

Salers

Cattle Society

of the **UK** Ltd

Champion Senior Male 2010



MORWENTOW SARACEN
Messrs A & M Austin

Champion Senior Female 2010



MANOR LANE SPIRIT
Carolyn Fox

Journal 2011

WHITEBOG CONVENER

Sire: Lascar Dam: Whitebog Rosie MGS: Cumbria Fury

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Morwenstow Saracen
Salers Champion Male 2010



Manor Lane Spirit
Salers Champion Female 2010

Chairman's Report

It was an honour to be elected chairman of the Salers Cattle Society in February 2010. Since that date my learning curve as reached dizzy heights and the mileage on my car has exploded.

I had my first outing as a judge at the Royal Ulster Show. I was presented with some superb cattle, every single one I would be proud to have back at home. I thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience and would like to thank our Irish members wholeheartedly for welcoming me so warmly. As I was in Northern Ireland at the time, I was unable to attend our spring sale held at the new Welshpool market. This was left in the safe hands of Vice President Harri Pritchard and now retired secretary John Crowe. This venue seems to suit vendors and alike and I thank those who took cattle to sell and those who traveled to buy. The Salers Society was in attendance at the NBA's Beef Expo; our stand was organised expertly by Terence Pye and Rob Livesey. Quality cattle were supplied by members of the society and it was good to see the Gowthorpe family, new members to the society, attending with a pair of eye catching Salers X Lims. Next came the Royal Highland, a show I have loved since first attending a number of years ago. I also traveled to the Royal Welsh for the first time; the Welsh certainly know how to enjoy themselves! The cattle at both shows were a credit to their handlers, it takes time and patience to prepare and show cattle, but it's worth it! At the Great Yorkshire we had a large show of Salers, coming from afar as the Scottish borders and Cornwall, with the Cornish contingent doing us proud in the interbreed pairs!

The last major event on the calendar as chairman for 2010 was our first "BVD FREE" Premier Sale and Annual dinner. We had a few hiccups but got there in the end! Being a vendor at the sale, it's a busy "jaunt" away from home but well worth it. It's good to catch up with members you haven't seen for 12 months and say hello to the regular commercial buyers supporting the breed.

At this point I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to the many people, past and present, for the support I have received in my role as chairman of the Salers Cattle Society. There are many things being discussed and planned at council meetings for the future, which will hopefully receive your support. Working together we will do our best to increase the profile of Salers in 2011.

Rachel Hallos - Chairman

Secretary's Report

My year to date has been very rewarding, I have received wonderful support from the membership and also from everyone I have come into contact at shows, sales, conferences etc. I can only echo the chairman in thanking everyone concerned.

I feel I have joined the society at an exciting time. With an ever-increasing world population everyone is searching to provide food efficiently and Salers are certainly being looked at as a "good value animal". By increasing their profile and ensuring we all keep up to date with helpful information we will increase awareness of this worthy breed.

We need to prove to others what we all know – Salers are good doers! They get on with the job! They are fertile and productive, an all round cost effective breed.

Liz Wilde - Secretary

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Area 8 Berkshire, Hants, Isle of Wight, Wiltshire, Avon, Somerset, Dorset, Devon, Cornwall

Area Rep, VEN, Ashbury, Mr. & Mrs. M. Light, Venn Barton, Ashbury, Okehampton, Devon, EX20 3PF, 01837 871203
 LAR, Larcombe, M.S.& M.J. Andrews, Kemps Farm, Kemps Lane, Winsford, Somerset, TA24 7HT, 01643 851226
 MSW, Morwenstow, Messrs. A.& M. Austin, Stanbury Manor, Woodford, Bude, Cornwall, EX23 9JQ, 01288 331279
 TRE, Trease, Mr.W.T.G. Benney, Trease, Cury Cross Lanes, Helston, Cornwall, TR12 7QU, 01326 240232
 CUR, Curcelles, Mr. & Mrs. J.C. Burdge, Fenswood Farm, Says Lane, Langford, N. Somerset, BS40 5DZ, 01934 852639
 EAC, Nodes, Mr. J.B. Carter, Nodes Farm, Northwood, Nr. Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO31 8AD, 01983 292036
 MDC, Eastyard, M & D Cowell, Stafford View, 5 Rectory Road, Dolton, Devon, EX19 8QL, 01805 804792
 RLG, Rosemellyn, R.C. & L.J. Grist, Rosemellyn Farm, Roche, St. Austell, Cornwall, PL26 8LB, 01726 890608
 MIH, Sutcombe, M.H., B.J. & S.J. Horn, Hillside, Sutcombe, Holsworthy, Devon, EX22 7PR, 01409 241754
 SHN, Shannon, Mr. E.J. Lowman, The Fold, Pyworthy, Holsworthy, Devon, EX22 6SX, 01409 259178
 CSS, Kington, Carol & Steve Simmons, Little Kington Farm, Gillingham Dorset, SP8 5EF, 01747 838756
 IOW, Hermitage, Mr. & Mrs. N. Smith, Hermitage Dairy Farm, Whitwell, Ventnor, Isle of Wight, PO38 2PD, 01983 730875
 BCQ, Mounts Bay, Mr. T.J. Trembath, Beacon Cottage, Crowlas, Penzance, Cornwall, TR20 8DR, 01736 740854
 FJW, Caerhays, F.J. & C.H. Williams, Caerhays Farms (Arthur Broom), Caerhays Barton, Gorran, St. Austell, Cornwall, PL26 6LY, 01872 501296

Area 9 Notts, Lincs, Leics, Northants, Cambs, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Herts, Beds, Bucks, Surrey, Kent, Sussex, London

Area Rep, CAF, Manor Lane, Mrs. Carolyn Fox, Manor View, Dry Doddington, Newark, Notts, NG23 5JA, 01400 282044
 BRB, Quarles, Mr. B. R. Basset, Quarles Farm, Holkham, Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, NR23 1RY, 01328 738105
 BEE, Beowulf, Mr. Arthur Beevers, 2, High Street, Pointon, Sleaford, S. Lincolnshire, NG34 0LX, 07507 894416
 VGB, Brockley, V. & G. Bowring Livestock, Lakeside Bungalow, The Park, Nether Langwith, Mansfield, Notts, NG20 9ES, 07788 498911
 DJB, Hockson, Mr. D.J. Brown, 79 Buxton Road, Spixworth, Norwich, Norfolk, NR10 3PP, 01606 898379
 BEN, Green's Park, C.B. Farms, Woodend, Towcester, Northamptonshire, NN12 8SD, 01327 861072
 SEA, Seawell, P.M. & S.M. Donger, Seawell Grounds, Foxley, Towcester, Northants, NN12 8HW, 01327 860226
 BID, Bidwell Salers, Peter Featherstone, Stable Cottage, 11A Baggrave End, Barsby, Leicestershire, LE7 4RB, 07931 769144
 MIT, Thursford, J T Mitchell & Sons Partnership Trust, Station Farm, Thursford, Fakenham, Norfolk, NR21 0BE, 01328 878265
 ACQ, Sarnbourne, Adam Quinney, Reins Farm, Oak Tree Lane, Sarnbourne, Redditch, B96 6EX, 01527 892820
 MPE, Millbank, Mr. Eric Wood & Mrs. Pat Cherry, Skinners Lock Farm, Peashill Lane, Cotgrave, Nottingham, HG12 3HD, 07803 003505
 HWJ, Fellside, Mr. H. Wright jnr., Fellside Farm, Metton Road, Cromer, Norfolk 07860 524120

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2010



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Royal Ulster Show 2010

JUDGE: Rachel Hallos

COW, in calf or with calf at foot

1st : J & E.A Elliott, Newtownstewart, CURIEUSE

2nd : J & E.A Elliott, Newtownstewart, UNITY

3rd : Mr G McCall, Armagh, BABETTE

HEIFER, born on or before 31st August 2008

1st : J & E.A Elliott, Newtownstewart, DALIDA

2nd : Mr George T McCall, Armagh, CARRICK VIEW DELPHINE

3rd : J & E.A Elliott, Newtownstewart, DANSE

HEIFER, born on or after 1st January 2008

1st : Mr George T McCall, Armagh, CARRICK VIEW ETIOLE

2nd : Mr D McClements & Sons, Portaferry, EMERALD ALANA

3rd : Mr D McClements & Sons, Portaferry, EMERALD FLO

BULL, up to 2 years old on day of Show

1st: J & E.A Elliott, Newtownstewart, DRUMLEGAGH CHUCK

BULL, over 2 years old on day of Show

1st: J & E.A Elliott, Newtownstewart, BLASON

2nd: P J Maginn, Downpatrick, LISNAMAAL BUSTER

PAIR OF ANIMALS

1st: Mr George T McCall, Armagh,

2nd: D & Sons McClements, Portaferry

CHAMPION AND RESERVE CHAMPION

SP: J & E.A Elliott, Newtownstewart, BLASON

Res: J & E.A Elliott, Newtownstewart, CURIEUSE

JUNIOR BREED CHAMPION

SP: J & E.A, Newtownstewart, DRUMLEGAGH CHUCK

Res: Mr George T McCall, Armagh, CARRICK VIEW ETIOLE

HIGHWAYS HOTEL CUP for the Show Champion

SP: J & E.A Elliott, Newtownstewart, DRUMLEGAGH CHUCK

HIGHWAYS HOTEL CUP for the Show Reserve Champion

SP: Mr George T McCall, Armagh, CARRICK VIEW ETIOLE

WALLETT MART SHIELD for the best home bred animal

SP: J & E.A Elliott, Newtownstewart, DRUMLEGAGH CHUCK

Res: Mr George T McCall, Armagh, CARRICK VIEW ETIOLE

SALERS CATTLE SOCIETY CUP for the best pair of animals

SP: Mr George T McCall, Armagh, CARRICK VIEW DRAGONNE

SP: J & E.A Elliott, Newtownstewart, UNITY

Res: Mr D McClements & Sons, Portaferry, EMERALD ALANA

Res: Mr David Boyd, Newtownabbey, J+KOCKAGH CLARISSA

STOCKMANS CUP

George McCall Junior

J & E.A Elliott, Newtownstewart also took the reserve prize for the best group in the Beef Group Competition

The crowds packed the thoroughfares at the Balmoral Show and the organisers' predictions of attracting over 70,000 visitors in three days I am sure were fulfilled

There was an excellent display of Salers cattle on show and the judge, your Chairman, Rachel Hallos thoroughly enjoyed her daunting task of selecting the finest



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MORWENSTOW JASMIN 10

RESERVE BREED CHAMPION AND GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOW 2010
SECOND HIGHEST PRICED FEMALE SOLD AT CASTLE DOUGLAS TO N IRELAND

Royal Cornwall Show 2010

Judge: Donald Gilder

Results

Bull any age

1st Rigel Pedigree, RIGEL ORLANDO
2nd Messrs A & M Austin, MORWENSTOW CRAFTSMAN
3rd Messrs A & M Austin, MORWENSTOW SARACEN

Cow or Heifer, born before 1st January 2008

1st Messrs A & M Austin, MORWENSTOW JASMIN 6

Cow or Heifer, born on or after 1st January 2008

1st Messrs A & M Austin, MORWENSTOW JASMIN 10
2nd Rigel Pedigree, RIGEL TIBER
3rd Rigel Pedigree, RIGEL PERSIA

Champion Male & Overall Reserve Champion

Rigel Pedigree, RIGEL ORLANDO

Reserve Champion Male

Messrs A & M Austin, MORWESTOW CRAFTSMAN

Champion Female & Overall Champion and Best Exhibitor Bred

Messrs A & M Austin, MORWENSTOW JASMIN 10

Reserve Champion Female

Rigel Pedigree, RIGEL TIBER



Champion Female & Overall Champion and Best Exhibitor Bred

MORWENSTOW JASMIN 10

Their Royal Highnesses, The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and approximately 126,000 members of public enjoyed ideal weather for this show in Wadebridge, Cornwall. High quality competition in the cattle, sheep and pig sections – including the first-ever South Devon Cattle national show – maintained the Royal Cornwall's reputation as one of the country's leading agricultural shows.

The Salers Cattle Society had three breeders entered into the show; Messrs A & M Austin, Mr. W T G Benney and Rigel Pedigree (who traveled from North Yorkshire).

Salers Are Big Favourites For One Farming Family

Why Salers?

Approach Farm at Escrick, near York, seems like a good place to ask why yet another breed of French cattle is steadily increasing its British following.

The Gowthorpe family, who have run the farm since 1944, tried their first Salers more or less by chance. Now they are heading for a herd of nothing but.

Peter and Margaret Gowthorpe came to the farm as tenants in 1944 and bought the farm from the Escrick Estate in 1980. Their son Angus is now included in the business title – P.W., K.M. and C.A.W. Gowthorpe. His wife, Kerry, is in the team and four-month-old Bronwyn is first of the next generation.

