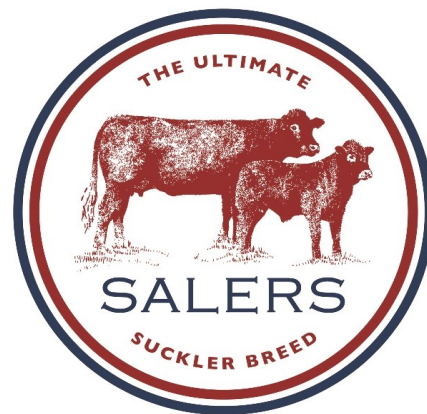


Salers Cattle Society of the UK Ltd
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**Spring
2019**

**Coming up in
2019**

Newark Sale
23 March
Stirling Bull Sale
6 May
Balmoral Show
15-18 May
Welshpool Sale
16 May
Scottish Beef Event
30 May
Royal Cornwall Show
6-8 June
Royal Highland Show
20-23 June
Great Yorkshire Show
9-11 July
Royal Welsh Show
22-25 July
Welshpool Sale
16 October (TBC)
Castle Douglas Sale
1-2 November
Agrifest South West
6 November
Welsh Winter Fair
25-26 November

Information may be
subject to change/
amends/deletions

**Info & reminders
are now being sent
via email, if you
don't want to miss
out on this service
let me have your
email address!**

NEWSLETTER

A bumper pack for you!

In this package you will find

The 2019 Journal

Please note if your full contact details are not shown in the membership listing it is because I didn't receive the GDPR form in time. Some are still outstanding and if you have a form in this pack it means I have not received yours!

This is your last chance return it now.

A statement of your society account as at 1 March 2019 please ensure you keep up to date with payments, we don't want to suspend your account (and your animals)

A Herd Inventory as at 1 March 2019 this is what the society database has on record for your herd, if it is incorrect please update and send it back with the reason the animals are no longer with you:- (sold/culled/died etc.. and the date they went off farm so we can keep the listings up to date).

MYOSTATIN

Currently there is much talk within the industry on the impact of mutations to the myostatin gene in beef cattle (also known as the double muscling or Culard gene). The Salers Society has been investigating this for the last 18 months and at the Society's expense been checking bull's DNA samples for these myostatin mutations of which there are 9 variants. We have discovered a small percentage of Salers with the F94L and nt821 mutations, Those animals affected are shown as carriers on the animal's information on the Salers Breedplan database. This will be updated to show which mutation within the next week or so, the breeders/owners of these animals are aware. The differing mutations have varying effects, some are perceived as useful in the terminal sire breeds i.e. improved conformation but they may also bring damaging effects in particular larger calves and increased calving problems.

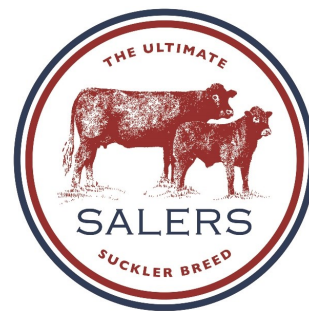
There is much on the internet about the subject.

To avoid confusion over terms like carrier/non carrier, we shall describe the myostatin status of an animal as follows,
M0 = no mutation
M1 = 1 copy of the mutation
M2 = 2 copies of the mutation

Based on our findings this was an agenda item at our recent Council meeting, and it was decided the Society should protect the maternal traits of the Salers breed (the reason why we have Salers) by eradicating the myostatin mutations from the breed in the UK over the next five years. So, from the 1st January 2024 we will only accept animals with no mutations (M0) into the UK Herd Book. To achieve this, we are introducing a regulation that to be registered all pedigree animals will need DNA testing to establish their myostatin status. In time this will allow animals with two M0 parents to be registered as M0 by parentage without the need for a myostatin DNA test. This comes into effect from the end of March 2019, **so it may be worth thinking about taking hair samples before turnout this year.**

Herd Inventory— This information is vital to keep the Salers herd book up to date. If you need the listing in a different format get in touch or you can look on the website under database/ member enquiry/enter search criteria, click on name, then current herd.

Please ensure you return your herd inventory and keep your financial account up to date; if you haven't yet returned your GDPR form you will have one in this pack so do so now—without this completed documentation we cannot communicate your contact details to other members, potential purchasers. It doesn't matter if you don't have an email, this is about communication between one another.



Please request testing kits via the Society and return all hair samples to the Society for processing. The cost to the member remains at £25+VAT/sample (the Society is partially funding this testing).

Members can opt to submit samples from parents, grand-parents etc. in their herd to establish that an animal to be registered is M0 by parentage.

All stock bulls to be used for pedigree breeding will need a DNA profile/myostatin test.

Pedigree male and female animals for sale at Society sales in the pedigree section (not commercials), will need to be DNA tested to establish their myostatin status and this information will be shown in the catalogue and announced at sales with effect from 1/11/19.

To summarise:

A Council decision has been made to ensure newly registered animals are DNA sampled to establish their myostatin status. From January 2024 the Society will not allow animals with the mutated myostatin gene (M1 or M2) to be registered within the UK Herd Book. Imported genetics (live animals, semen embryos etc.) must follow the same rules, and ideally their status should be established by testing in their

country of origin before they are purchased!

All pedigree animals entered for sale in the pedigree section of Society sales must have their DNA taken and myostatin status established for entry into the sale catalogue (effective from 1/11/19).

Grade up animals will only require testing if they are to be upgraded to Pure Bred in which case like BetaM they would have to be tested and proven M0 and of course be inspected as per the current ruling.

Finally, the Council recognises that this will increase the costs for members, and will be extra work, not least for the Society office and for Neogene who do the testing, however these steps are needed to protect our unique selling point and industry leading calving ease on which the future success of the Salers depends.

Members should talk to their Area Representative if they have questions or want more information.

THE YEAR LETTER FOR 2019 BULLS IS O

BLUE TONGUE

At our recent council meeting it was agreed that we ask all members to ensure that imported cattle are pre-movement tested for Blue Tongue virus. This recommendation comes after a number of members, upon the completion of compulsory post-movement testing, found that, though all export vaccination criteria had been followed, some animals were in fact carriers of the disease. The animals subsequently had to be destroyed and the recipient holdings put on a standstill until herd testing confirmed the disease had not spread. This matter has been taken up with UK and French state vets, along with the exporters, breeders and vaccine manufacturers.

This happened through no fault of vendors, exporter or purchasers, it is now thought that the vaccination is not 100% effective.

It is vital that the UK retains its Blue Tongue free status for export purposes and exposing any animals to the risk must be taken seriously, hence the society recommendations. We also ask members to carefully consider timing when importing cattle, bearing in mind an increased Midge activity in the summer months.

INFORMATION

Please utilise the Salers database on line for retrieving information; all forms, charges etc. are under Useful Info/Resources

Also you can check out an animal or members info by doing a search on the database. Try it, if you have problems get in touch and I will talk you through it. Sale catalogues can also be viewed, there is a wealth of information at your finger tips.

Please note

Imported genetics (live animals, semen, embryos etc.) must follow the society's importation rules, and ideally their betaM, Myostatin, Blue Tongue status should be established by testing in their country of origin before they are purchased! This information should be easily available from the vendor/exporter.

I hope to see many of you at events this year; do come and say hello and let me know if you can help out at any event, we always need assistance at the major events/shows even if it is just making tea and chatting to people. The more the merrier!

Liz

