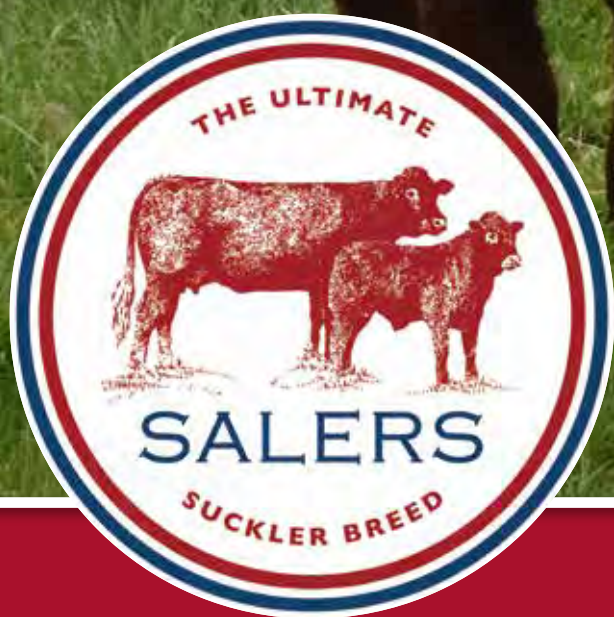


Salers

Cattle Society
of the UK Ltd



Journal 2019

ISSUE 30



Farmers
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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



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Incoming Chairman's Report 2018

Well - 2018 will be one of those years to stick in the memory and be recalled in times to come. For most of the population the weather is just something to talk about and at most, an occasional inconvenience. Farmers' economic viability depends on it and the last 12 months has thrown up record-breaking extremes. It started off recovering from one of the wettest summers and autumns I could remember, with snow and freezing temperatures at the end of February followed by one of the hottest and longest periods without rain for 40 years. You may say that farmers are used to responding to the challenges of the weather, but how are we supposed to respond to the ongoing turbulence in the political landscape? In 2018 Brexit divided opinions in the farming community as much as in the population as a whole – at the time of writing it is hard to see how such a divergence of views can be brought together into some sort of way forward. This is of course a seriously difficult situation for all UK businesses but particularly hard for the agricultural sector. It is impossible to predict what will happen over the next few months let alone be able to make investment decisions which will affect the viability of the business over the next 10 to 20 years.

Despite this I believe that the core of British agriculture is strong, that we have an efficient livestock sector and can produce among the best breeding animals in the world. However, in these turbulent times, we should grab the opportunity to further promote Salers as the cattle breed of choice to maintain profit margins and minimise the effect of future variables. I know that I am 'preaching to the converted' but we should never miss a chance to broadcast the breed's positive traits. Salers are known for their longevity, 'wearability' and ability to cope with difficult environmental conditions. Salers suckler cow management costs are minimised through the breed's foraging ability, winter hardiness and minimal feet, eye and udder problems. Labour costs are minimised through predictable calving ease brought about by their large pelvic structure. Through its heritage the Salers female has exceptional maternal qualities displayed in the pure and cross bred female. High percentage calf crops result from high fertility, trouble-free calving, milking ability and hardiness.

These characteristics in addition to vigorous calves with moderate birth weights result in more live calves per cow put to the bull and higher margins. The Salers breed is in fact unique, as it combines high carcass quality and fast growth rate with easy calving.

A further exciting development is the increase in numbers of polled Salers and an expansion in the quality polled breeding lines from which to select animals. There are obvious advantages in breeding polled cattle on economic and welfare grounds and their popularity is evidenced by purchasers putting this as a priority. Not having to dehorn is a big advantage with less labour on farms and, in many cases, ageing farmers.

It is good to see the growth in the breed continuing across the UK suckler cow sector. I would like to thank all those who have made the huge effort involved to produce and present cattle at the major shows. For anyone who would like to get involved in showing remember that we are a friendly society - do not be afraid to ask for help to get started. This year I enjoyed a visit to the Royal Ulster Show, for the first time, where there were lots of visitors to the stand and interest from new breeders. I was also very impressed with the layout at the Show and new facilities for the cattle.

I would like to thank Terence Pye for his valuable contribution and excellent work as Chairman of the Society for the last two years. As incoming Chairman (and in unfamiliar territory!) his continuing support, experience and knowledge, is of great help to me.

Tom Walling



Tom Walling



Outgoing Chairman's Report 2018



Terence Pye

2018 has been another very strong year for Salers in the UK. The flow of farmers switching to Salers (attracted by our unrivalled ease of calving) has continued at a high rate, and figures from BCMS confirm that we have overtaken other breeds to become the 8th largest beef breed in the UK, whether you count Salers/SalersX suckler cows, or in terms of the

number of Salers breeding bulls. In both these sectors, Salers are used primarily for cross-breeding, where our strong commercial traits are further enhanced by hybrid vigour.

One of the best approaches for encouraging farmers to switch to Salers is to give them the opportunity to see Salers cattle on a farm near them. The Society (and others) sponsored several excellent Open Days featuring Salers cattle, with very positive results. Whilst talking with farmers at these events it was clear that they were not only impressed with the cattle, but that the penny was beginning to drop that the Salers are the secret to a much better way of raising beef cattle for them.

The Society encourages the members to consider staging a event on their farm to promote the breed, and will provide advice and support on how to make these a success for the breed and for the member. Some great events are already planned for 2019 (see our website or Facebook page for details).

As well as promoting the breed, the Council has a responsibility to protect the breed. This involves our Secretary and members of the Council in behind the scenes work with Government departments, industry bodies, other Breed Societies, etc., where as the breed has grown so our voice has had to grow to ensure that the interests of Salers are properly considered. Also, we've had to deal with the impact of several pieces of new legislation (EU Zootechnical Regulations, GDPR to name but two). These have forced some changes on us.

A "protection" issue of increasing importance is the impact of the various mutations of the myostatin gene

that occur in a few Salers cattle. In terminal sire breeds, variants of the myostatin gene (also known as the Culard gene) have long been known about and can be intrinsic to their key attributes, double muscling for example, but also bring problems such as heavier birth weights and increased difficult calvings. The French Salers Society advised that they were finding a small percentage of pedigree animals with some of these variants, which prompted the UK Society to initiate a testing program to assess the situation in our Salers. After 18 months of testing, enough data has been collected and it indicates that a small number of UK Salers are carriers and we now need to consider what the Society policy will be in respect of these myostatin variants.

A major element of our strategy is to present a more professional profile of the Salers in the UK, so the Society has invested in a performance recording system, and we went live with Breedplan in 2016. Since then, with ever increasing numbers of birth weights being recorded, and more members signing up for performance recording, we now have EBVs with meaningful accuracy. We can meet the requirements of savvy customers who increasingly expect to use EBVs as part of their selection process, but most importantly, it also gives our breeders the tools to better protect the Salers key attribute of outstandingly easy calving.

Lastly, it has been an honour and a pleasure to be Chairman over the last two years. The Council comprises members with many talents and varied experiences, and with a strong representation of the next generation of breeders. It has been very much a team effort and I'd like to highlight the excellent work of the Council and our Secretary, Liz Wilde, who together are successfully guiding the development of the breed through these challenging times for the UK beef sector. I wish our new Chairman Tom Walling all success in the role and look forward to continuing to work with him and the Council to ensure that the Salers breed becomes ever more successful.

Despite the uncertainties facing us, the future is bright for Salers.

Terence Pye



Salers Cattle Society of the United Kingdom Ltd - List of Members

Area 1, North Scotland, North of M8

Area Rep - AAS, Tolquhon: Andrew Sleigh, Newseat of Tolquhon, Tarves, Ellon, Aberdeenshire, AB41 7LP, 01651 851312, 07779 719690

GJA, Selbie: Auchnie Farms

HAR, Harestone: Barclay Neil, Harestone Farm Salers, South Road, Inch, Aberdeenshire, AB52 6XF, 01464 821738, 07836 717277

CMK, Cammock: Blair Niall, Parkhead Cottage, Kilry, Blairgowrie, PH11 8HS, 07815 564646

BCT, Drumaglea: Boyd Patrick, Drumaglea, Cornaigmore, Isle of Tiree, Argyllshire, PA77 6XA, 01879 220435

CRG, Rannagulzion: Rannagulzion Farms, Rannagulzion Farms, Bridge of Cally, Blairgowrie, Perthshire, PH10 7JR, 01250 886359

DDU, Glenlivet: Durno D & R & Sons, Auchorachan, Glenlivet, Ballindalloch, AB37 9DN, 01807 590213, 07718 467868

ESS, Essil: Fettes Angus, Essil Farm, Garmouth, Fochabers, Morayshire, IV32 7LE, 01343 870087, 07880 788690

SVW, Strathearn View Salers, Middleton Farm, Muthill, Crieff, Perthshire PH5 2BT, 07479 949383

BWG, Leys: Gauld R & W G, Leys of Dummie Steading, Drumblade, Huntly, Aberdeenshire, AB54 6AD, 01466 740788, 07974 424919

GCT, Curacao: Gillies J & J

GRE, Gremista: Graham Eric

CLO, Cloke: Groat MA & DS, Cloke, Dounby, Orkney, KW17 2HY, 07714 980841

ERL, Mucklehouse: Hourston Erland, Swanney By Evie, Kirkwall, Orkney, Scotland, KW17 2NR, 07754 444104

KIN, Kinnaird: Howat R & L, Kinnaird Farm, Dairsie, Cupar, Fife, KY15 5TW, 01334 653306, 07802 582383

KJL, Drumore: Limond Kieran, Drumore Farm, Kirkmichael, Maybole, Ayrshire, KA19 7PG, 01655 750233, 07717 481448

BJD, Over Bow: Lyburn Bruce J D, Over Bow Farm, Forfar, Angus DD8 3TN 01307 468310. 07940 586429

RAM, Livetside: MackIntosh R A

XHO, Whitebog: MacKenzie Alister, Whitebog, Fortrose, Ross-Shire, Highland, IV10 8SW, 01381 620006

KJM, Aberarder: Matheson K & J

JCM, Corrichie: McIntyre John C & Son, Milton of Cullerlie, Echt, Westhill, Aberdeenshire, AB32 6XN, 01330 811361, 07979 343587

MCK, Idlestone: McKendrick Peter, Idlestone Farm, Strachan, Banchory, Aberdeenshire, AB31 6NR, 01330 850234

RJD, Bethelnie: Milne Robert, North Bethelnie, Oldmeldrum, Inverurie, AB51 0AN, 01651 872352

MUR, Murphys: Murphy T, Craigiedaff, Durris, Banchory, Kincardineshire, 01330 811260

RED, Redknock: Pye Gill & Malcolm, Rednock Estate, Rednock House, Port of Menteith, Stirling, FK8 3LD, 01877 385762, 385760, 07816 488195

AAS, Tolquhon: Sleigh Jack & Sons Ltd., Newseat of Tolquhon, Tarves, Ellon, Aberdeenshire, AB41 7LP, 01651 851312

GMD, Drumsleed: Smith G & M, Drumsleed, Fordoun, Laurencekirk, Kincardineshire, AB30 1SL, 01561 320555

TBS, Beafield: Thomson AW & DM

ACW, Balring: Watson AC

DAW, Darnford: Watson David, Darnford, Durris, Banchory, Aberdeenshire, AB31 6DJ, 01330 844571, 07855 490495

ETN, Tullyneddie: Wightman Ian, Bankhead, Clunie, Blairgowrie, Perthshire, PH10 6SG, 01250 884281

Area 2, South West Scotland

Area Rep - RUS, Rusko: Neil Austin, Rusko Farms, Pulcrea & Upper Rusko, Gatehouse of Fleet, GD7 2DS, 01557 814785, 07730 130156

NDA, Girthon: Austin RA, Boreland of Girthon, Gatehouse of Fleet, Kirkcudbrightshire, Dumfries & Galloway, DG7 2DS, 01557 814785

JHC, Loanfoot: Carswell James, Loanfoot Farm, Kirkton Road, Neilston, Glasgow, G78 3DN, 01418 806640