They farm a total of 418 acres (169 ha), including 58 acres of rented grass. The original farm was 227 acres but various blocks of land have been acquired over the years, within an eight-mile radius.

Soil type varies from blow-away sand to heavy clay and annual rainfall is about 890mm (35 inches). Cropping includes 69 acres of winter oilseed rape, for crushing; 128 acres of Viscount winter wheat, for biscuits; 45 acres of Cassia winter barley, for feed; 25 acres of Tipple spring barley, hopefully for malting; 45 acres of Crackerjack combining peas, targeted for human consumption; 45 acres of permanent grazing; 17 acres of temporary grazing; and 45 acres of silage grass.

The livestock holding has developed from a need for an easy-to-manage beef operation that would integrate well with the arable enterprises. The count at the time of this visit is: eight pedigree Salers heifers in calf to two recently-acquired Salers bulls; and 54 commercial Salers-cross cows with Limousin-cross calves at foot, now also in calf to the Salers bulls.

Peter Gowthorpe said: "We were running a commercial suckler herd of 'Heinz 57' breeds and crosses and using Charolais bulls as terminal sires. All calves were finished for beef with bull calves kept entire. There was no real thought about different breeds, but in 2002 we happened to buy eight Salers-cross heifers as herd replacements.

"At about the same time, we went to France on holiday and by sheer chance happened to be in the Salers region when the Salers Turn-out Fair

was being held. We were impressed by both the quality and the quietness of the cattle."

The following year, Angus returned home, after a degree at Harper Adams College followed by five years as a management trainee with JSR Farms. By this time, his father was already embarked on the Limousin-Salers route

Angus said: "The cross has worked well. But we have come to see the advantages in moving towards a purebred herd.

"We went to the 2004 Salers Cattle Society sale in Castle Douglas, just to take a look, and bought eight commercial bulling heifers from the Cuil, Poldean and Burnhouse Mains herds – virtually purebred animals. We went to look, mainly, but liked what we saw and took the view that the transport costs would be about the same whether we took home two or three or 10 cattle.



HERD INSTINCT : Some Salers cows and calves

"More Salers cattle followed, including some from Rigel (the Pye family's herd, near Yarm) at the point they were moving over to purely pedigree breeding.

"We were still using hired Limousin bulls as terminal sires. But we wanted to get away from hiring bulls, with the associated risk of bringing in disease. Also, our own experience had shown that there was a shortage of Salers heifers and a ready market for them. So we thought we might as well produce our own. At present, pure Salers heifers are worth about 300 more than Limousin/Salers heifers, so while we have had to buy our own Salers bulls, the margins are greater and we have control over our herd health status.

"The chance to establish a high-health herd is an important consideration. None of our neighbours have livestock on land bordering our farm and we think there will be a premium for high-health status. Certainly buyers are increasingly looking at health status. And the Salers is a healthy kind of animal.

"In addition, both Kerry and I are interested in doing a little showing, even though this will mean keeping the show cattle in quarantine, away from the main herd, for the show season, and only

letting them back into the herd after thorough testing."

In short, beef production will continue to be the main business, but the family have decided that even for that, there is no real benefit in crossing the Salers. They might get a little more from a finished crossbred, but when simplicity and ease of management is taken into account, there is little or nothing in it. And they want a small pedigree herd at the heart of the suckler herd.

The latest moves towards that status have included the purchase of two stock bulls from Rigel Pedigree and heifers from the breed society chair, Rachel Hallos, and vice-chair, Harri Pritchard.

Cattle are loose-housed in straw yards, on ad lib silage, from late October through to mid-April, with calving indoors from New Year to the end of March.

All calves receive a home-mixed creep feed from early July. Heifers are kept on restricted rations from housing until April, then switched to an ad-lib finishing ration, while bulls receive ad-lib finishing rations from housing until slaughter.

Angus said: "Some heifers are sold as stores through York market; some are bought as bulling heifers. All finished animals go to ABP, York.



Heifers typically make R or U grade and weigh about 310 kg deadweight while bulls go at fifteen and a half months, grade U, and make about 425 kg deadweight.

"Salers suit our system. There is no profit in a dead calf, or if we have to cull a cow because of calving problems. The Salers calve themselves and grow like mushrooms. And we get a fairly large animal with the length needed to carry plenty of meat.

"Our priority now is to gradually build up the Salers content of the herd.

"The future for beef production in the UK is dependent on so many factors ... But I believe there is the market in the UK for quality beef, provided it is consistent. The Salers offer a consistent carcass with low labour input, quick-growing calves and fertile long-living cows."

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Royal Highland**



"Poldean Vince"

**Cleuchhead
"Mhairi 9th"
Champion
Female
2010 Royal
Highland**



Cleuchhead "Mhairi 9th"

**Cleuchhead
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Royal Highland Show 2010

Judge: John Elliott

Results

Female born on or before 1st January 2009

1st R & K Livesey, CLEUCHHEAD MAHAIRI 9TH
2nd Rigel Pedigree, RIGEL PERSIA
3rd Mr Willie Davidson, POLDEAN BABS

Female born on or between 1st January 2007 ad 31st December 2008

1st Willie Davidson, POLDEN WUDY
2nd R & K Livesey, CLEUCHHEAD GENTIL 8TH
3rd R & K Livesey, COLAND ACE

Female born on or before 31st December 2006

1st Mr Graham McClymont, CUIL TALULA
2nd Mssrs Manners, VAGABONDE
3rd Mr Willie Davidson, CHAPELPARK TRUDY

Bull born on or after 1st January 2009

1st Messrs Manners, SEAMORE ENTOURAGE
2nd Messrs Manners, SEAMORE EROS
3rd Mr Graham McClymont, CUIL CHAMP

Bull born on or before 31 December 2008

1st R & K Livesey, POLDEAN VINCE
2nd Mr Willie Davidson POLDEAN URI
3rd Mr Neil Barclay, WHITEBOG CONVENOR

Best Female born on or after 1st January 2009

The Lochdougan Trophy
R & K Livesey, CLEUCHHEAD MAHAIRI 9TH

Best Junior Female

R & K Livesey, CLEUCHHEAD MAHAIRI 9TH

Best Female

The Q.E.T. Perpetual Trophy
R & K Livesey, CLEUCHHEAD MAHAIRI 9TH

Best Male born on or after 1st January 2009

The Cuil Claret Jug
Messrs Manners, SEAMORE ENTOURAGE

Best Junior Bull

Messrs Manners, SEAMORE ENTOURAGE

Best Bull

The Rumenco Perpetual Trophy
R & K Livesey, POLDEAN VINCE

Champion Salers

The Swordsman Trophy
R & K Livesey, POLDEAN VINCE

Reserve Champion Salers

The Salers Bell
R & K Livesey, CLEUCHHEAD MAHAIRI 9TH

Best Animal bred by Exhibitor

R & K Livesey, CLEUCHHEAD MAHAIRI 9TH

Best Pair of Animals

Rigel Pedigree

Best Group of Three Animals

Mr Willie Davidson

Stockmans Cup

Adam Crockett

The title of The Greatest Show on Earth was well and truly earned this year with nearly 190,000 people flocking to Ingliston. Its carnival atmosphere helped by the incredible weather made the four days of the Show the best on record, however the Grand Parade on the last day was cancelled due to the heat.

The Salers Cattle Lines were well stocked with good animals which brought lots of attention, especially from the commercial breeders. John Elliott from Northern Ireland, had a difficult job judging some fine beasts.



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Great Yorkshire Show 2010

Judge: Andrew McConchie

Results

Female born on or before 31st December 2007

1st Messrs Manners, Vagabonde
2nd Mrs Carolyn Fox, Manor Lane Spirit

Female born on or after 1st January 2008

1st Messrs A & M Austin, Morwenstow Jasmin 10
2nd Rigel Pedigree, Rigel Tiber
3rd Messrs A & M Austin, Morwenstow Jasmin 9

Female born before 1st January 2009

1st S & R Hallos, Beeston Hall Camilla
2nd S & R Hallos, Beeston Hall Celeste
3rd Mr PM Donger, Seawell Elyse

Bull born before 1st January 2009

1st Messrs A & M Austin, Morwenstow Saracen
2nd S & R Hallos, Beeston Hall Daimler
3rd Mr Brian Walling, Cumbrian Joker

Bull born on or after 1st January 2009

1st Messrs Manners, Seamore Empire
2nd Messrs Manners, Seamore Eros
3rd Messrs A & M Manners, Morwenstow Craftsman

Group of Three Animals

1st Messrs A & M Austin (bred by exhibitor)
2nd Messrs Manners
3rd S & R Hallos (bred by exhibitor)

Pair of Animals by the same Sire

1st Messrs A & M Austin – Sired by Cuil Sam bred by exhibitor
2nd Messrs Manners – Sired by Ultra bred by Exhibitor
3rd S & R Hallos – Sired by ???? bred by exhibitor

Salers Breed Champion

A & M Austin, Morwenstow Saracen

Salers Breed Reserve Champion

A & M Austin, Morwenstow Jasmin 10

Salers Junior Champion

Messrs Manners, Seamore Empire

Salers Junior Reserve Champion

S & R Hallos, Beeston Hall Camilla

Champion Male

A & M Austin, Morwenstow Saracen

Reserve Champion Male

Messrs Manners, Seamore Empire

Champion Female

A & M Austin, Morwenstow Jasmin 10

Reserve Champion Female

Messrs Manners, Vagabonde

Sir Tony Austin swept the board at this show making it well worth the trip from Cornwall.

Morwenstow Saracen did the Salers proud by also taking fourth place in the Supreme Champion Beef Animal class

Champion Male Saracen



Champion Female Jasmin 10



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Cuil Becky purchased at the premier sale 2009



Typical first calf heifer



*Felin Finn at three months old by Cesar, his dam
by Armstrong, both imported bulls.
He is now 11 months old and a very promising young bull*

Royal Welsh Show 2010

Judge: John Pirie

Results

Bull, born on or after 1st January 2009

- 1st James & Sophie Manners SEAMORE ENTOURAGE
- 2nd Mr W Burrows HAMPTON OLIVER
- 3rd James & Sophie Manners SEAMORE EROS

Best male exhibit born on or after 1 January 2009

- 1st James & Sophie Manners SEAMORE ENTOURAGE
- 2nd Mr W Burrows HAMPTON OLIVER

Best male exhibit

- 1st James & Sophie Manners SEAMORE ENTOURAGE
- 2nd Mr W Burrows HAMPTON OLIVER

Cow, born on or before 31 December 2007

- 1st Alun Jones CHAPELPARK TANYA
- 2nd Alun Jones ULENA
- 3rd James & Sophie Manners VAGABONDE
- 4th H G & S G Pritchard FELIN CARA

Heifer, born between 1st January 2008 and 31 December 2008

- 1st Rigel Pedigree RIGEL TIBER
- 2nd H G & S G Pritchard CUIL BECKY
- 3rd A D & P M Rogers COLAND BLANCHE

Heifer, born on or after 1st January 2009

- 1st James & Sophie Manners SEAWELL ELYSE
- 2nd Mr W Burrows HAMPTON IVY
- 3rd Rigel Pedigree RIGEL PERSIA
- 4th D I & H M Rogers COLAND CARLENE
- 5th Rigel Pedigree RIGEL TRINKET

Best female exhibit

- 1st Alun Jones CHAPELPARK TANYA
- 2nd James & Sophie Manners SEAWELL ELYSE

Champion – Salers Cattle

- 1st Alun Jones CHAPELPARK TANYA
- 2nd James & Sophie Manners SEAWELL ELYSE

Hallows Trophy

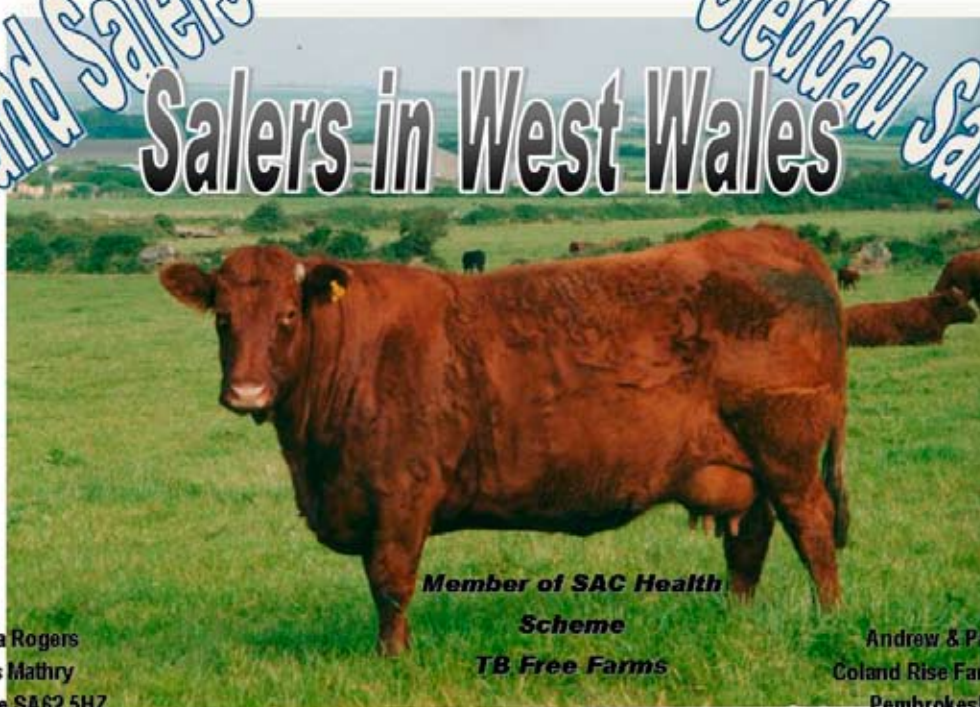
- 1st James & Sophie Manners SEAMORE ENTOURAGE
- 2nd Mr W Burrows HAMPTON OLIVER



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New Junior Sire
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Other shows – Pics from other shows

Various Pics tbc

Feature Blackpotts Farm



THE FAMILY Allison, Raymond, Helen & Norman

IN THE hope of simplifying their beef system and reducing labour time, father and son, Norman and Raymond Lawrence replaced the Simmental cross females in their suckler herd with pure Salers in 2003 – a decision which they now say is the only reason that they still have cows at all.

