

SHORTHORN

B E E F

MAY 2004
NEWSLETTER

List of Shows with Beef Shorthorn Classes

Surrey County Show	May 31st
East of England Show	18/20 June
Royal Highland Show	24/27 June
Royal Show	3/6 July
Great Yorkshire Show	13/15/ July
Royal Welsh Show	19/22 July
Royal Norfolk Show	30 June/ 1 July
Alyth Show	
Perth Show	} Dates not known
Fife Show	
Turriff Show	
Dumfries Show	
Nidderdale Show	

**If you know of any shows not listed
please let us know.**

Members are reminded that animals in the grading register are not eligible to be shown.

Beef Shorthorn Society Sales 2004

May 3rd Perth 7 Bulls contact United Auctions 01738 626183

May 7th Bristol Sale Centre 7 Bulls & 11 Females contact Harrison and Hetherington 01228 590490

May 21st Carlise 23 Bulls & 31 Females contact Harrison and Hetherington as above

June 4th – Chelford - in conjunction with Frank Marshalls

Thirsk – Oct/Nov - Date to be announced – in conjunction with Thirsk Market

October 15th – Chelford - in conjunction with Frank Marshalls

October 18th – Perth Bull Sales - in conjunction with UA

Summer Shows

Royal Highland

It has been decided, in conjunction with the Highland Cattle Society, that we will not be having a bar facility in the pavilion this year. The newly re furnished pavilion suffered considerable damage last year, and the carpet in particular was badly stained and burnt, which in part was caused by people, not belonging to either of our respective breed Societies, using the pavilion as a

public bar. This year we will be providing complimentary drinks to our members.

It is important that the stand in the pavilion is manned throughout the duration of the show, and so the Directors are asking for volunteers from our breeders to spend a couple of hours on the stand taking enquiries and talking to prospective members. If you are able to help, please let Frank know so that he can prepare a rota. Provided we have sufficient help it will only be for a couple of hours (unless of course you would like to do more).

Royal Show

Last year we had a stand in the cattle lines, which proved very successful. We will be having a similar stand this year, and as with the Highland Show, we are looking for volunteers to man the stand throughout the show – so if you can help please let us know.

PERTH – FEBRUARY BULL SALES

Continued Resurgence with 10 bulls sold for 5000gns or more and 40 more averaged £3386.25

That was £458 more than last year.

According to the buyers it was the best parade of Shorthorns in modern times, the quality of course reflecting the prices.

Mr Donald Bigger, first time back after foot and mouth, took the lead in both show and sale with the Supreme Champion Chapelton Touchstone, by CF Varsity out of Lazy HJ Special Princess an embryo transplant progeny. He sold to Stuart Durno for his Uppermill herd for 7200gns.

Further details and pictures in the next Journal

New Clubs

There has been considerable interest amongst members in the formation of two new Beef Shorthorn breeders clubs, one in the South and one in the Midlands. Breeders clubs are a wonderful way of meeting fellow breeders to discuss relevant topics within the breed as well as arranging herd visits, sales, social evenings etc. If you are interested in joining, or indeed helping to set up one of these clubs, please contact Brenda Hackling (South West) on 01275 474271, or Julia Evans (Midlands) on 01886 821431

The year letter for 2004 is 'X'

Beef & Sheep North West 2004

Helping Tomorrow's Livestock Farmers
Today Thursday 6th May 10am - 3pm.

A unique event for North West Livestock Farmers Cumbria Campus, Newton Rigg, Penrith Industry leaders will focus on "The Market For Meat"

" Overview of the Red Meat Industry
" Changes in the home market
" Challenges & opportunities in Europe
" Rising to the challenge

Beef & Sheep North West 2004 will be an investment not a cost! We look forward to seeing you. Don't miss this opportunity to hear these Speakers

Peter Barr CBE Chairman of RMIF
Kevin Pearce Ha Chief Livestock Advisor NFU

Peter Hardwick International Manager MLC

Campbell Tweedie Group Sales Director
Dungannon Meats Group

Norman Bagley Policy Director AIMS

John Thorley Chief Executive NSA

Robert Forster Chief Executive NBA

Tom Bathgate OBE Chief Executive Pye
Bibby Agriculture

John Moverley OBE Chief Executive and
Principal Myerscough College

Places are limited, advance bookings
£5.00 per head

including lunch, or £7.50 on the day.