WJD, Poldean: Davidson Alisdair, Poldean, Moffat, Dumfriesshire, DG10 9LY, 01683 300356

GRP, Garpel: Garpel Farms, Greenock Mains Farms, Muirkirk, Cumnock, Ayrshire, KA18 3NH, 01290 660367, 07702 845526

AVH, Marr: Hamilton A V, Marr Farm, Thornhill, Dumfries, DG3 4AW, 01848 600251, 07931 753674

AJH, Risk: Howatson Alan, Barncaughla, Newton Stewart, Wigtownshire, DG8 7BW, 01671 403323

DML, Strathallan: Lyle Murray, Mid Cambushinnie Farm, Cromlix, Dunblane, Perthshire, FK15 9JU, 01786 880631, 07971298933

MSD, Swinlees: Martin John & Son, Swinlees Farm, Dalry, Ayrshire, KA24 5JZ, 01294 832479

MCC, Cuil: McClymont Colin, Cuil, Palnure, Newton Stewart, Wigtownshire, DG8 7BB, 01671 820214

MCJ, Penninghame: McConchie A & H, 8 Ramsay Wood, Gatehouse of Fleet, DG7 2JH, 01557 814823

WEM, Wemyssbay: McIntyre Alister, Kellybank Cottage, Wemyssbay, Renfrewshire, PA18 6BB, 01475 521998

RUS, Rusko: Rusko Farms, Pulcrea & Upper Rusko, Gatehouse of Fleet, GD7 2DS, 01557 814785, 07730 130156

CDW, Carwood: Wight CJ, Carwood Farm, Biggar, Lanarkshire, ML12 6LX, 01899 220564

JWT, Traboyack: Wright J, Milkhouse, 9 The Clachan, Barr, Girvan, Ayrshire, KA26 9TT, 01465 861103

Area 2a, South East Scotland

Area Rep - FSG, Cumbrian: Tom Walling, Farmstock Genetics, Over Whitlaw Farm, Selkirk, Roxburghshire, TD7 4QN, 01750 21281

JMA, Carlophill: Aitken John, Carlophill Farm, Carlops, Penicuik, Midlothian, EH26 9NQ, 01968 660340, 07715 758732

TCA, Mickleton Mill: Atkinson T & C, The Mill, Mickleton, Barnard Castle, DL12 0LS, 07810 094072

BAC, Bacardi: Crockett Roy & Adam, Conker Cottage, Deanfoot, Denholm, Hawick, Roxburghshire, TD9 8SH, 07984 879057, 07929 306160

CAT, Catslackburn: Douglas W N, Castlackburn, Yarrow, Selkirk, TD7 5NE, 01750 82206, 07736 772459

EDG, Kaiburn: Edgerston Trading Ltd, C/O Neil Ralston, 1 Overton Bush Cottages, Camptown, Jedburgh, TD8 6RW, 01835 840600, 07966476377

FSG, Cumbrian: Farmstock Genetics, Over Whitlaw Farm, Selkirk, Roxburghshire, TD7 4QN, 01750 21281

JED, Cory: Jackson, Fenwick G, Kersheugh, Jedburgh, Roxburghshire, TD8 6QT, 01835 862454

Z19, Livesey Anne: Pond Cottage, Bonchester Bridge, Hawick, Roxburghshire, 01450 860367

RAB, Cleuchhead: Livesey R & K, Firth Farm, Nether Firth, Lilliesleaf, Melrose, Scottish Borders, TD6 9EP, 01835 870724, 07808 760768

JWM, Kaeside: Morton JWS & Son, Kaeside, Melrose, Roxburghshire, TD6 9BE, 01896 822200, 07763 317876

RLG, Jedforest: Ralston Greg & Lewis, 1 Overton Bush Cottages, Camptown, Jedburgh, TD8 6RW, 01835 840600

SMD, Seamore: Seamore Farming, Deanfoot, Denholm, Hawick, TD9 8SH, 01450 870229, 07721 332163

CJT, Teviotstone: Tullie J, Bowanhill, Teviothead, Hawick, Roxburghshire, TD9 0LG, 01450 850217, 07802 157541

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PJA, Belan: Abel PJ

CBG, Gwern: Cefn Bodig Partners

SAN, Sannan: Davies Bertie

GLD, Eppynt: Davies G,

JLL, Pant: Davies J, Pant Farm, Merthry-Cynog, Brecon, Powys, LD3 9SD, 01874 690245

LCD, Bryniog: Davies LC

GHE, Derwen: Ellett GH & VM, Cefn Derwen, Cefn Coch, Llanthead-Y-Mochnant, Powys, SY10 0BS, 07989 563389

IWL, Vyrnwy: Evans IWL & PE

JWG, Ithon: Griffiths EJW & ME

AGG, Parys: Cromelech Farm

CRF, Cae Rhos: Hughes AW & SE, Ty Cerrig, Garndolbenmaen, Gwynedd, LL51 9PJ, 01766 530694

DGH, Bodran: Hughes & Sons DW & G, Bryn Kenrickm, Llanfair T.H., Abergler, Conway LL22 8AJ, 01745 720278, 07876 260997

JHL, Cardi-Gan Salers: James E & Co

AHJ, Mock: Jenkins Aled

EJC, Wernol: Jones Aled, Chwilog Fawr, Chwilog, Pwllheli, Gwynedd, LL53 6SW, 01766 810506

AAM, Glan-y-Mor: Jones Alun & AR, Glan-y-Mor, Ynys, Talsarnau, Gwynedd, LL46 6TR, 01766 780377

CLW, Clywedog: Jones C F

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GAJ, Bowi: Jones GG & PA, Blaenbowi, Capel Iwan, Newcastle Emlyn, Carmarthenshire, SA38 9NG, 01559 370263

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FEMALE-SIDE BREEDING -

Professor Jim Mason, Salers Cattle

French cattle (and sheep) are more productive by a commercially crucial 10 – 15%. Meal costs for Salers, €0.33/kg live weight are by some way the lowest of French breeds, writes Professor Jim Mason.

The following article has been compiled by Professor Jim Mason.

Irish Salers breeders regularly visit farms in France. French cattle are 'pedigrees' in our terms, i.e. pure-breeds, but they are run as commercial herds, not "show-cattle", hence the very strong emphasis on selection for commercially relevant maternal traits such as pelvic-aperture; milk; and fertility on which, production and thus profits, depends.

For Salers, the sale of breeding females is more important than bulls. The 55,000 or so recorded Salers cows (24% of total breed numbers) produce 0.96 per cow, with a calving interval of <375 days.

Some farms, for example, GAEC Garcelon, regularly exceed 1 calf per cow, since twins are not unusual in Salers. Thus, 225 cows produced 230 calves in 2015; 192 produced 192 in 2014 and 220 produced 226 in 2013.

SALERS - CALVING EASE

The easy calving of Salers cows is clear in all surveys, worldwide. It is most evident in first calvers and this is illustrated below, as a % for heifers of breeds of Irish interest.

	No assistance	Light pull	Calving Jack	Caesarean
Salers	92	6	1	0
Limousin	84	12	4	1
Aubrac	81	15	3	1
Blonde	63	26	8	3
Parthenaise	51	32	10	7
Charolais	48	34	9	9
Belgian Blue	5	3	3	89

Low birth weight & larger maternal pelvic opening

This core value of easy-calving is, of course, related to the relatively low birth weight of Salers calves and to the larger maternal pelvic opening. These are maintained by selection and the key criteria are illustrated in the bull sale catalogue.

The IFNAIS, "Index Facilité de Naissance", or calving ease, is basically calf birth weight (80% of the index); the lower the birth weight, the higher the index.

Note also, that the internal pelvic aperture of all the bulls passing through the Salers Test Station is measured and internal comparative pelvic width's (BIM) and height's

CROSS-BREEDING

French breeds (cattle and sheep) are generally more productive and French breeders are surprised at our appetite for cross-breeding, they think it introduces female unpredictability, particularly the multiple cross-breeding.

One could even say that our pedigree bulls (and rams) are used to try to put an order on disorder. Cross-bred cows are rare in France (as in Europe generally), rather less than 8% of the total.

In Normandy, where there are a few cross-bred sucklers (28,000), mainly Charolais or Limousin (or even Belgian Blue) X Normande or Holstein, their performance is very notably poorer than the local Salers, thus calf losses are 13% v. 3%.

In Ireland, we produce 850,000 calves a year from well over a million sucklers - a significant underperformance compared to France. The average here is around 0.80 per cow, with the bottom 15% at around 0.70; calving interval around 400 days.

Overall, French figures, all breeds, touch 0.90 with French Salers topping at 0.96; French cattle (and sheep) are more productive by a commercially crucial 10 – 15%.

(HSP) are presented in the sales catalogue.

These are used to calculate a "pelvic opening", OP, index, which since 2013, constitutes 22.6% of the key Overall Index, IMOCR, of the bull on test.

Some 1 in 5 cow's needs assistance at calving in Ireland and a colleague in Grange indicated that 25% of difficult calvers are subsequently anoestrus.

A COMMERCIAL NECESSITY

SALERS BULL TEST STATION - SELECTION CRITERIA

Particular attention is paid to the maternal (and paternal grandmother) reproductive performance. Thus, the calving interval of the 100 or so mothers of the bulls we see annually is typically (92.5%) 362-367 days for 6 calving's (75.5%).

In Ireland, the average suckler calving interval is around 400 days with the bottom 15% at more than 430 days - both indicative of the fertility problems and lack of selection for maternal traits.

In France, Alait - the dam's milking ability, and IVMat - the overall maternal performance, loom large in selection for admission.

TEST STATION AIMS

A composite index (IMOCR) in the Salers Bull Sale Catalogue takes into account growth (CR) (36.9%); conformation (DM) (21.6%) and very notably, internal pelvic size (OP) (22.6%); however, it is important to realise that the feed regime at the Station is designed to measure a bull's ability to use roughage not concentrates.

This is in common with some other breeds in France, notably Aubracs. They are fed quality hay ad lib; but limited to only 4kg of meal per day, in the 16-week "intensive phase". This contrasts with Tully, where they were fed meal ad-lib and consumed some 11-12-13kg per day.

They are fit but not fat, certainly not in the show condition of most bulls sold in Ireland, and are ready to go to cows immediately with little in the way of fertility problems; laminitis; or the typical melt-down of the Irish show-fed animal.

French buyers pay close attention to these indices and see them as fundamental in the retention of the breeds, excellent milk capacity.

Suckled Salers, or their mothers, are very rarely meal fed in France. In general, in most breeds in Ireland, the traditional heavy concentrate feeding of the "pedigree" herds supplying bulls partially disguises lack of maternal milk.

Recent publicity also highlighted the significant covert presence of milky foster mothers in the pedigree herds. Grange results have clearly shown how crucial maternal milk yields are and that weaning weight advantages gained at this stage are still evident at finishing.

Teagasc estimates some 30% of Irish bulls are sub-fertile and recommend a "slimming-down" phase before usage. The ability to grow well on roughages that is grass; silage; or hay is becoming crucial as meal prices increase. In any event, grass is our main asset. The roughage-based Salers Test feed regime is thus designed to assess the Salers ruminal ability/capacity to power growth.

Comparison with other breeds shows that Salers cows have a higher rumen capacity (up to 15%) hence their ability to feed calves without supplementation. Meal costs for Salers, €0.33/kg live weight, are by some way, the lowest of French Breeds (others €0.38-0.61/kg).

A rough assessment of an animal's rumen capacity can be made from body depth just in front of the hind legs. The tight-bodied show-type animal may look well but lacks the ability to use roughage.

DATA ON IRISH AI BULLS

In view of the selection basis of Salers, it is not surprising that in recently published ICBF, all-breed maternal figures, the top three bulls were Salers; Beguin; Ulsan; and Vaillant.

By Professor Jim Mason.



2018 Stirling Bull Sales February

The senior and reserve senior champion bulls went on to take the top two titles for the Salers at the pre-sale show at the Stirling Bull Sales.