The family, including Norman's wife Helen and Raymond's wife Allison, run 400 acres between two units, Blackpotts, and nearby Hill of Skilmafilly, at Auchnagatt, Ellon, Aberdeenshire. There, they finish all the calves from their 110 cows, grow 130 acres of barley (mainly for their own use), and run 250 Lleyn breeding ewes.

It was when supplying Willie Davidson at Poldean, Moffat, with replacement Lleyns after the 2001 foot-and-mouth outbreak, that Norman was first drawn towards the Salers breed.

"We had already made up our mind that we had to make changes in the suckler herd. We had been having some calving problems, which meant a lot of time had to be spent checking the cattle, and we also felt we'd rather have a closed

herd and breed our own replacements," Norman explained.

"I was really impressed with the Salers at Poldean, and we decided that was the route we should go, so we bought a batch of 13 heifers privately from the Davidsons, and then a further nine after that, followed by 12 maiden heifers at Castle Douglas," he added.

"We didn't have a specific type in mind, but they had to be a decent size so they could be bulled at 15 months old, and we like the darker red colour. Mainly though, we picked ones that caught our eye," added Raymond.

The Simmentals were gradually bred out and replaced with pure Salers, which now all go to the Salers bull as heifers. The top 30 continue to be bred pure, for producing replacements, while the remainder are then put to the Charolais bull.

"The Salers and Charolais cross works really well – the calves are really consistent and all come out the same golden colour, and we've found no difference in the quality, compared to those out the Simmental females. But, you can't just use any Charolais bull and expect good calves, you need a good quality bull," said Raymond.

Current Charolais stock sires included a French-bred bull, also bought from Poldean, and an Irish-bred bull, bought at Perth. Chief Salers bulls at the moment are a home-bred son of the past Highland Show champion, Portos, named Blackpotts Boom-Ta, and the bought-in Poldean Tyson.



BULLING HEIFERS on the hill with their pure and cross calves at foot

Around 30 cows are calved in the autumn, with the majority spring calving. Finished on ad-lib barley and concentrates, heifers go at 18 months and steers at 22-24 months, mainly to Woodhead Bros for Morrisons. While the pure heifers are kept for the herd, the pure steer calves are fattened.



"Whilst before, the calving cows regularly needed assistance, we've found the Salers to be really easy calving – we can basically leave them to it.

"We check them last thing at night, and if all is ok, we can go and get a good nights sleep, knowing that they will still be ok in the morning," said Norman.

"The Salers make great mothers too, they've plenty of milk and the calves are up and sooking straight away. We've found them to have great udders and their feet, and for some reason, the dark udders don't seem to attract flies, so we've not experienced mastitis problems either," added Raymond.

Keeping control of herd health is one of the main benefits of breeding your own replacement



females, and the Lawrences have found that vaccinating for BVD and Lepto has made a big difference to the cattle.



"Vaccinating the cows against BVD has helped to eliminate pneumonia – when we spean the calves at the end of the year, we no longer have to vaccinate them against it.

"And, the Lepto vaccination has resulted in a closer calving period," explained Raymond, who added that another successful addition to the farm, has been a mixer wagon.

"We bought a mixer wagon three years ago, and at the time, we thought it was a bit of a luxury. However, it's made the feeding system a lot simpler and quicker, and because we can control the rations better, the cattle are a lot more satisfied and rest better. It also keeps the bedding drier."

Similar to other continental breeds, the Salers are often tagged with the reputation for being 'wild', but the Lawrence family say the opposite has been true for them.

"Salers prefer to come to you – they don't need chased, but if you shout them at the gate, they'll come towards you. I think any breed can be wild, if they're not handled properly – once they get used to people walking amongst them, they are far from being wild. In fact, we've found they can sometimes be too friendly!," said Norman.

"We first bought Salers in the hope of simplifying our system, in the same way that we had with the sheep – the Lleyne ewes are all kept pure and we breed our own replacements – and we've found that they suit us perfectly.

"I'm certain that if we hadn't gone into Salers, we'd have got rid of the cows altogether, but instead, we've upped the numbers from 70 to 110," he concluded.

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Castle Douglas Dinner

The tradition of roast Salers beef along with good company and a warm welcome was once again on the menu at the Annual Salers Dinner on the evening of 5th November. The Salers beef was kindly supplied by Graham McClymont; who had the task of providing enough for a sell out event.

The chairman, Rachel Hallos presided and guests were entertained throughout the evening. The meal commenced with a traditional Scottish Piper piping in the Haggis followed by young Andrew Tullie of Bowanhill Farm, Hawick officially "Addressing the Haggis" much to the surprise of Rachel; everyone enjoyed this traditional start to a wonderful evening with friends.

The sponsors Farmers Guardian and Natural Stockcare represented by Steph Denny and Tom Stevenson retrospectively and the Judge Donald Gilder gave out prizes to those who were successful in the society show earlier in the day.

The Society Champion Animals of the Year 2010 were announced and are featured on the front and back covers of this Journal. Congratulations!

A raffle took place with one of the prizes; a canvas of a Salers heifer going on to be sold at auction following the sale where all proceeds were donated to a children's charity.

A Christmas cake made by Christine McClymont and superbly decorated by Hilary McConchie was auctioned by Robin Anderson of Wallets Marts, I am sure David Boyd's family welcomed it to their Christmas table.

Thank you to everyone who donated and took part.



Champion Senior Male of the Year

(Salers Cattle Society Trophy)
Morwenstow Saracen
Messrs. A & M Austin

Champion Senior Female of the Year

(Salers Cattle Society Trophy)
Manor Lane Spirit – Carolyn Fox

Champion Junior Male of the Year

(Quaich Cup)
Seamore Entourage - J & S Manners

Champion Junior Female of the Year

(Silver Salver)
Cleuchhead Mhairi – R & K Livesey

Castle Douglas Premier Show & Sale 2010

Judge: D Gilder

Salers cattle breeders enjoyed a good trade at the society's annual Show and Sale. Pedigree bulls peaked at 8000gns and females sold to 5400gns,

Adding to the success was the fact that there was an increased demand for Salers cross heifers, which improved by as much as £100 per head in some sections, with a pen of three pedigree bulling heifers from Willie Davidson, Poldean, Moffat selling at £1180 per head, while yearling heifer stirks peaked at £1150 from Graham and Colin McClymont, Cuil, Palnure, Newton Stewart.

Cuil also produced the lead commercial average, selling 58 heifers (50 yearlings and bulls) at £966 apiece.

"Under the current climate, the sale has exceeded all expectations, which just shows the breed is being taken seriously," said the Chair of the Society Rachel Hallos. "People now know what Salers are and they are considering them as a serious alternative. We've seen a lot more interest in the breed over the past year because they offer huge commercial benefits, mainly as a result of their ease of calving"

It was a point highlighted by many buyers too, including John Matheson, who with his father Kenny at Milton of Aberardour, Inverness, bought the top priced bull at 8000gns. "We often get a few cows calving outside on the hill, but when they're Salers cross females, or cows calving to a Salers bull, there's no problem. Salers calves are easy calved, hardy and they're quick to get to their feet and suck. The Salers cross cows are also great milkers and they hold onto their udders well – I've a lot of pre '96 Salers cows which are still going strong" said John, who runs 180 Salers cross Simmental cows and has been using Salers bulls for 18 years.

His purchase this year was Seamore Empire, a rising two year old bull from J & S Manners and son Archie (10) who run 64 pedigree cows at Deanfoot, Hawick. A full brother to last year's champion sold by the couple for 5400gns, Empire is by the French sire, Ultra and out of an imported cow, Vagabonde a former breed leader at the Highland.

The second last bidders on that bull – John and David Wilson, Kirkmabreck, Creetown – went on to buy the second top bull at 6000gns, again for the breed's ease of calving characteristics on commercial cows. This was Rob Livesey and sons, Rory and Ians Cleuachhead Yorkie, from Firth Farm, Lilliesleaf,

Melrose. By the French sire Valentin, he is out of the

10 year old Cleuchhead Mhairi 3, which bred sons to 7200gns and 3200gns.

First time consignor John Elliott, Drumlegagh, Newtown Stewart, Co Tyrone, took the sale by storm, producing not only the third highest priced bull at 5500gns for Drumlegagh Chav, but also for the lead priced female at 5400gns.

Chav, the youngest bull forward at just 17 months and the reserve junior champion at the pre sale show, is sired by the French sire Blason, a bull that stood breed champion at Balmoral in 2009 and 2010 out of Balance, another French bred female this time by Trizac. Forking out the cah this time was John Aitken, Carlopshill, Penicuik.

The same sire was also behind Mr Elliott's female champion and reserve overall, Drumlegagh Blanche, which made 5400gns to Stephen & Rachel Hallos, Beeston Hall Farms, Ripponden, Halifax. This heifer is out of Drumlegagh Veena, one of 64 cows in the herd, and was sold in calf to Kracker.

Second top amongst the females was 4500gns for the sale leader Morwenstow Jasmin 10, a Cuil Sam daughter from Tony Austin, Stanbury Manor, Woodford, Bude, Cornwall, brought out by freelance stockman Paul Walker.

Breed champion at the Royal Cornwall and reserve champion at the Great Yorkshire, this in calf heifer is out of the former Royal champion Morwenstow Jasmin 5, sold to Geoff Wilson, a property developer and antiques dealer, who runs Brookfields herd at Dromore, Northern Ireland.

George McCall, Ballymacawley Road, Collone, Armagh also flew the flag for Northern Ireland selling his first female sold at Castle Douglas at 3800gns to Alan Howatson, The Risk, Newton Stewart. Carrick View Dragonne a heifer that stood junior champion at Balmoral and champion at Clogher Valley, is by Turbulent, out of Sonia and sold with a three week old heifer calf at foot.

Back amongst the bulls, the junior champion and supreme overall, Seawell Eldorado from Peter Donger, Seawell Grounds, Foxley, Towcester, brought out by stockman Glen Welsh, made 4200gns selling to Mckenzie Brothers, Westfield, Thurso.

Averages:

Pedigree Salers | Commercial Salers

Bulls - £3610	Junior Bulling Heifers - £869
Females - £3062	Heifer Stirks - £863



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PERTH BULL SALES - February 2011

Again Salers bulls were in demand in Stirling at the Perth Bull Sales.

Salers bulls sold to 4,000gns for Rigel Darwin from Rigel Pedigree, Yarm, Yorkshire to Messrs. Mackenzie, Thurso, Caithness. This April 2009 born bull is by Amazonien and out of Rigel Dionya.

The male champion, Whitebog Exotic from A Mackenzie, Fortrose made 3,600gns. This Bijou son sold to A Howatson, Newtown Stewart, Wigtownshire.

Next best at 3,400gns was a Casimir son, Dukesfield Cannon from A G and D Bissett, Steel, Hexham, selling to Messrs. Austin, Castle Douglas.

