cathy Colthart on his trips to Somerset and Devon. The stories were recounted for years afterwards.

Away from agriculture, Ronnie did his bit for public service, being an Argyll County Councillor, a member of Glencoe Mountain Rescue team for a short time in the sixties, and Santa Clause for primary school Christmas parties. Ronnie was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1971 which meant a busy schedule between Police and others to get warrants signed and signatures on firearms applications. Later this led to sitting on the Bench of the JP court in Fort Wiliam, a job he did until he had to retire when he reached 70 years old.

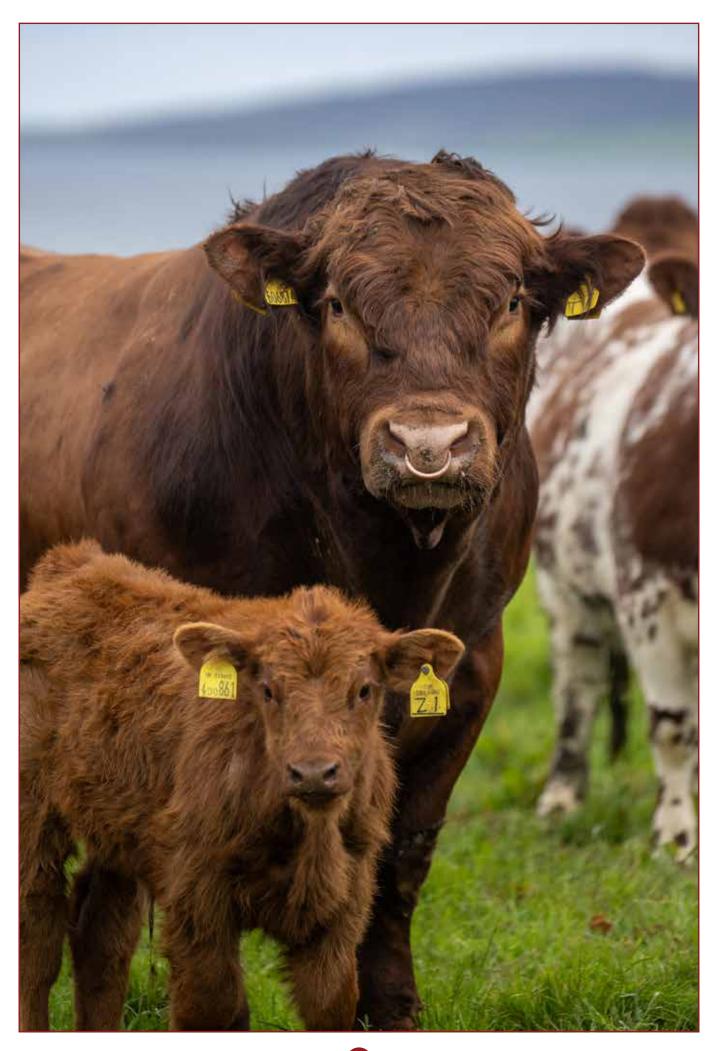
Ronnie was also involved in the National Farmers Union from being local branch Chairman right through to sitting on the Livestock committee at Council meetings in Edinburgh. He was invited onto the Government's Hill Farming Advisory Committee, which he was honoured to serve on and still found time to fit in the role of an Agricultural Arbiter for many years. In addition, Ronnie was a man of great faith and served as an elder of the Kirk and as Session Clerk for many years. There was little spare time for anything else, but in his younger day he enjoyed being a member of the local Drama club and treading the boards in Appin and Duror halls.

Ronnie and Joan were regular visitors to Australia to see Fiona and her family, but they also visited New Zealand, Canada, Germany and Cyprus on their travels. On reaching retirement Ronnie, who always liked to be planning something, assisted Fraser in building a golf course at Ballachuish Home Farm – Fraser on the construction and Ronnie seeing to everything behind the scenes. He was immensely proud when it all came together and opened for business. Full retirement beckoned and a move into Tulliemet in 2004, where they both enjoyed gardening and going on holidays with their good friends Ann and Charlie Bell from Blair Atholl. In 2017 Ronnie underwent Chemotherapy for myeloma – cancer of the bone marrow – and although this was a tough time for him, he got through it and lived with it until 18 months ago when the medication stopped doing its job.

Ronnie was predeceased by Joan last year, after 64 years of marriage, which was a huge loss for him. He passed away on 6th November at Tulliemet with his family beside him, which includes 10 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren, whom he had very much enjoyed the company of.









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