Overall Champion Kaimburn Lewis

Taking the Overall Champion was Kaimburn Lewis from Edgerston Trading, Camptown, Jedburgh. Kaimburn Lewis born 21/3/16 is sired by Seawell Highlander and out of Oaklands Gaerwn. He made 6,200gns the second highest price in the Salers sale.

Judge, Alisdair Davidson of Poldean, Newton Wamphray, Moffat, said: "He is the best Salers bull here and is exactly what a modern type Salers should be. He's good on his legs and walks well."



Reserve Overall Champion Preenbank Lord Charles

The reserve overall champion was Preenbank Lord Charles from Fred and Bryn Robinson's Preenbank herd at Highfields Farm, Church Preen, Church Stretton, Shropshire. Born 06/03/16 he is just two weeks older than Kaimburn Lewis, sired by Seawell Invader he is out of Preenbank Christabel. He made 4,000gns.

Leading the intermediate section and making the highest price on the day at 7,000gns was Cleuchhead Legacy from the Livesey family's herd at Nether Firth, Lilliesleaf, Melrose. Born 2/4/16 he is sired by Cuil Godfather and is out of Cleuchhead Gentle 25th. Reserve intermediate was Patrick Boyd's Drumaglea Lord Jim who made 5,000gns. Born 12/4/16 he is sired by French Bull Baron and out of home bred Drumaglea Bella.



Highest price at 7,000gns Cleuchhead Legacy

Among the juniors, Alistair MacKenzie from Whitebog, Fortrose, secured the top two tickets. Overall junior was Whitebog Lane born 6/7/16 sired by Seawell Diplomat, out of Whitebog Trixy, he made 3,000gns. Reserve was another Seawell Diplomat son in the shape of Whitebog Lambourghini born 3/8/16 out of Whitebog Dianna.

Top price: 7,000gns

Averages: Bulls: £3842 Females: £1800

32 bulls forward, 17 sold, clearance of 54%



Reserve intermediate was Patrick Boyd's Drumaglea



Lord Jim who made 5,000gns. Born 12/4/16 he is sired by French Bull Baron and out of home bred Drumaglea Bella.

2018 Newark Society Sale March

Interest in the Salers lines was mostly from farmers who had come to Newark to talk to breeders about wanting a bull later in the season, so in the sale ring bids were thin on the ground. Rigel Lyra was the only Salers bull who found a buyer, selling for 3,000gns to Messrs Peberdy, Leicester.

In the pre-sale show judged by Dennis Mitchell,, Seawell Laurence was crowned Show Champion with Rigel Lombard Poll as Reserve Show Champion.

7 bulls forward, one sold to 3,000gns



Judge Dennis Mitchell, Champion Seawell Laurence,
Reserve Champion Rigel Lombard

2018 Welshpool Society Sale May

A good number of entries were forward to the sale at Welshpool Livestock Market with a large number of pedigree females sold in the commercial section, so some good bargains to be had.

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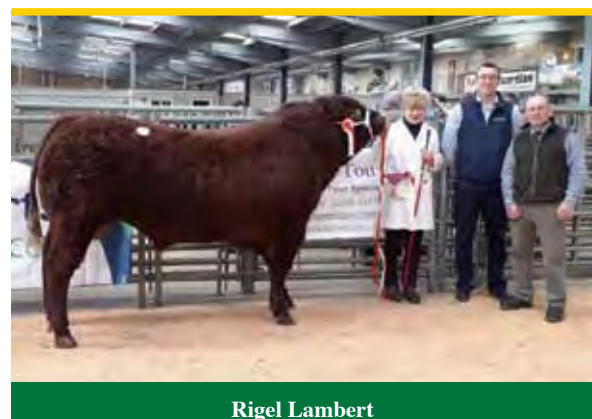
Seven bulls out of eleven forward sold to an average of £4,000, with the top price bull and Show Champion Seawell Laurence selling out of the ring at £5512, A son of import Denver out of Seawell Cherie this February 2016 bull showed lots of presence, he sold to CF Jones, Llanidloes.

Reserve Show Champion went to Rigel Lambert born April 2016 a powerful looking bull sired by Rigel Byron Poll out of Rigel Marrakesh who sold for £4200 to Neuaddgogh Farms, Powys

Females had some good trade with averages of Cow with Calf £1551 and bulling heifers £1075.



Seawell Laurence



Rigel Lambert

SHOW RESULTS

Judge Tudor Jones

Class 1

- 1st 222 Seawell Laurence (£5512)
- 2nd 224 Seawell Lord of the Rings (No sale)
- 3rd 226 Seawell Lloyd (No sale)
- 4th 225 Seawell Lincoln (No sale)

Class 2

- 1st 230 Rigel Lambert (£4200)
- 2nd 228 Seawell Laurent (£4200)
- 3rd 231 Rigel Lombard Poll (£4200)
- 4th 229 Seawell Lamont (£4200)

Class 3

- 1st 233 Preenbank Mozart (£2940)
- 2nd 232 Preenbank Magnus (£2625)

Show Champion

222 Seawell Laurence, PM & SM Donger

Reserve Show Champion

230 Rigel Lambert, Rigel Pedigree

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Bacardi Salers

Thank you to all customers in 2018!

2018 Stirling Bull Sales May

Seven bulls forward at the Stirling May Bull sales from three vendors, with six selling (one outside of the ring). Judge Ian Smith of Alford, Aberdeenshire spotted the top priced bull Rigel Laredo Poll (from the Rigel Herd, Yarm, North Yorkshire) in the pre-sale show putting him as overall show champion. Sired by Rigel Byron Poll out of Rigel Dixie an Amazonien cow, this April 2016 bull showed some power and sold for 5200gns to C Robertson, Ballindalloch.

Reserve Champion went to Whitebog Laurie from A MacKenzie, Fortrose selling at 4500gns to J M & W Turnbull, Fife. Sired by Seawell Diplomat born July 2016 out of Whitebog Dawn.

Averages for five sold in the ring £4,327, top price £5,460.



Rigel Laredo Poll



Whitebog Laurie



SHOW RESULTS

Judge Ian Smith, Alford, Aberdeenshire

Class 17 – Bulls born between 17 March and 9 July 2016

1st Rigel Laredo Poll, Rigel
Pedigree (£5460)

2nd Rednock Lennox Blk, Gill
& Malcolm Pye (no sale)

3rd Rednock Ladon Blk, Gill
& Malcolm Pye (£4200)

Class 18 – Bulls born on or after 10 July 2016

1st Whitebog Laurie, A MacKenzie (£4275)

2nd Whitebog Lord, A MacKenzie
(£2310 sold outside ring)

3rd Whitebog Landfill, A
MacKenzie (£3675)

4th Whitebog Led, A MacKenzie (£3675)

Salers Show Champion

Rigel Laredo Poll, Rigel Pedigree

Salers Reserve Show Champion –
Whitebog Laurie, A MacKenzie





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Jonaz from GAEC Elevage Chassang exported by
ELITE EXPORT to Harri and Sioned Pritchard

2018 Balmoral Show (RUAS)

photos by Alfie Shaw

Excellent Salers Entry at 150th Balmoral Show

Salers cattle breeders put forward a high quality entry at the recent Balmoral Show, with a packed ringside of visitors following the judging.

The breed Championship was awarded to Drumlegagh Hamish from the Elliott family, Newtownstewart, Co Tyrone. This rising four year old home bred bull was placed Reserve Champion at the Highland Show in 2017 and has grown on exceptionally well since then.



Supreme Champion – Drumlegagh Hamish

The Royal Ulster Agricultural Society were celebrating its' 150th Balmoral Show this year, and to mark the occasion the judges for the beef cattle were all ladies. The Salers Society were delighted to welcome Welsh judge Sioned Pritchard to place this section.

Her Reserve Champion came from Pearse O'Kane, Greysteel, co Londonderry with his super two year old heifer Brookfields Eva, bred by G & R Wilson. This choice entry is sired by Brownhall Laurence and out of Moygara Kathryn.

It was a clean sweep in the Junior Championships for the Elliott family who secured both the Champion and Reserve positions with progeny sired by Drumlegagh Hamish. "Mars" stood in the winning spot, and is out of the Highland Show Champion Drumlegagh Galaxy. His herd mate Mia was in reserve and is out of Drumlegagh Gabriella.



Junior Champion – Drumlegagh Mars



Reserve Junior Champion – Drumlegagh Mia

SHOW RESULTS

Judge: Sioned Pritchard, Wales

Cow, in calf or with calf at foot

1st Drumlegagh Galaxy - J & EA Elliott

2nd Brookfields Abbey - Mr Pearse O'Kane

Heifer, born on or before 31st December 2016

1st Brookfields Eve - Mr Pearse O'Kane

2nd Drumlegagh Luna - J & EA Elliott

3rd Brookfields Rosheen - Mr Pearse O'Kane

Heifer, born on or after 1st January 2017

1st Drumlegagh Mia - J & EA Elliott

2nd Lisnamaul Molly - PJ Maginn & Sons

3rd Lower Bolie Molly - Mr Pearse O'Kane

4th Ballykeel Mademoiselle - Mr S Connell

5th Lisnamaul Magic - PJ Maginn & Sons

6th Ballykeel Missy-Moo - Mr S Connell

7th Lisnamaul My Girl - PJ Maginn & Sons

Bull, up to 2 years old on the day of the show

1st Drumlegagh Mars - J & EA Elliott

2nd Drumlagagh Lancelot - J & EA Elliott

3rd Drumlegagh Maximus - J & EA Elliott

4th Ballybollen Moore - Mr E Gregg

Bull, over 2 years old on the day of the show

1st Drumlegagh Hamish - J & EA Elliott

Pair of Animals – Salers Society Cup

1st J & EA Elliott

2nd Mr Pearse O'Kane

3rd PJ Maginn & Sons

Junior Breed Champion male of female born on or after 1 January 2017

Champion Drumlegagh Mars - J & EA Elliott

Reserve Champion Drumlegagh Mia - J & EA Elliott



HOW A YORKSHIRE SUCKLER HERD

Courtesy of Farmers Weekly

Unassisted outdoor calving has seen maternal breeds grow in popularity in recent years. Michael Priestley visits Beeston Hall Salers

An easy-calving herd is making light work of outdoor calving on a Pennine hill farm, with calf mortality at 1% in recent years and minimal assistance.

The Hallos family, from near Ripponden, West Yorkshire, have built up a herd of 80 pedigree Salers cows since going into suckler production in 2003.

In that time, they have calved their cows outdoors and assisted with just six calvings (0.51%) out of 1,164 in 15 years.

Easy-calving cows mean the Hallos family have live calves to sell, and they have also, somewhat unintentionally, found themselves benefitting from the ability to sell pedigree Salers due to the demand for easy-calving heifers for commercial herds using continental sires.

As for losses, this extends to one or two empty cows that get culled and perhaps one lost calf a year in recent years.

Beeston Hall Farm facts

- 809ha hill farm
- 40ha of cutting ground, of which 16ha is hay meadow
- 80 Salers cows and 300 Scottish Blackface ewes
- Shearlings bred to Lley, rest to Lonk
- Selling 30-35 pedigree bulling heifers each year
- 110ha of severely disadvantaged area (SDA) lowland ground
- All 590ha of fenced moorland is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Former producer/retailer dairy farm until 2002
- Store lambs and bulls sold at Skipton
- Biobest cattle health scheme, vaccinating and testing for BVD, Johne's and IBR

Breeding

After successfully calving and breeding Salers-cross cattle out of the dairy herd as it was being dispersed, Beeston Hall Salers was built up by buying in pedigree cattle and grading up cross-bred cattle.

Breeding is generally done through natural service, with the farm requiring two bulls working across an autumn and a spring block of cows, which have been tightened to nine weeks since 2015.

The spring block has become the elite herd and the autumn block is a more commercial herd, with the bottom 20 autumn cows being AI'd to a mix of continental sires, with Charolais and Simmental used this year.

Performance recording is not undertaken at Beeston Hall because of the extensive upland nature of the calving and concerns over the accuracy of collecting birthweights.