Averages - Bulls 3,000gns, Females 1,500gns

Overall Female Champion - Rigel Babette

Overall Male Champion - Whitebog Exotic



GESTATION TABLE - COWS

Find date of service in upper line
Figure below indicates date calf due

Jan	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Jan
Oct	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Nov
Feb	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28				Feb
Nov	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9				Dec
Mar	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Mar
Dec	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Jan
April	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		April
Jan	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		Feb
May	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	May
Feb	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Mar
June	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		June
Mar	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		April
July	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	July
April	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	May
Aug	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Aug
May	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	June
Sept	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		Sept
June	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		July
Oct	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Oct
July	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Aug
Nov	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		Nov
Aug	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		Sept
Dec	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Dec
Sept	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Oct

WHITEBOG SALERS



3 Homebred Bulls

Typical example of Bulls bred at Whitebog



Whitebog Madonna & Whitebog Nicole *with calves at foot. Daughters of Cumbria Fury & Cumbria Dot*



Whitebog Dancer

Champ Stirling oct 2010.

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Thurso

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Beef Expo - Hexham 27th May 2010

There was a good amount of interest in Salers at this event, and those manning the stand with a good knowledge of the breed often based on having some Salers of their own, had a significant input to the promotion of the qualities the breed offers.

Thanks go to Messrs Manners, Livingstone, Walling and especially Angus Gowthorpe for bringing cattle for the stand. Angus had only just become a father for the first time, and he left wife and new baby to spend 2 days at Hexham, and brought some excellent Salers x Lim bulls with him, which were just right for an area where the Limousin is the dominant beef breed. Congratulations to Angus and family on their new human addition! Thanks also go to Jock Watson for helping assemble the stand and to all the members who came on the stand to talk with visitors; this really does make a difference.

Thanks to Rob Livesey and Terence Pye who shared the organisation of the event.

Dairy Event and Livestock Show NEC, Birmingham 7 - 8 September 2010

Dairy Event The Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers Event was held for the first time at the NEC Birmingham. The venue was very useful for the motorway network and was an impressive scene.

We had intended to showcase some Holstein/Salers crossbreeds but unfortunately TB restrictions got the better of us, making it impossible to bring these impressive crosses to the event! However, yet again Peter Donger (Seawell Salers) stepped in with some excellent cattle to showcase the breed. We extend grateful thanks to Peter and his team. Also to Rachel Hallos, Carolyn Fox, Donald Gilder and Terence Pye for helping the secretary "man the stand".



Cattle diseases must be tackled

Many members of the Salers Cattle Society are already in CHeCS approved health schemes, such as SAC Premium Cattle Health Scheme (PCHS). The aim of taking this route is to give confidence to the buyer, pedigree or commercial, that stock sold are free of BVD. At the same time the vendor knows that his herd, or individual animals, has an acceptable BVD status. As the Salers breed has maternal attributes it is vital that all members know the status of animals in their own herds so that they are selling with confidence. Purchasers are increasingly demanding healthy cattle.

What is BVD?

Many breeders have not encountered the disease so feel that there is no need to do anything about it. But unless blood testing is done in a herd there is no assurance that the disease is not present.

BVD is probably the most common viral disease of cattle in Europe and several countries have instigated eradication schemes. Presence of BVD in a population could create a trade barrier for export. Scotland has recently adopted an eradication programme.

The effect of BVD can be felt at all stages of the production cycle i.e. from bulling all the way through to calving and then the rearing stages of the calf. It is spread by persistently infected animals (Pi's). These Pi's are created in the first few months of pregnancy when a pregnant animal encounters a Pi animal. Infertility, extended calving periods, abortions, dead calves, malformed calves, weak calves are all signs of a BVD infection and because the immune system can be suppressed calf scours and pneumonia are also common. Often the Pi animals die with mucosal disease in which the digestive tract is severely ulcerated -an animal welfare issue.

So the aim is to test and remove Pi animals. This will result in the sale of animals, which are fit for purpose. The ramifications of a disease outbreak in a herd can last for several years and the cumulative financial effect would be in the order of £46,000 for a 100 cow herd over 10 years.

What is involved?

Bulls and females should be tested. To prevent Pi's all females should be tested for BVD virus and vaccinated before they are exposed to breeding. If your herd gains accredited status it becomes unnecessary to undertake individual testing. However sale animals should be vaccinated.

Testing for BVD will involve blood sampling of 5 calves (over 9 months old) per management group. Two clear tests at a one year interval will confer accredited status to the herd. For accredited status appropriate bio-security measures are also necessary e.g. a 3 m boundary between your cattle and any neighbouring cattle. If you have commercial cows on the same farm blood sample a number of these calves as well.

Any breeder, whose herd is not accredited for BVD and is intending to sell stock should have them blood tested for BVD virus and antibody prior to sale and all animals must be vaccinated prior to sale. As vaccination involves a double course of vaccine it is crucial that you discuss this with your own vet and allow sufficient time prior to the sale for the testing and vaccination regime to be implemented.

Please remember to ask your health scheme provider in advance of a sale for a health declaration certificate to display along with your animal(s).

PCHS operated by SAC is CHeCS (Cattle Health Certification Standards) accredited and covers all of the UK. Testing is a partnership between you, your vet and PCHS.

The aim is five fold.

- Eliminate specific diseases
- Identify herds free of disease
- Prevent introduction of disease-to-disease free herds (bio-security)
- Certification of health status
- Improve herd health on a national basis.

What other disease(s) could I test for?

Both the pedigree and commercial buyer are increasingly discerning about health status and you may feel that other diseases should be tested for.

Johne's disease is frequently diagnosed and can cause substantial financial losses due to a shortened breeding life. It is also a disease which impacts on animal welfare and is fatal. All cattle over two years of age need to be screened. Although this is costly, identifying an animal at an early stage means they can be culled at a satisfactory value. If kept, they could lose a lot of condition and be worth little and, at the same time, be spreading disease around the farm. Identification of the disease at an early stage means that the animal has a decent cull value and this can pay for the cost of testing the whole herd.

Some breeders may also like to test for Leptospirosis and IBR.

Ian Pritchard
Health Scheme Manager-PCHS
SAC Veterinary Services



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Royal Welsh Winter Fair

The freezing temperatures and snow certainly gave this event a **Christmassy feel!**

With temperatures dipping to minus 17 it tested the show organizers ability to cope with the frozen water and snow and ice underfoot. They did an admirable job, and although overall attendance was down there was lots going on to keep everyone engaged.

The Salers cattle society joined other breeds in a combined stand organized by the National Beef Association, this was placed at the end of the cattle lines. The hot mulled wine attracted guests but I suspect it was more to warm themselves up than to find out about the different breeds!

The Chairman Rachel Hallos and Vice Chairman Harri Pritchard attended the event along with the secretary.

Tullyneddie Salers



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year's 3/4 Polled Calves



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British Beef Cattle Conference, Telford 24 – 25 January 2011

The Pedigree Beef Societies' Group meeting preceded the British Beef Cattle Conference. This group meet twice a year with attendance from representatives of beef breeds from around the UK. This is not only a good way to get to know one another and network but means that we have a method to bring things to the table to be discussed and if necessary can collectively take things forward. Your secretary is attending these meetings as the Salers representative.

The Conference

I wasn't sure what to expect when it was suggested I attend this event in Telford, but I was pleasantly surprised. Such conferences really bring it home to you what a massive job feeding the world is and what a huge responsibility the international farming industry has, and yes that is you!

I enjoyed a day of excellent, informative presentations from some very interesting and enthusiastic speakers, some of whom I later managed to persuade to pass on their presentations with permission to use them. One of them Nick Davis a young farmer from Powys, is featured within this Journal, I hope you enjoy reading about him and his experiences. I would thoroughly recommend attending next year (24-25 January 2012, Telford Golf and Spa Hotel) if only to find out about what's happening around the world and how much technology is being used, and of course statistics, which are becoming increasingly important; but it is still worth noting that keeping the right animals for the job in hand in the right manner will (with luck) bring you the right success.

Liz Wilde - Secretary

Following the Salers Council Meeting of the 9 January 2011, it was agreed there would be official Society presence during the following events.

The situation may change as the year progresses and we will adjust as required.

January

Pedigree Beef Societies Group
meeting 24th Telford
British Cattle Conference 24th 26th Telford

February

Perth Bull Sales 9th

May

Royal Ulster (Balmoral) 11th 13th
Welshpool Sale 19th
(society sale, herd health applies re BVD)
Beef Expo, Newark 26th

June

Royal Cornwall 9th 10th
Royal Highland 23rd 26th

July

Great Yorkshire Show 12th 14th
Royal Welsh 18th 21st

September

Dairy Event NEC 6th 11th TBC

November

Premier Show & Sale, Castle Douglas 4th 5th
Welsh Winter Fair 28th 29th TBC

TBC = to be confirmed

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Sustainable Farming Systems



FAI - the Food Animal Initiative - aims to develop sustainable farm systems that provide discernable benefits to animal welfare, the environment

and human health, and to demonstrate the success of these systems through practical and commercial application. The aim is to rear animals that are fit for their environment and to supply this knowledge to commercial farmers.

Set up by farmers in 1998, FAI took over the tenancy of the Oxford University Farms at Wytham in 2001. The 1250 acre (506ha) farm is managed under the Upper Thames Tributaries Environmentally Sensitive Area Scheme and Countryside Stewardship, with an HLS application pending. All enterprises aim to maximise output and minimise inputs against measures of economic value, environmental sensitivity and ethical sustainability.

The farm is home to a 100 cow suckler herd, 5000 free range table birds, a developmental pig unit, a flock of 1000 sheep and a new fish enterprise. The suckler herd is mainly Salers with Salers sires for breeding replacements and Aberdeen Angus bulls for finishing stock. The aim is to make a profit from breeding sales and commercial finishers alongside an active research programme.

FAI also has an outdoor classroom providing a link between activities on the farm and the National Curriculum and supports project activities for local teachers and pupils. Between 5000 and 7000 children visit the farm each year, including special needs children who particularly benefit from contact with farm livestock.

Research

FAI research programmes embrace international partnerships, with Model Farm projects in Brazil and China and McDonalds Europe Flagship Farms. There is also a European Farmers Network to provide a progressive farmer's voice to political decision makers.

Worldwide livestock farming employs 1.3 billion

people and the livestock sector generates livelihoods for a billion of the world's poorest people. Livestock products provide a third of humanity's protein intake. But the dynamics are changing. Population growth will mean we need to feed nine billion people by 2050. Dietary preferences change as economies develop and demand for high quality protein foods will increase. And there will be increasing pressure on scarce resources.

Model farms

The Model Farm Project is a partnership between FAI and the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA). The objective is to establish an international network of viable, humane and sustainable model farms.

The aims are:

To provide an alternative to the industrial 'factory farming' of animals - the cruel management, long-distance transportation and inhumane slaughter of animals for food or products

6 To develop humane, sustainable farm systems which provide discernable benefits to animal welfare, the environment and human health

To act as a centre of excellence for good farm animal welfare practice, and share this knowledge with commercial farmers and other interested parties as widely as possible

To demonstrate to governments and the public that humane and sustainable farming is a practical reality To demonstrate to the global farming community that humane and sustainable



farming is possible, and obtain their support for this higher welfare method of farming

These aims are reflected in the management of the Oxfordshire farms and the suckler herd.

Suckler herd

Salers were selected for the suckler herd for ease of management and their ability to utilise grass and forage to produce saleable meat. "I'm not interested in breed politics" says Mike Gooding, Managing Director of FAI Farms. "What I am interested in is an animal that does the job. It doesn't matter whether it's black or white! Extreme breeding pushes animal ethics too far."

The FAI sucklers are in a high health status closed herd, with bulls bought in from reliable high health sources. Salers are purebred to provide replacement females with surplus stock finished for beef. Aberdeen Angus bulls were first used three years ago as terminal sires for commercial cross-bred beef production.

Females are selected on observation of their calves. There are currently no EBV's for Salers but whenever animals are moved they are put through a squeeze crush and weighed. The aim is to calve at turnout in the spring and wean in November before winter housing.

Finishing stock go on to a TMR ration based on silage, straw, rolled barley and soya. They are turned out the following spring for finishing off grass and the first cattle are drawn in September.

The Angus cross Salers females look impressive and the Jury is out on whether some of them may be put to the bull rather than sold as finished cattle. Another debate was on whether there are any significant differences between red and black Salers bloodlines.

But that probably takes us back into breed politics which FAI and Mike Gooding are anxious to avoid!

For more information on FAI and the farms, see www.faifarms.co.uk

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The livestock sector generates livelihoods for 1 billion of the World's poorest people

Livestock product provide a 1/3 of humanity's protein intake

But ... the dynamics are changing

- Population growth
- Diet preferences
- Available resources

● Pigs	24.5 million
● Cattle	5.6 million
● Sheep	16.3 million
● Chicken	896.6 million
● Poultry	57.2 million
● Other	0.6 million

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CATTLE AT HAME "**



Looking for that little extra vigour among his beef suckler herd and paving the way towards a purely weaned calf production system, a Mid-Wales farmer

tells Neil Ryder why he has introduced the French Salers breed to his system

Convinced that he needed to add a little extra vigour to his beef cattle, Mid-Wales farmer, Richard Tudor has introduced Salers cattle to his system previously based mainly on Simmental cross Friesian dams with Charolais bulls used as terminal meat sires.