For telephone bookings or to request a booking form please contact, Rural Business Centre, Myerscough College, Preston PR3 0RY

Tel: 01995 642255 Fax: 01995 642245

Email: rbc@myerscough.ac.uk

Irish Shorthorn Sale News

The Croghan Shorthorn Breeder's Club annual sponsored show and sale, was held last Friday & enjoyed a brisk sale, with international buyers boosting sales of both bulls and heifers. The day's top call of 3,200 Euro came for a two year old heifer "Sloehill Lucy", from the herd of breeder Declan Lavin, Lackin, Strokestown, Co. Roscommon. This smart roan heifer, a daughter of A.I. sire Mohill Jack, had earlier been crowned Champion Female by judge Mr. James Nelson. Second top price on the day was 3,000 Euro, paid by Clare breeders Mr. and Mr's Conway, for a yearling bull bred by Mr. John O'Hara, Elphin, Co. Roscommon. This much fancied white bull, a son of the Canadian sire Eionmor Mr. Gus 80c, had earlier been named Res. Champion Male. Third highest call came for Res. Champion Female, Lavally Lady Julie, a served two year old sired by Kilfrush Vantage 2nd. Her breeders, the Mullooly family, received 2,800 Euro from Mr Pat Flaherty, who is expanding his herd near Athenry, Co. Galway. An international flavour was added to the sale by the attendance of two pedigree breeders from Germany. Messrs Eggers, who run the Hever herd of pedigree Shorthorns near Osterhever, they went home smiling after placing the winning bid on third prize winner "Ussaun Liberty", bred by Mr. Johnie Rowley, Mohill, Co. Leitrim. The bull will hopefully help to add new blood to their pedigree herd. Another notable prizewinner on the day was Male Champion, "Venga William", bred by John Shaughnessy, from Strokestown, Co. Roscommon.

Guidance on Testicle Examination for Veterinary Inspections

from James M Grant. Veterinary Surgeon. Vet Inspector at Perth Sales

Bulls should have two evenly shaped testicles, they should be firm to palpate with no lumps or soft areas within the structure. Hard area may be caused by abscesses, haematomas or fibrous structures from past damage. Soft testicles are usually an indication of poor tissue, meaning poor producers of sperm and will be sub fertile or infertile.

When inspecting the testicles they should move freely within the scrotum and should be grasped one in each hand and pulled down into the scrotum, felt for texture, compared for size and structure. The neck of the scrotum should be felt for hernias—this would be felt as a thickening at the top of the scrotum.

At the bottom of the testicle is a bump called the epididymus, this is normal and helps the nourishment and storage of the sperm.

If there is a difference in size it may mean that one testicle is too large because of pus or inflammation, more usually, it may mean that one is too small. This condition is called hypoplastic testicle and can affect one or both testicles. It will not usually be evident until the bull is older then the affected organ gets smaller and smaller as time passes. It is very heritable and the bulls should not be used because they will be sub fertile or eventually infertile.

The scrotum with both testicles down should be measured round the greatest circumference and by sale time 34cms is a reasonable minimum standard for the breed. The scrotum should also hang down well from the body to keep the testicles cooler therefore keeping the sperm more viable.

Work done in Australia has shown that large testicles breed more fertile sons and daughters, which will reach puberty younger meaning heifers will calve sooner.

There are a lot of reasons for infertility but if you buy a bull with a decent set of genital organs you will at least have some reassurance.



'No Road'
William Huggins (1820 - 1884)

Signed and dated 1870, Painted in oval: 35" x 27"

Hanover Square Gallery

5 Weston Park, Bath BA1 4AS

(dealers in 19th century paintings since 1979)

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