However, performance-recorded genetics are used, including cow lines from the Rigel herd of Terence and Jane Pye, Yarm, North Yorkshire, where bulls are



A spring-calving herd and an autumn-calving herd are run to help in the management of outlying moorland areas.



Cows calve outside unassisted in spring and autumn



Grazing is extensive and includes uplands rushes and heather moorland

selected on pelvic measurements to ensure ease of calving.

Other notable cow families include lines from the Cuil herd of the McClymonts, Newtown Stewart.

The autumn herd exists because of a need to run cattle over heather for environmental stewardship. Autumn-calving cows calve outdoors and calves are weaned at turnout and grazed extensively on a wild 590ha block of fenced heather moor.

Bulls are kept entire and sold as stores at Skipton Market, while heifers are either retained or sold at Welshpool or Castle Douglas, with 11-month-old heifers making £1,100 and 16-month-old heifers making about £1,500-£1,600.

IS ACHIEVING 96% CALVES WEANED

Six tips on extensive calving

1. Watch fields containing watercourses closely. It's easy for newborn calves to drown.
2. Whatever you do, start with easy-calving genetics.
3. Field choice can matter. Plan for shelter for prevalent winds.
4. Temperament is everything. It pays to have quiet cattle when you have to tag calves.
5. When gathering and moving cattle, they won't be pushed – they need to be tempted forward with feed.
6. Good equipment is important. It takes effort to get creep up to remote locations so you want it staying dry and palatable. Trailer feeders must be good quality when accessing high areas on rough ground.



Calving

Stress is minimised in the run-up to calving for the spring calvers by maintaining a constant diet of silage/haylage and straw, with more straw being fed this year to make up for a 50% reduction in silage crop.

Winter feeding consists of trailer feeders leading haylage and/or straw to cows after grass growth stops.

Stephen Hallos and his son, Sam, walk through the cows each day when calving is due, turning out small numbers of cows that look likely to calve imminently. Once outside, they remain outside until November/December housing.

The farm works on an annual budget of 1,200 bales of haylage/year for cattle and sheep. Straw use is typically 110t/year across both enterprises.

The Hallos' calving routine consists of casting an eye over cows due through the day and going into calving paddocks to tag calves and then record the gender and sire.

Calving needs to be simple, with 300 sheep to lamb from 16 April and a late-April calving, explains Rachel Hallos.

"The only issue might be having a calf born that falls into a watercourse," says Mrs Hallos. "As an upland farm we have lots of rain and water channels." Autumn calvers calve even more remotely, up on rushy in-bye fields, with the family taking their annual holiday in September, when autumn calving is in full swing.

The entire herd runs on a £21.46 a cow health budget for the year, including health scheme blood tests and membership, Biobest health scheme laboratory fees, vaccinations, a mineral bolus and clostridial injections for cows and calves.

6

Number of assisted calvings in 15 years out of 1,164

240-320

Typical weaning weight (kg) of cattle when they come in from the moor to be weaned

£1,350

Average price a head at Castle Douglas for 30 12-16 month old heifers in the last autumn sales

£21.46

Health budget a cow for both calving blocks

20

Autumn-calving cows that are cross-bred to beef straws

SPRING CALVERS

Calving: April to June (nine weeks) and turned out to calve in pastures near the house in 4-5ha fields.

Dehorning: Once outside, groups are brought in with calves at one to two weeks old. Cows are given vaccination boosters and calves are dehorned with a hand-held gas dehorner.

Summer: Once calves are dehorned and injected for clostridials, they go out onto rough in-bye ground in one batch until November/December.

Weaning: Creep fed (18% crude protein) in November at six months old to minimise growth check up to 2kg a head a day in more accessible pastures. Cows and calves are split as stock are housed for winter, with cows sometimes left in pasture.

Breeding: Bulls go in for up to nine weeks on extensive pasture, with bulls serving 30 cows a year across the two blocks. Cows are PD'd in December after housing.

AUTUMN CALVERS

Calving: Calve on in-bye land in mid-September to mid-November, during which time they are brought down to lower pastures and removed from the heather.

Turnout: Typically in April. Cows get vaccine boosters and calves get clostridial injections.

Housing: Autumn calves are creep-fed from November to ease weaning stress.

Summer: Cows graze high moor up to 417m for conservation grazing and heather regeneration.

Weaning: Weaning and dehorning takes place when cows are housed in December.

Breeding: Cows are bulled in the new year and staff watches for bulling behavior for artificial insemination of the bottom 20 autumn calvers

Turnout: Cows return to the hill after being PD'd. Bull calves are kept inside and fed a high-fibre (16% crude protein) store pellet and heifers are moved outside as weather and grazing allows from late April.

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2018 Great Yorkshire Show

A perfect showing day at the 2018 Great Yorkshire Show, blue skies but with a nice comfortable breeze where Roy and Adam Crockett made a breeze of the competition taking Supreme Champion and Reserve Champion with Bacardi Jessie Jay and Bacardi Lola respectively.

We had a fine turnout of fantastic cattle from all exhibitors and our thanks go to everyone.



Salers Show Champion: Bacardi Jessie Jay – R & A Crockett



Reserve Show Champion: Bacardi Lola – R & A Crockett



Judge Glen Welsh



Male and Junior Champion: Manor Lane Logic – C A Fox

Glen Welsh from Muirkirk, Ayrshire, judged; and he was delighted with the standard of Salers, his Champion and reserve champion was a difficult choice as he thought both were supreme animals and deserved the title but Bacardi Jessi Jay born 26/5/14 just pipped Bacardi Lola born 8/4/16. He said Bacardi Lola would be a fine heifer and will come forward in future years.

Manor Lane Logic from C A Fox went on to take Reserve Interbreed Junior Beef Champion, judged by Mr D Biggar of Castle Douglas and Manor Lane Logic and Bacardi Lola then took the Blythwood Continental Beef Pairs Competition – a great achievement for the breeders and the society.

Salers also won the Continental Peoples Choice! A big well done to all exhibitors.

SHOW RESULTS

Judge: Glen Welsh, Muirkirk, Ayrshire

Bull born before 1 January 2017

- 1st Manor Lane Logic, C A Fox
- 2nd Ideal, T & I Walling
- 3rd Bacardi Ludicris, R & A Crockett
- 4th Beeston Hall Laser, S & R Hallos
- 5th Beeston Hall Lorenzo, S & R hallos

Bull born on or after 1 January 2017

- 1st Kaiburn Mr Cool, Edgerton Trading
- 2nd Bacardi Michelangelo, R & A Crockett

Cow, born on or before 31 December 2015, in milk or with calf

- 1st Barcardi Jessie Jay, R & A Crockett
- 2nd Cumbrian Jolie 605, T & I Walling
- 3rd Approach Farm Gemma, A & K Gowthorpe

Heifer, born on or after 1 January 2016

- 1st Bacardi Lola, R & A Crockett
- 2nd Kaiburn Libby, Edgerton trading
- 3rd Manor Lane Lunar, C A Cox
- 4th Approach Farm Lucy, A & K Gowthorpe

Heifer, born on or after 1 January 2017

- 1st Manor Lane Mischief, C A Fox
- 2nd Beeston Hall Misty, S & R Hallos
- 3rd Approach Farm Mary, A & K Gowthorpe
- 4th Kaiburn Myrtle, Edgerton Trading
- 5th Beeston Hall Mindy, S & R Hallos

Group of Three

- 1st R & A Crockett
- 2nd C A Fox
- 3rd A & K Gowthorpe
- 4th Edgerton Trading

Pairs by the same sire

- 1st A & K Gowthorpe
- 2nd Edgerton Trading
- 3rd S & R Hallos

Salers Junior Champion

Salers Cattle Society Cup – C A Fox, Manor Lane Logic born 9/11/16

Salers Junior Reserve Champion, The Dennis White Cup

Edgerton Trading Kaiburn Mr Cool born 21/4/17

Salers Male Champion, The Watson Trophy

C A Fox, Manor Lane Logic born 9/11/16

Salers Female Champion, Bents Farm Trophy

R & A Crockett, Bacardi Jessie Jay born 26/5/14

Salers Breed Champion, Rigel Cup

R & A Crockett, Bacardi Jessie Jay born 26/5/14

Salers Reserve Breed Champion, KW

Alternative Farm Feeds Cup

R & A Crockett, Bacardi Lola born 8/4/16

Highest Placed Polled Animal, Arthur Beevers Cup

C A Fox

Pair of Animals by the Same Sire, Jock Watson Trophy

A & K Gowthorpe

Group of Three Animals, L'Ansons Trophy

R & A Crockett

GYS Stockman Shield – Lewis Yates



Reserve Junior Champion: Kaiburn Mr Cool – Edgerton Trading



Reserve in Blythwood Continental Beef Pairs
R & A Crockett – Bacardi Lola and C A Fox – Manor Lane Logic



Reserve in Interbreed Junior Champion – Manor Lane Logic – C A Fox

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2018 Royal Highland Show



Salers Overall Champion & Best Female –
Bacardi Jessie Jay – R & A Crockett



Salers Overall Reserve Champion, Best Male, Best Junior Male
Bacardi Ludacris – R & A Crockett



Salers Reserve Female Champion & Best Junior Female
Kaimburn Myrtle – Edgerston Trading (2006) Lts

Good showing weather helped to ensure an excellent show at Ingliston Show Ground for the 2018 Royal Highland Show. Salers had a good turnout despite being two prolific breeders down, the breed continues to grow in popularity with suckler breeders and a good crowd gathered as judging went ahead.

We were delighted to have Sophie Donger as our Judge; Sophie has lived with Salers and Charolais most of her life and has a keen eye for a good animal.

Bacardi Jessie Jay born 26/5/14, with calf at foot, caught the judge's attention and she was rewarded with Salers Overall Show champion, a substantial cow showing all the attributes of the maternal breed, good strong shape with plenty of milk and a good calf at foot. Exhibitor and breeder Roy & Adam Crockett bred Jessie Jay who is sired by Gulliver out of Cleuchhead Delilah.

Roy and Adam Crockett also produced the Salers Reserve Show Champion, Bacardi Ludacris, born 31/12/16 Sire Iron, Dam Seamore Honour, who also took Best Junior Male and Best Bull

Best Junior Female went to Edgerston Trading (2006) Ltd with Kaimburn Myrtle, born 21/4/17 Sired by Seawell Highlander out of Oaklands Heulwen who also took reserve female.



SHOW RESULTS

Judge: Sophie Donger, Towcester

Female born after 31 March 2017

- 1st Kaimburn Myrtle, Edgerston Trading (2006) Ltd
- 2nd Rednock Lola, G Pye

Female born on or between 24 June 2017 and 31st March 2017

- 1st Rednock Molly, G Pye
- 2nd Cumbrian Ladybird 895 Poll, T & I Walling
- 3rd Beeston Hall Mindy, Beeston Hall Farms Ltd
- 4th Rednock Olympia, G Pye

Female born on or after 1st January 2015 and before 24 June 2016

- 1st Bacardi Lola, R & A Crockett
- 2nd Kaimburn Libby, Edgerston Trading (2006) Ltd
- 3rd Cleuchhead Mhaire 1130, R Livesey

Female born before 1st January 2015

- 1st Bacardi Jessie Jay, R & A Crockett
- 2nd Cumbrian Jolie 388 Poll, T & I Walling
- 3rd Cleuchhead Hope 15th, R Livesey

Bull born after 31st March 2017

- 1st Kaimburn Mr Cool, Edgerston trading (2006) Ltd
- 2nd Cleuchhead Mc Tavish, R Livesey
- 3rd Whitebog Lambourgini, Mr DM Lyle & Sons

Bull born before 24th June 2016

- 1st Rednock Lagerfield Poll, G Pye
- 2nd Beeston Hall Lorenzo, Beeston Hall Farms Ltd
- 3rd Beeston Hall Laser, Beeston Hall Farms

Best Junior Female – The Lochdougan Trophy

Kaimburn Myrtle, Edgerston Trading

Reserve Junior Female

Rednock Molly, G Pye

Best Female – QET Perpetual Cup

Bacardi Jessie Jay, R & A Crockett

Reserve Female

Kaimburn Myrtle, Edgerston Trading

Best Junior Bull – The Cuil Claret Jug

Bacardi Ludacris, R & A Crockett

Reserve Junior Bull

Cleuchhead McTavish, R Livesey

Best Bull – Rumenco Trophy

Bacardi Ludacris, R & A Crockett

Reserve Bull

Cleuchhead McTavish, R Livesey

Overall Champion – The Swordsman Perpetual Trophy

Bacardi Jessie Jay, R & A Crockett

Reserve Overall Champion – The Salers Bell

Bacardi Ludacris, R & A Crockett

Best Pair of Animals – Wallets Marts Perpetual Trophy

R & A Crockett, Bacardi Ludacris & Bacardi Lola

Best Group of Three Animals – Dingwall & Highland Marts Perpetual Trophy

R & A Crockett, Bacardi Jessie Jay, Bacardi Ludacris & Bacardi Lola

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References 1. Yarnall and Thrusfield (2017) Vet Record doi: 10.1136/vr.104370 2. Platt et al. (2017) Vet Imm. and Immunopath. 187: 20-27.
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Maternal focus for Rigel

Courtesy of the Farmers Guardian

It was ease of management which attracted the Pye family to the Salers breed when they set up the Rigel herd in 1991 and those attributes are still at the heart of the breeding programme today.