While he describes the Salers as “an experiment that has become long term”, he believes the breed has lived up to its promise as a quiet, easy to manage animal, with growth rates of Salers sired cattle only a little behind those by the farm's existing Charolais bulls.

Richard farms in partnership with his father, Tom, and mother, Ann, at Llysun, Lanerfyl, Powys. The family came to Llysun in 1968 and with purchase of neighbouring land the farm has grown to its present 283ha (700 acres).



“This is an upland rather than a hill farm. Our land runs from about 150 metres, 500ft, to around 400 metres, 1,300ft, above sea level. My father once described it as ‘a favourable farm in a less favoured area’. It is a good grass farm, mostly down to long term leys.

“Most of the higher land was bought in adjoining blocks as and when they came up for sale meaning the lower parts are now only a short distance from the farm itself. It usually works well with the higher ground being drier than the lower ground meaning stock can be moved on to the hill in spring freeing the lower ground for silaging.

“The top land is exposed and, during last winter's heavy snows, was virtually cut off, though the family were able to build an igloo up there!”

“Stocking is about 110 beef suckler cows plus replacement heifers, and around 1,400 Welsh

Mule and Texel cross Welsh Mule ewes.

“The cattle side was originally based on Simmental cross Friesian cows though, because of the difficulty in finding Friesian replacements of the right quality, we have bred Simmental cross back to Simmental so many of our suckler cows are coming closer and closer to the Simmental. We cross out with the Charolais for our beef calves.

“At the moment we sell weaned calves at 10-12 months of age and finish the rest at 18-20 months of age. The herd calves indoors for ease of management in Mid-April, then being turned out to grass. The cattle will then stay out as late as possible depending on the weather, maybe into late November.

“Our Salers heifers calved in February, though this was related to their age and when we bought them rather than any preference for time of calving,” he said.

“We have been very pleased with our Simmental cross cows and will not change them, but we did feel that we were starting to lose a little of the hybrid vigour.

“We needed a cow that would cope with our tougher hill ground so were looking for a hardy breed. She needed to be easy fleshing but also be able to largely look after herself including being as easy calving as possible. It also had to be a breed that was quiet and easy to handle. When you are employing people safety is important and you do not want cattle that have to be chased around or can be aggressive.

“Finally it also had to fit in well with our existing system including being a good match with the Charolais. We looked at a number of breeds including a composite, but felt, if possible, that we would like to work with existing breeds. A friend who works with the Genus cattle breeding company had been to France and seen Salers in their home region. He had been impressed by what he saw.





"Following discussions with our friend, we felt that here was a breed that met our needs and which had developed in an upland area like our own. We decided to AI 15 of our Simmental cross heifers with a Genus Salers bull, Theoreme, and all calved down successfully last spring.

"I went up to the Salers Cattle Society sale in Castle Douglas in 2008 more than anything just to see what was there. The cows impressed me, but what really caught my interest was the commercial heifer section.



"There was a fantastic choice, and what made it even better was that there were large batches from the same farms meaning it was possible to buy cattle of consistent quality and type. I think there is a

lesson here and other breeds would do well to include commercial heifer sections in their official sales.

"Anyway, I bought 22 Salers stirks or yearling heifers. We did not buy a bull as we initially just wanted to see how the Salers heifers would perform in our system. We put these heifers to our Simmental bull and they calved down easily with minimal assistance.

"We went back to Castle Douglas last autumn to try to buy some more Salers commercial heifers but prices had gone up considerably to the level where they were no longer economically sensible for the commercial beef producer. There could be potential problems here for a breed looking to develop the commercial market," he said.

"I think what we are really looking for are ghost cows. Most herds have some of these cows that you never seem to do anything with and have never been through the crush. What we would really like here would be a herd of these ghost cows. Longevity is also more of an issue than it was a short time ago and the longer you can keep your cows the lower the replacement costs will be.

"We sell all our stores through Welshpool market and hope to keep about 30 of these entire. Finished steers and heifers mostly go to ABP at Shrewsbury making 320kg-400kg carcasses – our aim is to average about 350kg at good R grades.

"The ewes are put to Texel and some Charollais tups with all lambs for the Waitrose supermarket chain. Lambing is mid-March with lamb sales running from about early June to early November. Last year average carcase weight was 18.7kg with grades mostly Us and Rs," he said.

"We think that over the next few years we will move more and more to store production and move away from finishing cattle. Traditionally this farm carried a ratio of ten ewes to one cow. With this in mind we hope to increase cow numbers to about 140 while keeping sheep numbers the same.

"The farm is a little short of cattle housing, with land purchases and increased stock number running ahead of housing. This will be eased by the new cattle housing which is now being built. There is also the cost of finishing cattle, whereas spring calving cattle cost very little to keep over winter with our cattle fed silage only. Another consideration is that with lambing in March we are very short of April grazing.

"Along with this we will look to tighten the calving period which will make things easier to manage. Overall this is a stock rearing farm, not a good beef finishing farm but, providing we can keep our costs down, I think that there is a sound future for suckler beef store production at Llysun.

In 2003 Richard took advantage of a Hybu Cig Cymru scholarship to study beef production in South America which, he says, was valuable experience but that systems there were geared to producing smaller carcasses than were needed in the UK. One area of current research that he feels could have real potential for suckler beef producers is into twin births in cattle.

"This work has been largely ignored in the US where it would not suit their ranching systems, but, I think, could be a major bonus for British and European producers," he said.





Beef Action for Profit

Better Returns from Grazing Management

Boost your returns by managing grassland to maximise growth rates for stock, while allowing stocking rates to be increased and worms to be effectively controlled.

Effective grazing management must be a key objective in all herds given the extent to which profitability depends on feed costs and growth rates.

Monitoring of sward height and **soil fertility** is fundamental to ensure timings of grazing and applications of nutrients are optimised.

Targets

Draw up a **grazing plan** to determine grazing and rest periods.
Monitor the grazing in all fields by measuring **sward heights** regularly.
Manage grazing to achieve daily liveweight gains of at least 0.9 kg/day.

Management Guidelines

- Monitor available grazing by measuring **sward heights**, which will allow a grazing plan of grazing and rest periods to be formulated.
- Understand that **stocking rates** need to change through the season in relation to grass growth.
- Reduce **parasite** burdens and calf exposure to infestation by **categorising pastures** for level of risk, planning grazing and weaning stock onto lower risk pastures, and having an effective anthelmintic programme outlined in a herd **health plan**.
- Monitor growth rates against **pre-set targets** by weighing a sample of cattle regularly and adjusting grazing and concentrates to maintain daily gains of over 0.9 kg per day, and monitor **market prices** to take advantage of higher prices.
- Maximise the percentage of cattle finished off grazing to reduce the number that need to be over-wintered, thus reducing finishing costs.
- Promote **clover** growth by positive management and aim for a mid-season content of white clover of 20% in lowland pastures.
- Use **rotational grazing** systems to optimise animal performance as well as to maintain output and optimum sward height in the face of seasonal differences in sward growth.
- Appreciate that grazing and **conservation** for silage or hay should be integrated, which will require careful planning and flexible management.
- Match **sward fertilisation** carefully to pasture need by checking **N, P, K and pH status** regularly using soil tests.
- Identify areas where **soil compaction** or **soil damage** may have occurred and attempt to alleviate the problem through improving the entry or exit to a field, or the siting of walkways and feeding areas.
- Use an effective **weed control** programme to reduce the impact on grass production and quality of competition from weeds, and to eradicate the potential danger to livestock of poisonous weeds, such as **ragwort**.

More detailed advice, costings, calculators and further information supporting these guidelines are available free of charge to levy payers in a unique interactive Beef Action for Profit resource at www.eblex.org.uk



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Better Returns from Grazing Management

Stocking Rates for Well-Managed Grassland

Stage of season	Stocking rate (kg liveweight per ha)	Equivalent number of 200 kg steers per ha
Early (May/June)	2,200	11
Mid (July)	1,500	8
Late (August/September)	1,000	5

Recommended Sward Heights for Cattle Under Set Stocking and Rotational Grazing

Grazing type	Sward Heights	
Set stocking	Early season	Late season
	6-8 cm	8-10 cm
Rotational grazing	Enter paddock	Leave paddock
	15-20 cm	6-8 cm

Target Liveweight Gains at Grass

Breed / Sex	First season	Second season
Continental-cross steers	0.85 kg per day	0.90 kg per day
Continental-cross heifers	0.75 kg per day	0.85 kg per day
Suckled calves – steers*	1.10 kg per day	0.90 kg per day
Suckled calves – heifers*	0.95 kg per day	0.85 kg per day

*Suckled calves will have access to creep in the first season.

The American Salers Association (ASA) opened its 36th year with an excellent turnout at their National Salers & Optimizer Show held in January at the 2011 National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colorado. With over 150 entries in Salers events the breed was better represented than several other larger breeds. Bob Neben of Lexington, Kentucky, was appointed president of the ASA Board for 2011 as Bruce Loewenberg's term came to an end.

During the past year an "International" category has been included on the ASA website with news and events being posted regularly from ISF members, including contributions from New Zealand, Australia, Ireland and Canada. This post has been receiving an ever-increasing number of "hits" and is proving to be an easy way to communicate and receive updates from around the globe.

We invite members from the UK to participate in this exchange of ideas, events and information. We are able to post sale catalogs and news articles to be previewed, read and/or printed from the website. The most recent issues of association magazines (USA and Canada) can also be reviewed here. Please forward catalogs or brochures to joe@salersusa.org as PDF files to be added to this site. There is no cost for this service.

The ASA website is <http://salersusa.org>. Search down the left hand column for the "International" category and click on "Events & Information." The website also features a calendar with all upcoming 2011 ASA sales and show events posted there.

Joe McDaniel
Director of Communications
American Salers Association
303.770.9292
joe@salersusa.org

A brief note from a past member now residing in France

It's three or four years since my last visit to the Paris Show, and the cattle seemed more prominently exhibited; a fine row of Salers bulls stood before me.

All, of course, of a quality I'd have been proud to have in my herd years ago, though my favourite was one Imperial, imported by Tony Austin; anyway...all entries were clearly well chosen, and judged by Francis Manhères, whose herd provide two of the three Présentation vaches bouchères (GAEC de Combelles). I was lucky to meet, very briefly, M. Duffayet, the president of the Herd Book Society, and Bruno Faure, Directeur of UPRA. I was interested in their UK contact, and got the impression that export to the UK has levelled off - Spain, Croatia and Germany are the main destinations now; on the other hand the breed is spreading in France - meat production here in Normandy is an important sideline for milk producers, and Salers are becoming more and more popular.

I asked Bruno what proportion are registered pedigree, to be told that only 30,000 out of 210,000 are inscribed for meat, though 2,500 out of 5,000 for milk are inscribed; hopefully that means the Cantal cheese will continue to be produced!

M. Duffayet had a successful day, his bull, Confiant, was this year's Champion, though Baron, last year's, looked the more imposing, showing perhaps, Romuald's genes. I wish the UK Society the very best.

John Gillam,
(past UK member now resident in France)

And from the other side of the world

Warm greetings from "down-under" to our friends and Salers Breeders in the U.K.

2010 saw the active entry in Australia of the new Salers Beef Cattle Society of Australia Inc. (SBCS) with its headquarters in Moree, New South Wales. This society was formed primarily to concentrate on improving the promotion and acceptance of Salers in the beef cattle herds of Australia, numbering approximately 27.3 million head. The beef cattle industry in Australia is currently experiencing strong growth and has a very positive outlook for 2011 and beyond. Australia maintains its position as the second largest beef exporter in the world.

This new society operates as a separate entity to the long-established Australian Salers Association, whilst offering co-operation and support for the other body. Unfortunately, although Salers entered Australia in the mid 1980's with much success, the breed's influence has somewhat diminished in the last decade and it has not kept pace with the successes of other European Breeds like Charolais, Limousin and Simmental which have gained much acceptance both in the temperate zones and the northern tropical areas.

During 2010, the SBCS obtained much newspaper publicity throughout Australia and that promotion is continuing in 2011. There are great opportunities for Salers as crossbreeders in Bos Taurus herds throughout Australia and the large Bos Indicus herds in the north of Australia. Salers do very well in all areas of Australia and it is heartening to hear regularly comments from Cattlemen who have tried them, that Salers influenced calves are amongst the best produced.

Much assistance with promotional ideas and

encouragement has been gratefully received from Salers Associations and Societies around the globe and it has been a pleasure to exchange information with the U.K. Society and its members. We look forward to being able to report to you next year regarding our progress and achievements in Australia.