The herd has since grown to 60 cows which, along with followers, stands at about 170-head. Based at Middleton-on-Leven, North Yorkshire, it was established by Terence Pye and his wife Jane, along with Terence's brother Malcolm and his wife Gill.

Terence says: "At that time both my brother and I were working off-farm with our wives responsible for most of the daily management of cattle, so choosing an easy calving breed with a good temperament was a priority and these are still the qualities which make it the ideal suckler cow today."

In 2016, business commitments led to Malcolm and Gill moving to Stirling where they set up the Rednock herd, founded on Rigel females. Terence and Jane contin-



Rigel Lymond is one of two Rigel bulls to go to this year's sale.

PICTURES: MARCELLO GARBAGNOLI

ued the business in partnership and are now assisted by their daughter Emma Denton and her husband Scott, who have moved back to the farm. Part-time member of staff Jim Ridley also helps out.

The focus of the businesses is the sale of pedigree breeding stock,

with up to 35 bulls and 25-30 heifers sold each year. About 60 per cent of these are sold direct from the farm with about half going to suckler and dairy farmers who have not had Salers before, but also to a large number of repeat buyers from all over the UK and Northern Ireland.

Exported

They also sell bulls at the main breed society sales at Castle Douglas, Stirling and Welshpool twice-a-year, as well as other sales as far away as Thainstone, Aberdeen, and Sedgemoor, Somerset. They have also exported bulls and heifers to France, Germany and Ireland.

Terence says: "What is interesting is a different type of bull is required for the different regions. At Castle Douglas the pedigree breeders are interested in bloodlines and at Stirling they want a bigger bull, whereas Welshpool buyers seem to like a bull which is shorter in stature. But the demand is there, with the breed growing in popularity in all areas. It is now the eighth largest beef breed in the UK."

"The Salers' role is to breed efficient suckler cows and the breed has a unique set of traits suited to this, specifically unrivalled ease of calving with low birth weights, large pelvic opening, fast growth rates, plenty of milk, sound structure and a calm disposition. Longevity is also a trait. If we do not get 14 calves out of a cow we do not think we have done very well."

"We select for the maternal side of the breed. Our policy is to preserve and enhance these key traits, many of which are not easily assessed by eye, unlike conformation and growth rate."

"Breedplan was introduced for the breed in 2014 and we really appreciate the value of performance recording. We measure birth weights and at 200, 400 and 600 days, as well as pelvic area and scro-tal size. Bulls are back fat scanned and udders are assessed and scored on first calved heifers, as well as legs and feet generally. The more we can contribute to Breedplan the more useful estimated breeding values we can obtain."

"This also gives us another marketing tool as we can supply potential customers with figures and guide them as to which bulls will have the best traits suited to their needs."

Herd health is high on the agenda, with the herd closed apart from bulls, although three in-calf heifers have recently been bought from the Livesey family's Cleuchhead herd, Melrose, which has a similar health status and also performance records.

Bulls are generally sourced from France, with Terence and Jane regularly visiting farms and sales there to identify potential purchases, firstly by compiling a shortlist based on data which they follow up with physical inspection.

Quality

The use of French sires Bruno and Crocodile Dundee established the quality of the females, and home-bred Rigel Othello Poll put the herd on the international stage.

A series of bulls imported from the French Bull Test Station – Sagittaire, Amazonien and Casimir – have each made their mark on the herd and the breed in the UK. First calves from the most recent import, Lascaux, are just starting to be sold.

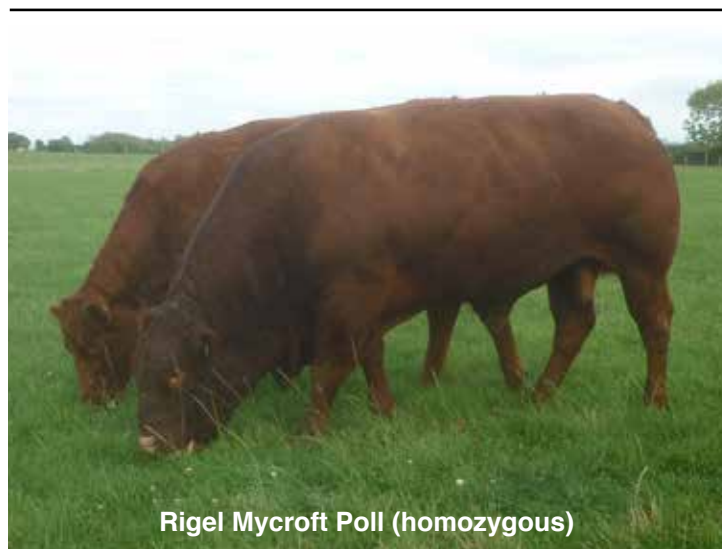
Salers are usually red coated, however a few black Salers are retained in French herds for good fortune and the Rigel herd is 20 per cent black, while 65 per cent of the herd is polled.

The Pyes have been pursuing a polling programme using only the

Rigel Salers herd

- 60 pedigree Salers cows, with followers totalling 170-head
- Four Salers stock bulls, three home-bred, and one from France
- Use one or two young bulls each year on heifers
- The herd is Biobest HiHealth

- Cattle Health Certification Standards-accredited BVD free since 2010
- Johne's risk level 1 since 2014
- Annual monitoring for IBR and leptospirosis plus BVD and IBR vaccination programmes



Rigel Mycroft Poll (homozygous)

Salers

few naturally polled French bloodlines for more than 20 years, as they believe dehorning young calves is to be avoided if possible and there is also a trend towards regulations against horned cattle.

The herd is mainly spring-calving, with heifers easily calving at two years of age and everything housed over winter to protect the land. Cows are fed a forage-only diet, with just the youngstock receiving concentrate. Once housed, the youngstock remain inside until they are sold.

The Rigel herd has enjoyed great success over the years in the show and sale ring, achieving many top prices, breed records and championships.



Left to right: Emma Denton, Jane Pye, Terence Pye and Jim Ridley.

Terence is a long-standing member of the Salers Cattle Society council of management and is about to become the society's president as he is approaching the end of his two-year term as chairman. He has also been active in the International Salers Federation (ISF), having taken on various roles and been elected president of the ISF for a three-year term in 2012.

This role has taken him and Jane to Canada, France, Ireland and the USA to participate in various ISF events.

He says: "We are not a big society, with only about 200 members, but we are a friendly society where everyone, whether they have a big herd or just a few cows, is made to feel very welcome."

Leven Fields Farm

- 84 hectares (208 acres) owned land
- All is down to grass except 12ha (30 acres) of woods, 55ha (136 acres) ploughable and 17ha (42 acres) of permanent pasture
- Silage land is on a six-year rotation, mostly sown to clover/grass mixture
- Extensive use of farmyard manure on grazing and silage land
- All straw bought ex-swath from local arable farmers, square baled by contractors

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CALVING EASE VITAL TO RUNNING

Report and Images courtesy of Farmers Weekly and Sarah Alderton, Farmgate Media

Running a profitable, low cost suckler beef business is no mean feat, with AHDB Farmbench figures suggesting the middle 50% of producers are making a gross profit per cow put to the bull of £290.75.

However, for farm manager Bevis Jordan, Mainsrigg Farm, Whitfield, Hexham, he is edging towards the top 25% of suckler producers, with a gross margin per cow of £370- something he puts down predominately to his focus on calving ease.

The herd consists of 125 medium-sized Salers cross cattle with about 25 heifers a year and the top 10% of cows bred to a Salers bull and the remainder with Limousin stock bulls. Almost 90% (86%) of cows calve within a nine-week block; 93% of calves are weaned and all replacement heifers are calving between 22-24 months.

He attributes such success to calving ease, as easier calving cows are quicker to get back in calf meaning fewer barren animals. Less traumatic births also allow calves to thrive straight away as they are up and suckling and getting the vital colostrum they need.

Calving ease is determined by a number of factors including:

- Calf birth weight
- Breed and genetics
- Position and presentation of the calf in the uterus
- Cows pelvic area
- Age of cow
- Nutrition and condition of the cow

Mr Jordan pays close attention to detail to ensure he is selecting the right animals to breed from, calves are not too big when they are born and cows not overfat.

In the past year, Mr Jordan hasn't had to assist any calving's and puts this partly down to the annual pelvic area measuring of potential replacement heifers to ensure they are fit to calve themselves. He first started pelvic scoring in 2016 after seeing it being practiced in the US. Prior to this between 2010-2016 he had four caesareans as well as four assisted births.

Pelvic scoring

He selects a cohort of heifers to measure based on their mother's history, their shape and temperament. His vet Karl Collins from Old Stone Vets, then measures their pelvis between the ages of 10-15 months old and any with a small pelvis are not kept for replacements. This has reduced calving difficulties to practically nothing, with the exception of one freak assisted calving in 2017.



Before the pair started pelvic scoring heifers in 2016 they set a baseline pelvic size for the breed which was 132cm² at 12 months of age. This was based on figures from the US that predicts native breeds have a pelvis that grows at 8cm² a month and Continental breeds at 10cm². For a Salers x Limmy, they settled in the middle at 9cm² for the monthly growth. So, a 14-month old heifer would be expected to have a pelvic size of 150cm² or bigger.

Speaking at a National Beef Association farm walk last October, Mr Collins said: "You've got to be ruthless and get rid of poor scorers even if that heifer looks great. Calves from difficult births are four times more likely to be born dead or die within 24 hours. Cows are then slower to come into heat, get back in calf, so you then have a longer calving interval and barren rate.

"You also have higher vet costs and labour costs. Occasional problems are unavoidable, but careful management and genetics will help improve calf survival," he said.

Genetics and breeding

The Salers was introduced to the farm 15-years ago when Mr Jordan changed the business model from one that was focused on buying in replacements of mixed breeds to one that was breeding its own replacement.

The Salers was selected due to its maternal ability, milkiness, ease of calving and ability to utilise rough grazing. Ease of calving EBVS and 200- and 400-days growth rates are something Mr Bevis looks at when buying new bulls. He currently has one Salers bull and three Limousin bulls, with all cows served naturally. Bulls are turned out with the cows in May and run with them all summer before being housed in the autumn.



ING LOW-COST SUCKLER SYSTEM

Mr Jordan said: "When we look back at the data we find cows tend to calve on roughly the same date each year. Any scanning late or not in calf are sold. We often have cows lasting in the herd until they are 16 years old."

His Salers bull was purchased from breeder Terence Pye of the Rigel herd who has focussed on breeding easy calving cows. Mr Pye said: "We have been weighing cattle a long time and recording birth weights and measuring the pelvic area. The breed now has good birth weight EBVs and growth rates. The information is only a guide but it's heading in the right direction."



Cow management

Cows calve down between February and April and are housed until May. They are fed throughout the winter on silage and straw and ad lib minerals formulated to compliment the silage analysis. This year's silage had a dry matter of 29.76%, ME 10.46% and sugar content of 34.59g/kg.

"The diet is very basic; these cows don't receive any pampering. In calf heifer replacements are also fed ad lib silage and then receive 2kgs of a beef nut each day post calving until they are turned out in May to ensure steady growth. We don't want to overfeed the cows as this will cause calving difficulties if they are fat and the calves are too big."

Cows and heifers are turned out to rough grazing with their calves in May. They are rotationally grazed on the land, which rises to 1,000ft.

Mr Jordan added: "We don't measure the grass covers, but when the cows are looking restless and the grass is getting down, we move them on to fresh grazing. We apply a little fertiliser to the ground each year."



Calf management

Calves are weaned between 6-7 month's old when they are then sold through Hexham Mart. Creep feed is introduced in August, so when they are weaned in October the transition is smooth. They are weaned a week before they are sold. Average calf prices are about £830 at 6-7 month's old and are sold weighing between 300-350kgs.

"The milkiness of the Salers is critical to the calf's growth rate, they are up straight away suckling when they are born and just go on to thrive," said Mr Jordan.

The housing is also key to cows and their calves thriving. Over the years Mr Jordan has improved the farms traditional housing, removing Yorkshire boarding and replacing traditional doors with gates to help improve ventilation, as well as building a modern purpose built shed and handling system. He doesn't vaccinate for pneumonia and rarely sees any issues in his herd.

Table 1 Key figures comparing Mainsrigg farm against AHDB's Farmbench costs of production

	Mainsrigg Farm	AHDB Farmbench costs of production 2016/17		
		Top 25%	Middle 50%	Bottom 25%
Gross margin a cow	£370	470.86	290.75	199.22
Calves born alive per 100 cows/heifers to bull (%)	98	92	85	91
Calves weaned per 100 cows/heifers to bull (%)	93	91	84	86
Average weight at weaning (kg per head)	300-350	311	300	306

Farm facts (65w)

- 125 Salers x Limmy cows and heifers
- Heifers bulled at 14-month's old and calving between 22-24 months
- Calving ease put down to breed, pelvic measuring, nutrition of cows and heifers
- Calves sold at 6-7 months old weighing 300-350kgs
- Average calf price £830
- Breed thrives on the rough grazing which rises to 1,000ft above sea level and over the winter silage, straw and ad lib minerals



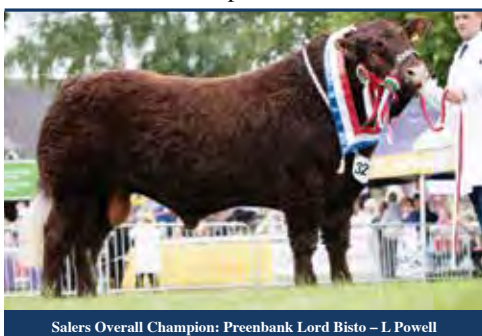
2018 Royal Welsh Show

Only six animals forward in the Salers classes but what quality animals we had!

Circumstances meant that we were reduced to just six Salers between four exhibitors, but what a team.

Richard Tudor from Powys was our Judge and said the Salers entries were low, however that is the nature, and success of the breed as they are the ideal suckler breed and as such in Wales they are a working animal for commercial men and doing well at their job.

Preenbank Lord Bisto, from Llwelllyn Powell, took the Supreme Champion; beating his father Seawell Invader from F & B Robinson, but the Robinsons took delight in the fact he was bred by them. This April 2016 bull drew lots of attention from other breeders with his powerful looks.



Salers Overall Champion: Preenbank Lord Bisto – L Powell

The Reserve Champion went to a sweet little heifer Preenbank Miss Emma, from the Robinsons again. This lovely heifer born February 2017 was sired by Seawell Invader the sire of the champion, out of Preenbank Ezme. One to look out for in the future.



Salers Reserve Champion: Preenbank Miss Emma – F & B Robinson

2nd place to the reserve champion was first time exhibitor 15 year old Gwawr Griffiths from Anglesey with Felin Mona Mai an April 2017 born heifer bred by H & S Pritchard. These two heifers are worth a big mention as they took the Reserve Champion in the RWS Females of the Future Pairs – Beef Breeds a great achievement out of 14 pairs put forward. They matched each other perfectly and were a superb example of what the future holds.



Royal Welsh Show, Females of the Future Pairs Reserve Champions: Preenbank Miss Emma, F & B Robinson and Felin Mona Mai, G Griffiths

SHOW RESULTS

Judge: R Tudor, Powys

Bull

1st Preenbank Lord Bisto, L Powell

2nd Seawell Invader, F & B Robinson

Cow, born on or before 31 December 2015 in calf or with calf at foot

1st Morfa Arwen, J E Thomas

Heifer born on or after 1 January 2017

1st Preenbank Miss Emma, F & B Robinson

2nd Felin Mona Mai, G Griffiths

3rd Preenbank Misty, F & B Robinson

Show Champion, Campsmount Trophy / Allington Hughes Shield / Henry Gibson Cup

Preenbank Lord Bisto – L Powell

Reserve Champion, Hallows Trophy / Morwenstow Trophy

Preenbank Miss Emma – F & B Robinson

Stockmans Shield – G Griffiths



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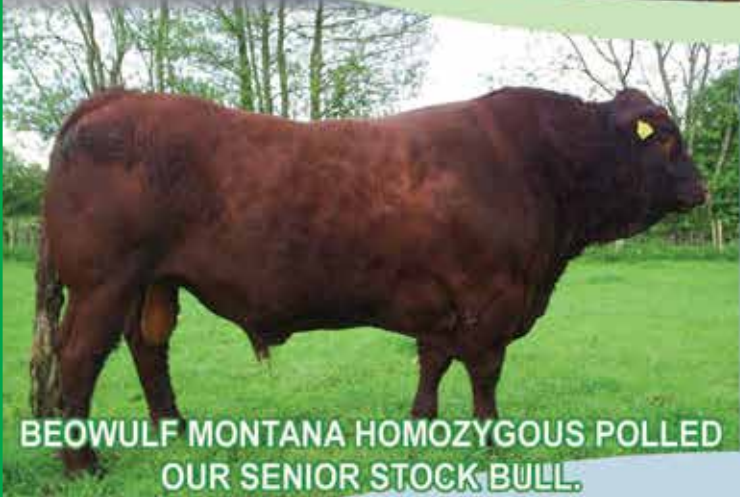


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PARKFIELD SALERS

PARKFIELD SALERS

OUR OPEN DAY - AUGUST 17TH 2018



Geoff and Olwen had an open day to promote Salers cattle in Lancashire and surrounding areas. Also to give anyone with an interest in, or just curious about Polled Salers a chance to view them. The day went very well except for the weather, about 80 people attended, 50% were local farmers. Geoff had a picture board with pictures and pedigrees to show how their herd was formed and progressed to where it is today which people found most interesting. Geoff planned to take visitors round on a large bale trailer but it was very wet and windy so he took as many as possible round with the Landrover Discovery. They also had some cattle in the barns so people could view them. Olwen and friends looked after the catering and chatted with the visitors. Olwen and Geoff were very pleased with the attendance also the interest and compliments about the cattle.

There were quite a lot of questions :

Have you always been in farming?

Geoff is from a farming family and helped on the farm in the school holidays, nights and weekends, after leaving school he worked on a mixed farm for 5 years before going into the construction industry and working his way up to contracts manager. 4 years ago he retired after about 40 years with the same company to concentrate on the Parkfield Salers. Olwen is a Nursery Nurse with no farming background, but you know what people say, animals and children are similar to work with, at least that is what Geoff convinced Olwen when they decided to start farming in 2004. The plan was to have Free Range Laying Hens sell the eggs to local shops and businesses and also to start a suckler herd.

Why did you choose Salers?

We were both working and were looking for a breed that was easy to manage. We were at the Highland Show when we saw the Salers cattle and liked the look of them, picked up a journal, found out as much as possible about the breed and decided they would be ideal for us.

How did you start your Salers herd?

In 2004 we purchased 7 commercial heifers from Rigel Pedigree, in early 2005 we purchased our first pedigree bull Rigel Harold from Rigel Pedigree and 4 older pedigree cows with calves at foot and 2 bulling heifers from Anthony Dale who was selling his herd due to ill health. At the time we did not realise how lucky we had been, they were top quality cattle. In 2007 we purchased Rigel Jasper and Rigel Tabitha an in calf heifer. This completed the foundation of our herd, by this time Olwen was full time on the farm.

What made you decide to concentrate on breeding Polled Salers?

We have always been interested in Polled cattle and not having to dehorn some of Jasper's calves was an advantage. A Salers breeder was interested in Rigel Harold so we decided to replace him with Parkfield Tiger Polled (dam Rigel Tabitha) a young bull who showed great potential. We now had 2 Polled bulls and were convinced it was the right way to go.

How have you managed to increase the number of Polled Salers cattle in the herd?

Rigel Jasper Poll was our senior stock bull for 8 yrs. Parkfield Tiger Polled was our junior stock bull followed by Parkfield Intrepid Polled, they sired a good selection of polled heifers to retain in the herd. We then brought in Beowulf Polled Montana our first Homozygous bull, Montana has a big influence on our herd, most of our Homozygous cows are sired by him. We decided it was time to replace Jasper with Cumbrian Roge Polled (sired by Joker) a Homozygous bull with completely different blood lines, unfortunately after 2yrs due to an accident we had to replace him with Cumbrian K Roger Poll (his full brother). By carefully selecting the bulls we used and the heifers we retained in the herd we feel we have improved the quality of our herd and also increased the number of Polled cows.

About 75% of our cows are polled of which 50% are Homozygous. All our calves are polled and 50% are Homozygous.

What are the blood lines of your herd?

The herd descends from just 4 females, Image sired by Fuji Yama, Tondor Cladia sired by Vainqueur, Willowthorpe Georgina sired by Bruno, Rigel Tabitha sired by Mosstock Intouch. The calves and bulling heifers were sired by Rigel Duncan (a gentle giant of a bull sired by Crocodile Dundee), Rigel Jasper was sired by Sagitaire. All our female's names start with the same letter as their dam's names. This makes it easy to follow the blood lines.



PARKFIELD SALERS Cont...

POLLED SALERS AT PARKFIELD



What is the difference between Heterozygous and Homozygous Polled ?

As far as we understand and from our own experience, cattle have 2 genes related to horns, 1 from the sire and 1 from the dam, cattle that have horns have 2 horn genes. If they are heterozygous they have 1 horn gene and 1 polled gene, if they are homozygous they have 2 polled genes, poll dominates horn so if cattle are heterozygous poll they will be polled but may carry small scurs, most common in bulls but normally loose. Homozygous Polled cattle will have a clean head not even a small piece of gristle where the horn should be, bulls are normally easier to tell if they are homozygous polled than heifers but the only way to be sure is to DNA test them, unless both sire and dam are homozygous polled.

What are the advantages of polled cattle?

Probably just 2, financial and welfare of the cattle .De-horning at a few days old is an extra job and may cause stress to the cow and calf, if it is not de-horned until it is older it is put in a crush, injected, it's horns taken off etc. this is probably the first time it has been handled, it can't do a lot for it's temperament and then there is the vets bill. It is important Salers breeders have a good selection of Polled Salers for the customers that prefer Polled cattle or they will choose an alternative breed.

Are Salers easy calving?

Yes, we find them very easy calving .Just for example, we sold a Salers bull 2 years ago to a farmer who had a mixed breed sucker herd and had be having trouble calving including a few caesareans, he has not needed to assist any of his cows calving this year.

Do you creep feed?

No, we find the Salers cows produce plenty of milk when out at grass and on haylage when housed in winter. Salers calves tend to start feeding on grass or haylage at a young age. Our bulls born in February 2018 had an average weight of 363kgs at 7mths old. Our heifers calve at about 24mths old but by the time they are 4yrs old quite a lot of them weigh around 800kgs even after feeding a calf for 9mths. Salers are an ideal breed for a grass fed system.