Australia Pure Salers Cow with Hereford X Calf

We wish the U.K. Society and its members continued success with the excellent results they are attaining to increase market share.

Ron Coomber,
President,
Salers Beef Cattle Society of
Australia Inc.
Email: salerssociety@bigpond.com

Get Away, Get Inspired then Go for It !!

I finished my degree at Harper Adams in 2000, came home and started farming the family's 280 ha upland sheep and beef farm in Mid Wales. I knew that I needed to become more focused to grow and improve the business, but was not sure how to go about it. I took opportunities to get away and see what others were doing but did not have the confidence to really question what these farmers were doing and why it worked for them. In 2008 I received a Nuffield Farming Scholarship to study "Suckler Cow Production in Upland Areas." This was the beginning of a big adventure for me that took me to the other side of the world three times in two years, made me realise that we could do things differently and, most importantly of all, to see what others were doing and how I could relate that to my farm.

It is a typical family farm run in partnership with my parents. Current stocking levels are 76 cows, 25 in-calf heifers, 24 bulling heifers and 660 ewes and ewe lamb replacements. There is one other full time employee and very little use is made of contractors. All of the farm is down to grass and is entered into the Tir Gofal agri environment scheme and is all organic. Nearly all lambs are sold finished to Waitrose and cattle are sold as stores at twelve months to a finisher.

Get Away. From leaving college up until I set off on my travels I had not missed a single weekends feeding through a winter, suddenly I had to get things set up so that I could be away, trust others to get on with things and realise that the farm would survive without me. Probably the strangest aspect of being away is that although I thought about the farm a lot, I never worried about it, what was the point, there was nothing I could do from the other side of the world. But being away meant that I was not bogged down by the small day to day details, but could give constructive time to thinking about the long term aims and goals for the business as well as think through how what I was seeing could be related to my own farm.

Get Inspired. My study took me to Australia and New Zealand. Although they have a different scale and climate, they are still dealing with cows. How did they manage them, what made them successful businesses? It dawned on me on my first day on a station in the Northern Territory that I needed to look at ways to make money and not just how to spend it. I needed to focus on three key areas and to spend the next two months travelling to learn as much as I could so that I could put some of these ideas into practice when I got home.

- ♦ *I needed to become a better grassland farmer.*
- ♦ *I needed scale in order to spread my fixed costs and*
- ♦ *I needed to get a saleable calf from every cow that I had.*

If I could sort my grassland management then the stock would follow. Apart from lost ear tags, there is hardly any aspect of improving suckler cow management and performance, that can not be linked back to grass production. What many livestock farmers forget is that grass is a crop, just like any other. We then use livestock to convert this into a saleable product. In order to grow my business, I needed to maximise its grass growing potential.

Stay Focused. Before my travelling I knew that I wanted to use native breeds, so was crossing Welsh Black and Aberdeen Angus lines. This was giving me a cow better able to utilise grass. The hardiness of the Welsh Black meant that I could extend the grazing season in a wet autumn. But it was not until I started shutting up fields in late summer specifically for the cattle that this really worked. Growing up grass in the late summer and then cell grazing this in half hectare blocks means that cattle do not need to be fed silage or hay in feeders, they go out and graze. And because they are moved on before they make a mess the grass is able to recover and they make very little if any mess. Any supplementary feed is placed in heaps on the field and can be moved to a fresh site every day. A quad bike and trailer makes very little mess, even during prolonged periods of wet weather.

Heifers start to calve from 1st April and cows follow on two weeks later. Depending on the year but, as soon as possible, cows are turned out to calve outside and once there is sufficient grass growth they are grazed separately from the sheep. Each group of cows has three or four fields that they are rotated around. This allows the grass to grow to a length more suitable for them to graze, if necessary, sheep follow on behind to tidy up and then the field is rested, preferably for three weeks. The aim is to get cows to gain weight and condition during the summer and then mobilise some of this through the winter.

I needed scale in order to spread my costs. Sadly it is unlikely that I will be able to achieve the scale that I had seen in Australia, but I knew that my existing herd of 50-60 cows was never going to be enough. However, numbers must not be increased at the expense of poor management. As numbers rise it is even more important that focus on every animal is maintained. So in 2008 we started a process of rapid herd expansion, keeping the majority of the heifer calves. This saw us bulling 76 cows in 2009, 96 in 2010 and having over 130 to bull this year. My aim is to get to a point where we stabilise numbers at around 110 to 120, as this is all that our existing acreage will carry. The original plan was to go higher, but a recent turn around in the sheep flock will see them remain at current levels and hopefully grow.

I also became focused on the production of every animal. I knew that my calving was too spread out and that I was carrying too many unproductive cows. If I could eliminate these and maximise the production of each cow I would be well on my way. No single factor has made these changes; it has been a combination of many. From breed choice, cow condition, grass availability, introduction of heifers, feed, herd health, but above all it is down to a focused attention to detail. I know I will never get it all right all of the time, but the interest and the challenge is in the trying.

Go For It. Learning becomes very addictive. Once you start to visit other businesses and pick up ideas, then come home, put them into practice and see how they work, you want to go out and learn more. It may be something very small like a clever gate catch or crush, to something much more significant like meeting someone who wants to buy your stock, or someone who has the sort of stock for sale that you are looking for, but remember, a day off farm is never wasted if you learn one new thing. After a while the winters' feeding routine becomes a little repetitive, but use this time to think through some of the ideas that you have seen, how could you do it better and more efficiently. Improving your late season grass growth will lengthen your grazing period, shorten your housing period, and save you money. Try it, and don't dismiss things until you have given them a go on your farm.

It is important to visit forward thinking farmers who are trying something a bit different. Too many farmers are prone to moan about how awful things are. Meet up with positive, forward thinking farmers whose attitude is how can they do things better. Things such as market price, as an individual farmer you can really do very little about, therefore don't waste time worrying about it. Worry about the things you can do something about, such as your cost of production and the performance of your herd. Increasing the efficiency of every cow in your herd will have a greater impact on profitability than small fluctuations in the market price.

Finally become passionate about your cows and making them do as good a job for you as possible. Through better management cut out many of the problems associated with them, and have a herd to be proud of both physically and financially.

Nick Davis

Beef and Sheep Farmer, Powys



Beef Action for Profit

Better Returns from Planned Weaning

Use weaning as a positive management tool to improve calf performance and prepare cows for the next breeding cycle.

Weaning of suckled calves can be stressful for both cow and calf, so good management is needed to minimise stress and ease the transition into the next phase of the production cycle.

Weaning and weaning management are the most effective tools to manipulate important factors in beef cattle management, for example fertility of cows and replacement heifers, feed utilisation and growth rate.

Targets

- Minimise stress for cow and calf at weaning.
- Optimise weaning weight and avoid any growth checks.
- Consider the cow's **BCS** when planning weaning.

Management Guidelines

Calves

- Introduce **creep feed**, which is palatable and contains 14% crude protein, 4-6 weeks before weaning to avoid a growth check.
- Feed between 1-2 kg per day or ad lib **creep feed**, depending on availability of grass and weight of the calves, and monitor gains against **pre-set targets**.
- Reduce stress by weaning, worming and weighing on different days, and by not mixing calves from different groups.
- Weigh calves to ensure their **ration** can be formulated accurately, and liveweight gain targets and finished dates can be calculated.
- Follow a **calf health plan** (which may include vaccinations before weaning, eg for **pneumonia**) to ensure maximum liveweight gain, and minimum health problems and mortality (1% or less).
- Plan the marketing of calves before weaning to ensure they meet market requirements.
- Avoid unwanted pregnancies by removing the **stock bull** before heifer calves reach puberty at 5-6 months of age.

Cows

- Wean at least 4 weeks before calving as the cows start producing colostrum then, and the aim should be to maximise **colostrum** production for the next calf to prevent health problems.
- Wean calves early from cows or **heifers** that are in poor condition to give them time to regain condition before the next calving, which will optimise performance and fertility.
- Manage feeding by scoring **Body Condition** throughout the year to keep cows in the right condition for optimum reproductive performance.
- Improve weaning weights by managing cows to calve over a compact season (10 weeks ideally), as part of a **breeding plan**.
- Breed or source breeding females with sound teats and udders, and good milking ability; use **EBVs** to identify animals of superior genetic value.

More detailed advice, costings, calculators and further information supporting these guidelines are available free of charge to levy payers in a unique interactive Beef Action for Profit resource at www.eblex.org.uk



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Better Returns from Planned Weaning

Performance Standards for Weaning in Beef Suckler Herds

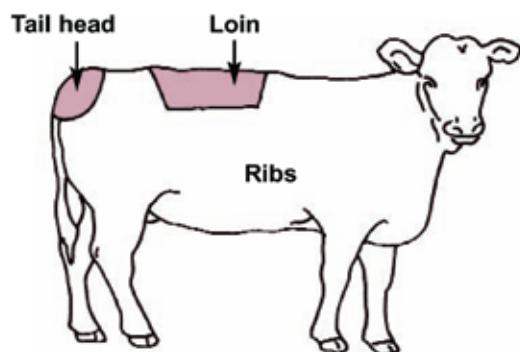
Per 100 cows	Target	Your Herd
Calves born	95	
Calving period	10 weeks or less	
Cow BCS at weaning	2.5–3.0	
Weaning weight for heifers (kg)	280–320	
Weaning weight for steers and bulls (kg)	300–340	
Age at weaning (months)	6–9	
Weight gain/day from birth to weaning for heifers (kg)	0.95	
Weight gain/day from birth to weaning for steers or bulls (kg)	1.2	

Target Body Condition Score for Suckler Cows and Heifers

	Autumn Calving	Spring Calving	Summer Calving
At Calving	3.0	2.0–2.5	2.0–2.5
At Service	2.5–3.0	2.5	2.5–3.0
At Turnout	2.0	2.0	2.0
At Housing	2.5–3.0	3.0	2.5

Cow and Heifer Condition Scoring

Condition is assessed by handling the animal over 3 key areas on the body regions: tail head, loin and ribs



Score 2

Tail head - shallow cavity but pin bones prominent; some fat under the skin. Skin supple.

Loin - transverse processes can be identified individually with ends rounded.

Ribs - can be identified individually but feel rounded rather than sharp

Score 3

Tail head - fat cover over whole area and skin smooth but pelvis can be felt, but only with firm pressure.

Loin - end of transverse process can only be felt with slight pressure; only slight depression in loin.

Ribs - individual ribs can only be felt with firm pressure

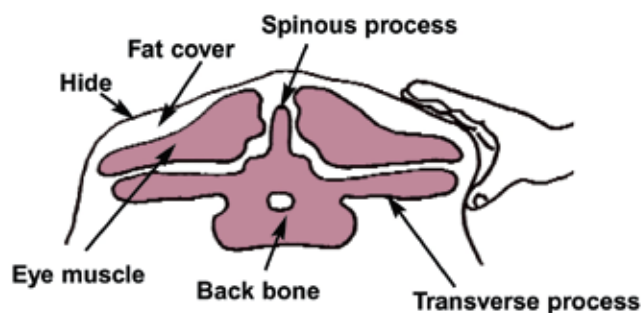
Score 4

Tail head - completely filled with folds and patches of fat evident but soft to touch.

Loin - cannot feel processes and have completely rounded appearance.

Ribs - fold of fat developing over ribs.

Source: Defra (2001) Condition Scoring of Beef Suckler Cows and Heifers.



TIPS FOR SHOWING ANIMALS

Those who take on the opportunity of showing cattle will learn a great deal about agriculture. Exhibitors experience owning and working with animals, being responsible for their daily care, health, growth and finally exhibiting the cattle in a competitive environment. These tips are for guidance only. Experience cannot be replaced with words but it may help.

Showing starts long before you take an animal to a show. Once you have decided you want to give it a go you have to identify the animal and depending what stage it is at in its growth this could mean feeding it accordingly. Once you have identified the animal you think can make it, the animal needs plenty of attention. You will be taking an animal from its field to a trailer, then being tied up at a show in row upon row of other animals, with the general public wandering up and down, loudspeakers and music blaring etc. so to get an animal used to all this takes patience and understanding.

The first job is to get it used to a halter and being tied up. Then it will need leading around – going for walks could take it into environments which are alien to it, which is good, the more strange smells and sounds it encompasses the better.

The next thing is bathe and trim them; everyone has their own thoughts on what to do, but the best way to find out is hang around in the cattle lines, talk to other breeders, watch what they do and don't be afraid to ask why! Turning out an animal to perfection is an art, one that is learnt through experience.

BEFORE SHOW DAY

Check your entry is correct well before the show and amend any errors immediately.

Check the animal is in good health and has had all its proper vaccinations.

Be sure to have all necessary documentation in place and with you at the show

Make sure you have the correct feed and bedding organised.