Do you find Salers easy to handle?

Yes, there is only the two of us so we have to have cattle that are easy to handle. When we were first started with Salers an experienced breeder told us always remember Salers have a brain and they don't forget. If you treat them right you should not have any problems. Salers are a herd animal and do not like being on their own.

What are your plans for the future?

After 11 years without any new females coming into the herd we have just brought in 3 Polled in-calf heifers all with different blood lines. We will also be retaining some of our home bred heifers , this will increase the number of Polled cows in the herd and should increase the number of Homozygous Polled calves born per year to about 75% .We always look forward to seeing next year's calves.

Expected results when breeding from horned and polled cattle :

Dam or Sire	Dam or Sire	Calf Horn	Calf Hetero	Calf Homo
Horned	Horned	100%	0%	0%
Hetero Poll	Horned	50%	50%	0%
Hetero Poll	Hetero Poll	25%	50%	25%
Homo Poll	Horned	0%	100%	0%
Homo Poll	Hetero Poll	0%	50%	50%
Homo Poll	Homo Poll	0%	0%	100%



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MARKET REVIEW

Market Review - 2018: Up, Up, Up for Salers

"Prediction is very difficult, especially if it is about the future" (Niels Bohr). Despite this wise observation, we all want to know what is likely to happen in the future and so we look at what has happened in the past and try to guess what this means for the future. For the cattle business this is always challenging because of the impact of "weather" and now we face massive uncertainty due to Brexit. However, trends in our industry are slow to change, as the decisions already made by thousands of individual farmers for example concerning choice of breed for their stock bull or replacement heifers will take years to work through to the BCMS statistics. This momentum gives us some confidence to predict that the period of strong growth of Salers seen over the last half a dozen years will continue for years to come, not least because the rate at which farmers are switching to Salers is underpinned by the Salers demonstrated superior performance on farm.

High Level

	% increase (4 yr avg)
UK Market 2018	
Suckler Cows	-0.6%
Dairy Cows	1.2%
Beef Sired Calves	1.9%
Salers 2018	
Salers/SalersX Cows	6.9%
Salers Sired Calves	9.8%

Market Overview

The number of breeding suckler cows is expected to reduce by some 40,000 head in 2018 (to about 1.18 million breeding cows). As this report is prepared before the year end, the 2018 numbers are based on year to date, and there is anecdotal evidence of particularly heavy culling of cows in the final quarter (and probably continuing into 2019), so the final calculation of the size of the UK suckler herd may reveal an even bigger reduction. The number of UK dairy cows also dropped slightly though the total is still higher than it was four years ago.

Driven by the reduction in numbers of suckler cows, the number of beef sired calves born in 2018 dropped by about 20,000 to 1.83 million though this is still above the total recorded four years ago.

Though the backdrop is of reducing numbers of suckler and perhaps also fewer dairy cows due to Brexit uncertainty and huge pressure on costs because of the weather, increasing numbers of farmers are continuing to switch to using the Salers breed as a suckler cow and/or as a crossing bull.

Salers Market Share

2018 data ex-BCMS	Salers Breeding Bulls	Salers/SalersX Suckler Cows
Market Share	1.6%	2.8%
Growth Rate (4 yr avg)	9.8%	6.9%

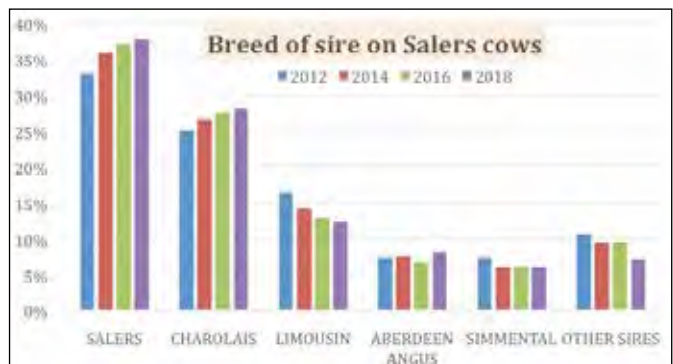
The trend here is consistent with recent years, the growth in the use of the Salers bull has continued very strongly. The Salers bull is now 8th in the league table of beef sires, up from 9th place last year. As the breed now immediately above the Salers has a market share of 2.7% compared to our 1.6% market share, so the move up to 7th is likely to take some years.

In the suckler cow market, the Salers annual rate of increase also continued unabated moving us up to 8th in the suckler cow league table. There again is a sizeable step up to the breed in 7th place, and it will be quite a few years before we are in contention for the 7th spot.

Salers: Perfect for Crossing

The chart shows the main sires used on Salers/SalersX cows over recent years. Just over one third are bred to Salers bulls to meet the strong demand for SalersX heifers as replacements and the remainder are crossed with bulls from a broad cross-section of the major beef breeds.

This demonstrates that the Salers is not a niche breed, but that the Salers/SalersX cow has the versatility to produce excellent crossbred calves to meet the varying needs of the markets in different part of the UK. The Salers large pelvic area enables calves from breeds



with heavier birth weights to be born unassisted, and the Salers mothering ability and milkiness ensures that these calves thrive and grow to their maximum potential.

Prospects for 2019

In times of uncertainty and where profitability is threatened by increasing costs, suckler farmers more than ever need a cow that can produce a high value calf for minimum cost and minimum hassle. The Salers is outstandingly successful in these respects, which is why the breed has been significantly outperforming the beef sire and suckler cow markets for many years. With the foundation of proven performance on farm, there is every reason to be positive about the growth of the breed in 2019 and beyond.

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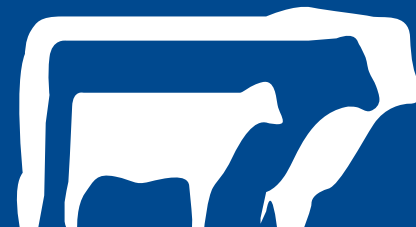
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F: <https://tinyurl.com/seawellsalers>



BREEDPLAN

Demonstrating Salers Commercial Advantages



IMPORTANCE OF BIRTH WEIGHT EBV

There is a long list of criteria to be considered when choosing a new bull, but at the top of this list will be ease of calving and strong growth rate. Traits like growth rate and conformation can be assessed by eye, but a low birth weight bull can look much the same as a high birth weight bull. Having a reliable birth weight EBV is therefore of great value and importance when the buyer has come looking for easy calving, especially as a glance at the Published Sires table reveals that it is possible to find Salers bulls that combine excellent growth rates and low/moderate birth weights.



To achieve reliable birth weight EBVs, the Salers Society strongly encourages members to weigh all their calves at birth and to submit these birth weights to Breedplan when registering or notifying their calves. Commendably, more members than ever are doing this and for 2018 ytd, 65% of calves have their birth weight recorded.

Calves by Salers bulls are typically 32-36kg for heifers and 35-40kg for bulls, which combined with the long slender shape of the Salers calf, underpins the unrivalled calving ease which is the hallmark of the Salers bull and which is fuelling the dramatic growth in the breed. Breeders now have the information to guide their choices so that these traits are protected.

PROGRESS WITH PERFORMANCE RECORDING

The number of members who are Performance Recorders has continued to increase. Over 20% of members registering calves are also submitting regular post birth weight information to Breedplan, including weights of young stock, mature cow weights, scrotal circumferences of young bulls, and figures from back fat scanning. Consequently, the accuracies of the birth, 200- and 400-day weight EBVs are improving, hence the increased number of bulls qualifying for the Published Sires table.

The Milk EBV should continue to be treated with caution as it will take some years to reach an acceptable accuracy, as the contribution to growth rate from milk is calculated from data gathered over several generations and needs good numbers of daughters of recorded bulls to contribute performance recorded calves.

The Published Sires table here does not show the accuracies, but this information can be looked up on any registered animal by following the links from the Salers website

<http://salers-cattle-society.co.uk>

AIMS FOR 2019

Tremendous progress has been made since the first weights went into Breedplan in May 2016, and the scheme is benefitting from so many members participating. This needs to continue, with even more birth weights being collected and more members becoming Performance Recorders. The next important development is to find ways to encourage greater genetic linkage between performance recording herds.

PUBLISHED SIRES

Sire	HB number	Birth Wt EBV	200 Day Wt EBV	400 Day Wt EBV
Rigel Kale Poll	PYE2015674	-2.4	-10	-7
Rigel Kurt	PYE2015684	-2.0	5	17
Rigel Verdun Poll	PYE2012027	-1.5	-1	9
Cleuchhead Dick Dastardly	UK562060301028	-1.3	12	25
Rigel Pluto	PYE2011090	-1.3	6	20
Cleuchhead Blaze	RAB2012025	-0.9	6	4
Seawell Ambassador	SEA2005012	-0.6	5	4
Oaklands Urgent	DIL2003011	-0.5	2	3
Rigel Oak Poll	PYE2013002	-0.3	8	6
Cleuchhead Legacy	UK562060301161	-0.1	16	30
Rigel Byron Poll	PYE2010030	0.0	11	9
Rigel Mycroft Poll	PYE2013031	0.0	5	6
Rigel Rourke Poll	PYE2014568	0.0	22	28
Cleuchhead Yoda	RAB2009023	0.0	4	11
Lataster Hector	IMP2009047	0.2	5	9
Tolquhon Bonaparte	AAS2009003	0.3	13	21
Rigel Khamsin	PYE2015661	0.3	9	21
Rigel Orlando	PYE2008071	0.4	6	20
Seawell Franko	SEA2010044	0.4	13	11
Rigel Excel	PYE2011017	0.4	13	31
Kracker	IMP97053	0.5	1	3
Drumlegagh Brandon	DRU2008012	0.6	5	11
Casper	IMP2012004	0.6	9	13
Cammel	IMP2012006	0.7	16	29
Rigel Lennox	UK122086701175	0.8	9	6
Rigel Tybalt	PYE2013004	0.8	8	14
Breed Average		0.8	10	16
Hockey	IMP2013005	0.9	9	16
Casimir	IMP2008054	0.9	20	29
Rigel Picasso	PYE2011027	1.0	12	15
Upperlands Banker Poll	RSB2001002	1.0	10	18
Rigel Orton	PYE2013033	1.0	8	10
Domino	IMP2012005	1.1	12	19
Tolquhon Trafalgar II	AAS2013004	1.1	21	29
Oaklands Genesis	DIL201028	1.2	8	19
Bruno	172/6386051716	1.2	13	21
Preenbank Izac	RFP2011011	1.4	15	24
Cleuchhead Brandy	RAB2012023	1.4	14	22
Denver	IMP2010054	1.5	8	3
Cuil Godfather	MCC2013028	1.5	19	32
Cuil Madrid	MCC97004	1.5	11	15
Whitebog Fury	XHO2010005	1.7	14	19
Rigel Drambuie Poll	PYE2014620	1.7	17	24
Rigel Munro Poll	PYE2011026	1.8	8	20
Seawell Extra	SEA2009050	1.8	14	25
Illien	IMP2013011	1.8	9	15
Manor Lane Firework	CAF2012001	1.9	12	23
Cumbrian Joker Poll	FSG2008007	2.1	19	28
Rigel Kirsch Poll	PYE2015719	2.2	22	31
Ledwyche Llewellyn	UK313482700169	2.2	22	30
Vaillant	IMP2009026	2.3	18	32
Cleuchhead Kingpin	RAB2015056	2.4	15	19
Preenbank Kester	RFP2013005	2.4	16	25
Cleuchhead Chief	RAB2013033	2.5	15	23
Cleuchhead Compo	RAB2013001	2.7	20	36
Cleuchhead Killycrankie	UK562060701123	2.8	12	20
Domino 324	324/4688016097	3.2	21	36
Lascaux	IMP2015008	3.3	15	14
Rigel Officer	PYE2012025	3.4	18	33

Source: November 2018 Salers Group Run
Green highlight indicates EBV equal/better than breed average

CUMBRIAN



*Cumbrian
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Hector

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*Cumbrian
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**Homozygous Poll -
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SALEERS

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*Cumbrian
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CHOOSING AN EASY CALVING BULL? CHOOSE A SALERS

Beef (and Dairy) farmers no longer accept that calving time inevitably requires routinely assisting cows to calve, or that late nights and losses are the way to profit. By careful choice of bull, they can make significant progress towards having all their heifers and cows yield a strong live calf every year with no assistance required (excepting malpresentations and sometimes twins).