SHOW DAY

If possible get to the show in plenty of time to allow your animal to settle in, the more time the better to experience the strange smells, sights and sounds.

Wash and prepare your animal for the show ring and keep an eye on the time so you are not late to enter the ring. Make sure you and your animal are displaying the correct show number.

Enter the ring in numerical order; stewards will direct you.

Hold the halter in your right hand place your thumb closest to you with your hand six to twelve inches from the animal's head, near the nose.

Place your show stick in your left hand pointing the hook down.

Walk into the ring to the left, watching for the Judges instruction carefully.

When leading the animal, have one hand up by his nose, and your other hand on the end of the rope. If you have got your animal used to leading then it should walk with you.

Keep the animal's nose up, if he gets it to the ground he will then have momentum and control and then be prone to run.

If your animal moves out of line, pull on a clockwise circle and move him back to his proper place.

Watch the Judge and do everything you are told.

When the Judge signals you to walk, walk with the other animals in a couple of circles.

Stop your animal for side profile with four to six feet between your animal and the one in front. All animals should be facing head to rear.

When the Judge asks you to stop, do so and turn around to face your animal switching the halter rope smoothly but quickly to your left hand moving your stick to your right hand.

Use your show stick now to set up your animal. Take the stick and use the pointy end and poke in between the hooves. This will make the hooves move backwards, use the hook end to pull from behind to pull hooves forward. Make sure the animal is stood correctly.

Now step back and allow the judge a full view of the animal and enough space that you are still holding the lead of your animal but not interfering the judging.

Be prepared to answer questions the Judge may ask. Typical questions include birth date, current weight, name and breed of sire and dam, feeding programme etc. Answer them confidently.

If the Judge touches the animal when he/she walks away to the next contender discreetly re comb the hair back to the way it was prior to the judge touching it.

Once he/she has seen each individual animal, the Judge will tell you to walk around the ring again. Keep looking at him/her and smile. He/she may tell you to take your animal, turn him and set him up again. Turn the animal away from you,

judges like this and set him up again as above.

The judge will now make his/her final decision and line you up in ranking. Don't be disappointed if you don't get first prize, at least you have learnt from the experience.

EXHIBITOR COURTESY AND SHOWMANSHIP

Keep straight lines in the ring. This allows judges to compare animals

Avoid bumping, crowing, or hitting other animals and exhibitors

Always be patient and calm. Never get discouraged or lose your temper

Congratulate other exhibitors

WARNINGS

Wear appropriate shoes. There is a risk of animals stepping on your feet, resulting in serious pain.

Always turn your animal away from you. This eliminates the risk of getting stepped on.

Bumping too close to other animals can get you kicked, so avoid getting within kicking distance of other livestock

If your animal gets out of control, you will be hurt and are at risk of hurting others, so proper control of your show animal is important

There will be lots of people standing around staring at your and your animals, so don't get nervous or intimidated, as this will transfer to your animal and get him upset too. Something the judges will dock points for in the ring.

NOTES

Make sure you work with your animal before the show

Don't be scared of your animal

Make sure the animal is clean and looks nice for the judge

Be sure to look at the judge and smile at all times

Keep an eye on the judge and pay attention to his directions for placing

Be sure to have good sportsmanship and have fun!



Foundations for Success

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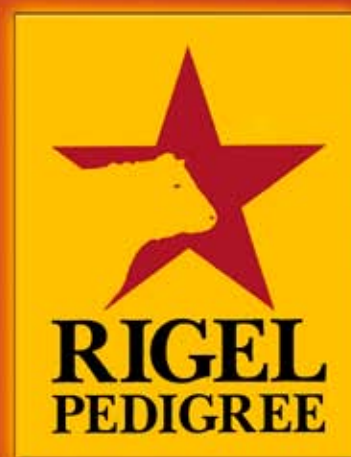
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Malcolm & Gill Pye



Rigel Darwin - Sired by Amazonien
Top price Perth Bull Sales
February 2011



Rigel Oregon Poll - Sired by Sagitaire
Top Price Welshpool Society Spring Sale
May 2010



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Yarm, North Yorkshire TS15 0JX
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Rigel Orlando - Sired by Amazonien
Male Champion Royal Cornwall Show
June 2010

MLC Recorded

CUIL SALERS

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*Cuil Talula Society Female Of The Year 2009. Res, Female champ at R.H.S 2010 Champ A.O.B
Wigtown Show 2010 Talula & Violet*

CUIL VIOLET

Champion AOB
Stranraer Show 2010

Champion Salers
Stewartry Show 2010

Champion Female AOB
Dumfries Show 2010

Res. Champion AOB
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*The EBV's of all our pedigree cows are
in the top 10% of the breed.*

*Bulls, Heifers and Cross Heifers
normally available.*

*Semen for Sale from Domino, Indiana
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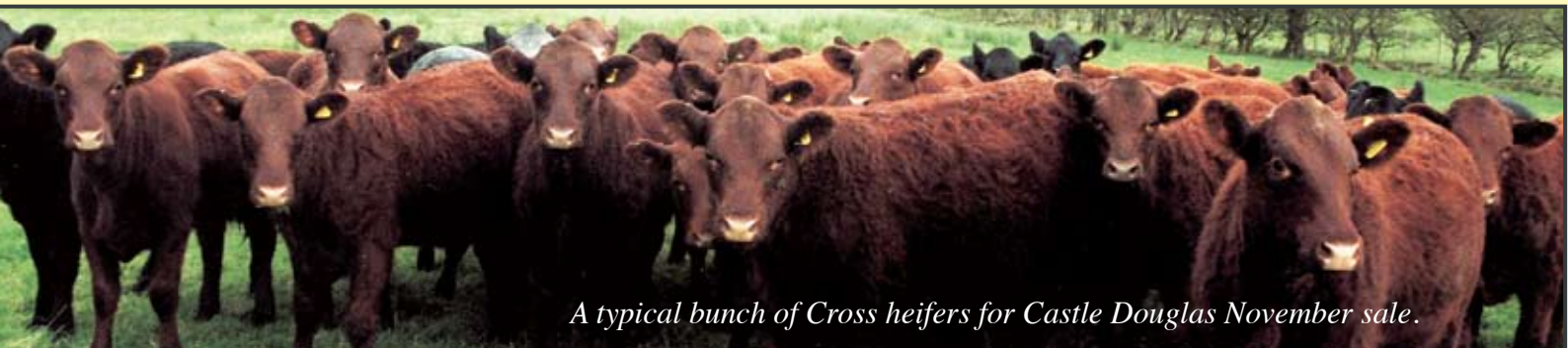
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Tel: 01671 820214

**Cuil, Palnure, Newton Stewart,
Wigtownshire, South West Scotland**



A typical bunch of Cross heifers for Castle Douglas November sale.

"Ye're Aye Welcome at The Cuil"

Useful Society Information

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION. Subscriptions are due and payable on 1st January each year. No invoice will be sent so it would be helpful if all members would please pay promptly. V.A.T. receipts will be sent on payment. Payment can be made by Standing Order.

REGISTRATIONS. If a calf is got by embryo transplant, its name will be followed by (ET). Please also give Embryo Registration Form No. and Embryo No. e.g. 186/3. No calves can be registered (including grade animals) unless they have been tested as non carriers for Beta-mannosidosis or are non carriers by parentage.

A.I. CERTIFICATES MUST ACCOMPANY REGISTRATIONS IF APPROPRIATE. Registrations cannot be accepted without A.I. Forms (if appropriate). Remember to note on the Registration Form if the calf is polled. Some semen owners use the Sire Certificate system. Do check when buying semen and remember to forward the Sire Certificate with the A.I. Certificate and Registration Form.

THE GRADE REGISTER. Grade A, B and C Cattle will be registered in the Grade Register. When Grade C animals have been inspected, if inspection is passed, their calves can be registered as purebred and put into the Herd Book. After passing inspection Grade C animals can be transferred to the Herd Book, if required, as purebred on return of their Warranty with a transfer fee of £10. No male calves can be registered below 15/16. No cattle can be inspected under 15 months. Application for inspection should be sent in writing to the secretary.

ONLY FULL-BLOOD BULLS CAN BE USED IN A GRADING UP PROGRAMME. A 31/32 bull may be used on a 7/8 heifer but only the female calves may be registered - as 7/8+ - but we recommend using only Fullblood bulls on 7/8 heifers. The chart explains the crosses which can be registered with the society.

	Female FB	31/32 PB	15/16 PB	7/8 PB	3/4	1/2
Male FB	FB	63/64 PB	31/32 PB	15/16 PB	7/8 PB	3/4
31/32 PB	63/64 PB	31/32 PB	15/16 PB+	7/8 PB+(FO)	—	—
15/16 PB	31/32 PB	15/16 PB+	15/16 PB	—	—	—
7/8	—	—	—	—	—	—

FB = Fullblood- PB = Purebred -(FO) = Female only as 7/8

Full French blood is designated "Full Blood Pedigree" on the warranty.

Warranty Numbers go as follows	Herd Letters	Year No.	Sequence No.	Grade Letter	
1st cross (1/2)	XYZ	2010	001	A	(XYZ 2010001A)
2nd cross (3/4)	XYZ	2010	002	B	(XYZ 2010002B)
3rd cross (7/8)	XYZ	2010	003	C	(XYZ 2010003C)

IMPORTATION OF CATTLE. As requirements of importation change CHECK WITH THE SECRETARY what is required when you start on the import of animals, semen or embryos. All imports must have a three generation pedigree certificate issued by the Society of the country of origin and a clear DNA Beta-mannosidosis test certificate. Imported in calf cattle must also have an official three generation pedigree certificate and a clear DNA Beta-mannosidosis test certificate for the sire of the invitro calf. Registration of imported cattle (not in calf) is £28+VAT, if registered within 3 months of import. For imported cattle, with an in vitro calf, registration is £43 + VAT, if registered within 3 months of import. Over 3 months late penalties will be incurred.

SIRE CERTIFICATES A system has been set up for registering calves got by a non-owned sire. Service may either be by A.I. or natural. In these cases a Sire Certificate must be obtained from the owner of the bull/semen and forwarded with the registration form (and A.I. form if appropriate). The cost of the Sire Certificate is negotiable privately between the owners of the dam and the owners of the bull or semen. Sire certificates can be obtained from the secretary at the cost of £30 per 10 certificates. The secretary must be informed if the owner of a bull or semen wishes to use the sire certificate system (otherwise registrations may be accepted without a sire certificate and the owner would lose the service fee).

EMBRYO TRANSPLANT PROGRAMME Before embarking on an embryo transplant programme, please contact the secretary who will forward the relevant Salers Society forms. Minimum of £11 per animal flushed (up to 10 embryos) thereafter £1 per embryo. After 3 months minimum of £20 per animal flushed (up to 10 embryos) thereafter £2 per embryo. Remember to insert the ET Form No. and Embryo No. on the Calf Registration Form). £28 per Export Certificate plus embryo registration. One Export Certificate covers all embryos from one flush to the same purchaser. BOTH SIRE AND DAM IN AN EMBRYO PROGRAMME MUST BE BLOOD-TYPED and have a clear DNA Beta-Mannosidosis test certificate.

TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP A fee of £6 + VAT is charged for transfer of ownership. The fee is payable by the purchaser who should obtain the warranty from the seller and forward it to the secretary for transfer.

ALL TRANSACTIONS ARE PLUS VAT. NO TRANSACTIONS ARE COMPLETE UNTIL ALL MONIES ARE PAID AND PAPERWORK IS CORRECTLY SUPPLIED.

IF PAYING BY BACS PLEASE USE YOUR THREE ALPHABET DIGITS FROM YOUR HERD REFERENCE AS THE PAYMENT REFERENCE. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MEMBER TO GET ALL RELEVANT PAPERWORK TO THE SOCIETY ON TIME OR LATE PENALTIES WILL BE INCURRED.

Pedigree Registration Royalty Scheme for AI Sires

THE FOLLOWING BULLS/SEMEN ARE ON THE ABOVE SCHEME						
Name of Bull	Herd Book No.	Ear No.	Royalty Charge	Owner	Owner's Tel. No.	Beta-m Status
Bruno	172	6386051716	£50 + VAT	Rigel Pedigree	01624 590125	Non-Carrier
Crocodile Dundee	279	6387062264	£40 + VAT	Rigel Pedigree	01642 590125	Non-Carrier
French Connection	IMP 90026	1590068366	£35 + VAT	Rigel Pedigree	01642 590125	Non-Carrier
Vainqueur	1	1584052218	£30 + VAT	Rigel Pedigree	01624 590125	Non-Carrier
Vauban	2	1584054531	£25 + VAT	Rigel Pedigree	01624 590125	Non-Carrier
Kracker	IMP 97053	6327580166	£40 + VAT	John Elliott	02881 661654	Non-Carrier
Oldcastle Polled Gemini	HBM2002001	160108300010	£30 no VAT	Arthur Beeves	075075 94416	Non-Carrier
Coland Neptune	DHR98020	HLO160/02425	£30 + VAT	D.L.&H.M. Rogers	01437 710295	Non-Carrier
Theoreme	IMP 2005020	5318070195	£25 + VAT	H.G.&S.G. Pritchard	01766 819159	Non-Carrier
Turbulent	IMP2007004	1522218702	£40 + VAT	Thomas Kelly	07801 105655	Non-Carrier

AIM:

If a member has collected semen from a registered bull in his/her ownership, or has acquired the sole rights to semen in the UK, for imported or purchased semen and wishes to sell semen at commercial production prices to encourage commercial use, yet retain a higher return for pedigree use by charging a separate levy free on registration of pedigree calves, he/she can apply to the Society to register the bull as a Pedigree Registration Royalty Sire.

INVOLVEMENT OF THE SOCIETY:

The Salers Society of the UK and its secretary will merely be the tools by which those calves gain their registration, in a Pedigree Registration Royalty Scheme, which is an arrangement between the vendor of the semen and the breeder who wishes to register a calf, which is the result of using this semen.

- Before any calves can be registered from the table above a Sire Certificate must be obtained from the owner and enclosed with the Birth Registration Form.
- The late registration penalty will apply if time is taken to obtain the Sire Certificate.
- Registration fees will apply on the date all paperwork is correctly supplied.
- No advance payments will be accepted.

CHARGES FROM 4th JANUARY 2011

	Charge	VAT 20%	TOTAL
Registrations 1st & 2nd Cross			
up to 1 year	£12.00	£2.40	£14.40
over 1 year	£28.00	£5.60	£33.60
Registrations All other calves (except ET)			
up to 3 months	£28.00	£5.60	£33.60
3-6 months	£49.00	£9.80	£58.80
over 6 months	£91.00	£18.20	£109.20
Registrations Embryo transplant calves			
up to 3 months	£33.00	£6.60	£39.60
3-6 months	£59.00	£11.80	£70.80
over 6 months	£112.00	£22.40	£134.40
Transfer of ownership	£6.00	£1.20	£7.20
Replacement Warranty	£10.00	£2.00	£12.00
Registration of Embryos (including imported)			
Minimum per animal flushed (up to 10 embryos)	£11.00	£2.20	£13.20
Thereafter per embryo	£1.00	£0.20	£1.20
After 3 months-minimum per animal flushes (up to 10 embryos)	£21.00	£4.20	£25.20
Therafter per embryo	£2.00	£0.40	£2.40
Subscription payable 1st January	£55.00	£11.00	£66.00
if paid by standing order	£50.00	£10.00	£60.00
Joining Fee and Registration of Heard Letter and Prefix	£37.00	£7.40	£44.40
Export Certificates	£28.00	£5.60	£33.60
Registration of Imported Cattle not in calf			
up to 3 months from date of entry	£28.00	£5.60	£33.60
3-6 months	£54.00	£10.80	£64.80
over 6 months	£106.00	£21.20	£127.20
Registration of Imported Cattle with in vitro calves			
up to 3 months from date of entry	£43.00	£8.60	£51.60
3-6 months	£69.00	£13.80	£82.80
over 6 months	£122.00	£24.40	£146.40

All transactions are plus vat. No transactions complete until cheques are paid and paperwork correctly supplied. It is the responsibility of the member to get all relevant information to the Society office on time or late penalties will be incurred

BREED HISTORY & CHARACTERISTICS

BREED ORIGIN AND HISTORY

Salers (pronounced Sa'lairs) originate in the Southern half of the Massif Central in the Auvergne region of France. It has a rough and variable climate, and though higher, 2000-6000 ft, is very similar to our Lake District and the Highlands of Scotland and Wales. The Salers is one of the oldest breeds in the world, with prehistoric cave paintings suggesting that a similar type of animal has been bred in the area for 7-10,000 years.

They appear to be closely related to the old Celtic breeds and the African breeds, and were probably located in the Massif Central when red cattle migrated from Africa through the Iberian Peninsular and on into northern Europe and the British Isles.

BREED IMPROVEMENT

What is certain is that Devons, Durhams, (Shorthorns) and West Highland cattle were imported into the Salers area in the mid 19th Century with the intention of improving the breed. At the same time a M. Tyssandier D'Escous challenged the introduction of outside blood and set about improving the Salers by selecting from within the breed.

His method was considered most successful, and he became known as the Father of the Breed. A statue honouring his work stands in the middle of the small mediaeval town of Salers from which the breed takes its name.

From that time until well into the 20th century the breed was improved and developed as a triple purpose animal, Milk-Meat-Draught.

Traditionally, this involved the simultaneous production of milk for cheese and a calf for beef production. In 1925 milk recording became compulsory and weight recording started in 1962.

Resulting from all this improvement and recording has emerged the ideal suckler cow with bred-in foraging ability, able to utilise and thrive on native grasses and forage both summer and winter.

BREED CHARACTERISTICS AND QUALITIES

The difficult environmental conditions where the Salers breed developed makes it ideal for the poorer areas of the British Isles and today's beef industry. Salers are generally horned and dark red, though there are a very small number of black animals. Polled animals in the full blood herd are very rare. However, a growing number of polled and black Salers are becoming available in the pure bred herd. The skin and pigmented membranes are brown and consequently few eye or udder problems occur. A good hair coat which becomes thick and curly in winter gives hardiness and adaptability to cold and heat.

Having roamed the mountains for centuries, and been draught animals they have developed strong legs and good feet with black hooves. Consequently the cattle can travel long distance over rough ground without developing foot problems. They are equally able to tolerate long periods inside on slats etc. Being one of the oldest and genetically most pure of the European breeds, the Salers produces a positive effect on the predictability in crossbreeding programmes in a consistent increase in hybrid vigour.

The French National Institute of Agricultural Research has run trials that show that Salers cows and heifers are able to draw on their body reserves when food is scarce to produce sufficient milk for their calf, building them up again quickly when grazing is plentiful. The same trials show that Salers are only fully mature at 5 to 6 years of age.

Measured on farm

Average weight of mature cows	650-850kg
Average weight of mature bulls	1000-1200kg
Average height of withers of cows	144cm
Average height of wither of bulls	154cm

Measured at the Paris Show

Average weight of cows 5 years +	844kg
Average weight of bulls 4 years +	1209kg
Heaviest weight of cow	963kg
Heaviest weight of bull	1401kg

(Heavier weights have now been recorded in the U.K)

MATERNAL INFLUENCE

Fixed through its heritage the Salers female displays exceptional maternal qualities of fertility, milking ability, calving ease, hardiness and longevity. High percentage calf crops resulting from the inherent fertility of Salers are realised through early puberty, quick rebreeding and high conception

rates coupled with the breeds predictable calving ease and large pelvic structure. Further maternal advantage is realised through the Salers ability to wean a heavy calf and take care of herself. More kilograms at weaning result from the combination of good lactation and lean growth factors.

Suckler cow herd costs are minimised though the breeds foraging ability, winter hardiness and minimal feet, eye and udder problems. Salers are known for their longevity and "wearability" no doubt due to many of the factors stated, stress free calving, good feet and legs etc.

In a survey carried out in France, of over 100,000 Salers cows, 25.1% were 10 years old or over and the calving interval was 374 days.

Bulls are known for their ability to cover large numbers of females and in the ranching countries bull numbers have been halved and calving percentages have risen, another valuable saving on herd costs.

Salers are a unique breed that combine high carcass quality and fast growth rate yet calve easily.

More live calves per cow put to the bull means more £££'s and it all begins with a trouble free birth. Vigorous calves born with moderate birth weights and slender long foetal conformation have gained Salers a proven reputation for easy calving. Salers sired calves offer the cowman the unique combination of increased weaning weights with less management at calving.

The dam and the sire both influence the weight and shape of the calf at birth. Salers calves are relatively light at birth, about 36 Kg for heifers and 38 Kg for bulls, they are also long and rather flat in shape, it is this feature which makes the Salers bull very popular for crossing with commercial and dairy heifers.

The Salers influence contributes a large pelvic area to cross bred replacement females and will allow commercial suckler cowmen to utilise heavily muscled terminal sires in a cross breeding programme with less concern about calving difficulties.

FEEDING AND CARCASS

The final measurement of a breeds capabilities is the economic production of a lean, nutritious and palatable protein product. That is what beef production is all about, Salers consistently produce the product that the industry and consumer demand. Salers and their crosses are being proven both by the feeder and the butcher.

Competitive live weight gains and efficient feed conversion have been documented by the feeder, whilst the butcher appreciates carcasses that are of industry acceptable weight from approximately 10-16 months and producing top grades. Salers cattle are extremely flexible in the finishing yard enabling feeders to make the best of the markets highs and lows.

The Salers is a carcass breed that calves easily and consistently produces carcasses that are high in quality and lean in composition. Salers are producing an industry preferred product that is making the breeder, the feeder, the butcher, and the retailer take notice.

THE BEGINNINGS OF SALERS IN THE U.K.

In the spring of 1984, a herd of Salers was founded in Cumbria - 60 females and 4 bulls with as wide a genetic base as possible. Consequently, heifers by 45 different sires and 4 bulls completely unrelated to each other were imported into the U.K. from France.

All the cattle were first choices. Growth rate, docility, femininity, straight top lines and correct legs were the main criteria for selection. All dams, and granddams where possible, were inspected and had to come up to the same standard. In that importation were two females carrying the poll factor. All lived up to expectations, bred and gave no calving problems whatsoever.

From the original importation Salers cattle quickly spread all over the British Isles from the Shetlands to Cornwall and Ireland. The Salers Cattle Society of the U.K. was formed by Bryan Walling, Robert Hudson, Fiona Walling, Thomas Dobson and Bruce Worsley of Crosthwaite, Kendal.

The first AGM was held in November 1986, at that point there were a mere 10 members. Bryan Walling was elected as first Chairman.

Since then the breed has continued to expand throughout 1000 Salers are being registered annually by 175 members.

The Society is divided into Areas and is governed by a Council made up from the Area Representatives.



SALERS



Cattle Society of the United Kingdom Ltd.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I wish to apply for membership of the Salers Cattle Society Ltd.

Name:

Address

..... Post Code:

Telephone: Mobile: Email:

Ministry ID number: UK..... Salers Herd Prefix Name: **Salers Letters:

Signature: Date:

FEES	Annual Subscription	£55.00plus VAT @ 20%	£66.00
	Joining Fee & Registration of Herd Prefix	£37.00 plus VAT @ 20%	£44.40
		TOTAL = £110.40	

Secretary: Liz Wilde, Ball Green Cottage, Well Head Lane, Hubberton, Halifax, HX6 1NN Tel: 07903 626249

* Salers Herd Prefix Name – this can be any name you choose provided it is not already registered with the society. ** Salers Letters – Select three letter of your choice which will be the society computer reference for your herd. Prices applicable at time of going to press

Standing Order Form

To the Manager..... Bank

Address

..... Post Code:

Please pay to: The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, 12 Pillory Street, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 5BE
Sort Code 16-26-14. The Salers Cattle Society of the UK a/c no. 11861110.
The sum of £55 - Fifty-Five pounds seventy-five pence. Date of payments 1st January annually.

Date of first payment

Name (Dr / Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms)

Address

A/C No..... Bank Sort Code.....

Please return this completed form to your bank. Signed:

Gift Aid Declaration

Dear Member,

Gift Aid provides a great opportunity for you to increase the value of your donations and/or subscriptions to the Salers Cattle Society at no cost to yourselves. Provided you are a taxpayer we can claim from the Inland Revenue the basic rate tax paid on your donations/subscriptions, boosting them by 28%. So for every £10 we receive it is worth £1.28. All the society needs from you is a simple declaration saying that you want to use Gift Aid. A declaration can cover one or more donations/subscriptions and can be made by filling in the form below. It would be appreciated if you could fill in and return the form below to the secretary as soon as possible.

GIFT AID DECLARATION

Name of Charity: **The Salers Cattle Society of the UK Ltd.**

Charity Number: **1115115**

Donor Details:

Title: Forename(s): Surname(s):

Address:

..... Postcode:

Herd Prefix:

I would like all donations/membership subscriptions I have made since 6th April 2006 and all donations in the future to be treated as *Gift Aid* until I notify you otherwise.

Signed: Date:

To qualify for *Gift Aid* you must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains in the tax year equal to the tax we reclaim from your donations.



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secretary@salers-cattle-society.co.uk

www.salers-cattle-society.co.uk

Champion Junior Male 2010



SEAMORE ENTOURAGE
J & S Manners

Champion Junior Female 2010



CLUECHHEAD MHAIRI 9th
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