Calving problems arise with a normally presented calf because the cow has grown a calf inside herself too large for the size of the pelvic opening it must pass through. As strong growth rates are normally associated with heavier birth weights, finding the right balance is not easy. Fortunately, sires can be chosen that reduce the size of their calves and increase the pelvic area of their daughters retained for breeding, without sacrificing important commercial traits like growth rate.

The three traits underpinning easy calving are:

- Calf conformation
- Calf size (birth weight)
- Dam pelvic area

Calf conformation is very important and often overlooked. Some breeds produce calves with a large head, shoulders or hips which where they get stuck. A Salers bull has a strong advantage as he produces calves with a streamline conformation (small heads, slender shoulders and hips).

Calf size is strongly related to birth weight, which is readily measured to enable comparison between breeds and between bulls within a breed. Salers sired calves are small compared to those from many other breeds,

with heifers typically 30-35kg and bulls 35-40kg. These low birth weights in combination with the Salers slender calf conformation are the secret of the Salers effortless easy calving. Salers breeders submit birth weights to Breedplan along with their calf registrations which generate useful birth weight EBVs to assist purchasers with picking low birth weight sires.

Gestation length contributes to birth weight, as the calf is growing at about 0.5kg/day inside the cow prior to calving. The Salers gestation length of 280-285 days is about 10 days shorter than other continental breeds, equivalent to taking about 5kg off the birth weight. A significant reduction.

The frustrations and costs of bad calvings are persuading farmers to switch to using a Salers bull in ever increasing numbers (the Salers is now the 8th largest beef breed in the UK), where the beneficial impact is far reaching on the performance of the herd. However, the real payoff comes if the Salers heifers are retained for replacement sucklers, as the Salers bull also confers a very large pelvic area on his progeny. Research in the USA identified that the Salers has the largest pelvic area of any of the major beef breeds. Salers sired cows put to the Charolais or Simmental bull are proving very successful as they calve unassisted to these breeds and have the milk and mothering ability to rear an outstanding calf that commands a premium at market.

If you are sick of bad calvings and looking for an easy calving bull, then choose a Salers bull for its unique combination of slim calf conformation, low birth weight and large pelvic area.





Working together to bring you a great

Salers Experience



Some Dates to Remember for 2019

Salers National Show—21st and 22nd September 2019

This year the Salers National Show will be held in Aurillac—the pretty Cantal Town just South of the Village of Salers and we hope to have another 5 day tour to the home of the breed—including 2 days at the show and 2 days of Great Farm Visits.

Sommet De L'Elevage Show—2nd 3rd and 4th October One of Europe's largest agricultural Shows

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Australian Salers Association
www.salersaustralia.com.au

AUSTRALIA

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salerssociety@bigpond.com

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epadilla123@yahoo.com

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(APCB Salers)
www.salers.pt

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johnnhaskell@gmail.com

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info@servi-campo.com

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www.salers.ch

UNITED KINGDOM

Salers Cattle Society of U.K.
www.salers-cattle-society.co.uk

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www.salersusa.org

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Sold at Newton
Stewart



Blackface Ewe Lambs
and Ewes Sold at
Castle Douglas



The Usual Consignment
of 50 Commercial
Yearling Heifers and
12 Pedigree in-calf
Heifers will be sold at
Castle Douglas,
November 2019



Yèrè Aye Welcome at the Cuil

SALERS SUIT THE SYSTEM AT CUIL



Courtesy of Farming Country

From the summit of the granite massif of Cairnsmore of Fleet at 2313 feet above sea level to the fertile flats flanking the A75, opposite the Rowan Glen dairy processing plant, are the boundaries of Cuil – home of the McClymonts for the past eight decades. Third generation farmer – Colin McClymont – is now at the helm, farming in partnership with his mother, Christine McClymont.

“My grandfather, Pat, who came from Holm of Bargrennan, took on the tenancy in 1938. At that time it had been one large shooting estate, owned by the Champions and the bottom fields had been flooded for shooting. My grandfather had to turn the tiles the other way to unblock the drains,” informed Colin.

“Bobby Burns, father of Jim Burns from Craginell drove 200 ewes down the road from Holm of Balgrennan for him. For the first three years my grandparents made money from bee keeping and selling the honey in Glasgow during the war.”

Cuil was purchased in 1957 and Colin's father, Graham McClymont, added to it over the years, by buying the 700 acre Clanary in 1967, Barhassie in 1981, Muirfad in 1985 and Cairnsmore in 1988. The property now boasts 2700 acres, with roughly 600 acres of that in-bye.

Bryan Walling, Cumbria first introduced Salers cattle into the UK in 1984. The McClymonts bought two bulls from him the following year. Thirty-three years on, no other breed of bull has come to Cuil and “we have never seen a caesarean and have not had to calve a cow in over three years.”



“We previously tried the Charolais, but they didn't do here, we had calving problems and the calves didn't thrive on the hill,” explained Colin.

Over the years many French bulls have been purchased. “My Dad always tried to buy them out of dairy herds in France for milkiness,” commented Colin, who spent a week at one of the top French herds, when he was eighteen.

Coming from the Southern half of the Massif Central in the Auvergne region of South Central France, where the terrain ranges from 2000-6000ft, bodes well for Cuil, as “the commercial herd graze the whole of the hill in summer. They head out at the end of May and come back when it is too wet.”

Contrary to popular belief, that Salers cattle are wild, the evenly sized, dark red bovines at this South West farm barely showed an interest, when we walked through them. “We are mostly autumn calving and try to sell at a year old. The bullocks are sold store at Newton Stewart. The bread and butter of the business – the commercial heifers – averaged 1600gns for 55 last year, sold in pens of five, at Castle Douglas, in November”.

“The majority of buyers and under bidders were repeat buyers. A lot go on to cross with a Charolais for ease of calving, heading from Aberdeenshire to Wales. We have been selling Salers commercially for over twenty years. There has always been a good trade, but the past 2 or 3 years it has really taken off.”

Keeping a simple low cost system, the cows and calves are out on the hill all summer, speaned mid August and only receive 'a wee bite' before the sale.

Health wise the cattle are BVD accredited, John's risk level one for the past five years and in the Hi-Health scheme. No boluses or minerals are administered – only a pour on in the winter.

On the pedigree side the McClymonts try to sell a dozen in-calf heifers and 2 or 3 bulls annually. They have previously sold to a top of 8000gns for a bull in 2016 and 4500gns for a pedigree heifer.

Colin champions the fact that the Salers are quick to rebreed and have longevity, producing quality calves well into their teens.

Colin recently qualified for a grant under the 'New Entrant' scheme, having taken on a 51% share in the business. He has made the most of this opportunity, reseeding, liming and fencing. A new open-sided, feed barriered, shed has been erected, which will make life much easier when the cattle come in mid November.

Cuil is now firmly positioned on the Salers map, but it is Scottish Blackface sheep that his father, trail blazed, selling the first five figure tup in the UK.

Colin, like his father before him, is a great believer in the Newton Stewart type of Blackie, *"I feel they suit the ground here very well – they are kindly, milky with a bit of rib and girth. I prefer to buy tups from this area."*

For the past few years, like many of the other top breeders he has been scanning to tups for Jaagskiete, as peace of mind pre-sale.

Recently at Newton Stewart, Cuil had sixteen shearlings and five tup lambs forward and secured second top price of the day for a shearling at £14 000.

FARM FACTS

Farmers:	Colin McClymont in partnership with his mother
Farm:	Cuil & Clanary
Location:	Palnure, Newton Stewart
Area:	2700 acres owned in total
Altitude:	to a top of 2300 ft asl
Sheep:	1250 Blackface ewes of which 300 are crossed
Cattle:	170 pure Salers cows -30 pedigree
Staff:	Gordon Porter, shepherd Billy Nichol, tractorman Alastair Cannon, part time Kenny Plunkett, part time
Other:	Colin is married to Annette Ellie (16) & Angus (14)

Annette summed up: *"Colin is truly dedicated to creating stock to suit the ground – that will survive and thrive on the hill, with little input. We believe the right types don't take a lot of feeding. If it is right, then it will be right for Angus (14) in the future."*



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Established with carefully selected UK and French stock, our performance recorded herd is bred to maintain the optimum balance of calving ease, fertility, milk, growth and conformation.



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Contact

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Invader pictured above
Interbreed Champion Burwarton Show 2018
Reserve Male Champion Royal Welsh Show 2018

...But more importantly - a breeder of these champions,
with many more to come!



Preenbank Lord Bisto RWAS 2018
Purchased and shown by
Andrew & Llewellyn Powell



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0131 440 2628 (Edinburgh Office)

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www.hihealthherdcare.co.uk

What is Cattle Health Certification Standards (CHeCS)?

CHeCS was established by the cattle industry in 1999 as a form of quality control for disease management programmes. Its aim is to create robust common standards to underpin the control and eradication of the main endemic cattle diseases in the UK and Ireland. This means CHeCS does not provide or manage health schemes itself - but it provides the standards for those that do and wish to be licensed.

The first step is to identify which diseases you want to control, and contact a licensed CHeCS Cattle Health Scheme which covers that disease (www.checs.co.uk/about-us/cattle-health-licensed-schemes/). Herd owners may test for any or all of the diseases at the same time. Where to start depends on a herd's individual circumstances. The entry level to a **Cattle Health Scheme** only requires routine monitoring. This will give a good assessment of the health status of the herd. Once the health status is known, a herd may progress through a programme of control and eradication to eventual accreditation of disease free status.

Herd health schemes protect the overall health, welfare and profitability of the herd, and provide a very noticeable reduction in annual losses.

For example, it is known that in just 10 years, uncontrolled BVD in a 100 cow herd can cost at least £45,000, and for Johne's Disease more than £20,000. Defra estimates that BVD costs the cattle sector between £25-61 million/year whilst Johne's is estimated at £13 million/year. These are considerable and often underestimated costs.

It's easy to get started, and plenty of support is on offer along the journey.

A CHeCS licensed Cattle Health Scheme will bring you everything you want to know about controlling disease and improving the status of your herd into one place. Some of the Health Schemes operate geographically, for example only in the Channel Islands. Others will focus on just one disease. So before you start, make sure you've identified a Health Scheme that covers the diseases you want to tackle, and covers your geographic area.

More and more farmers only want to buy cattle from herds that are known to be healthy.

Herds in CHeCS licensed Cattle Health Schemes are able to provide an owner's declaration of health status. This gives buyers the confidence that they are not buying in disease.

Herd health will increasingly become a consumer-led issue, which could prevent milk or beef being sold from non-compliant farms.

Many European countries have either eradicated, or have embarked upon national control and eradication programmes for BVD, IBR, Leptospirosis and Johne's disease.

If we do not keep pace with these improvements we will find ourselves, as individual herd owners, unable to compete with the rest of Europe.

Area 1 Report Northern Scotland 2018

2018 was a year of extremes beginning in April when we wondered if it would ever stop raining and then in September praying that it would rain.

We had an excellent show of Salers at the Echt show. Thank you to all the exhibitors for their time and effort. There were also Salers cross calves shown at the Dounby show in Orkney.

In May this year the Scottish Beef Association open day is being hosted by Robbie and Barbara Milne at North Bethelnie. This will be a great advert for our breed and hope you will be able to attend.

At the moment profitable livestock production in the north of Scotland is looking very difficult. But on a positive note, after 8 years of recording in Ireland with the Beef Genomics Programme the figures have shown that Salers cross cows are the most efficient and profitable of all breeds.

With the uncertainty of the future after Brexit hopefully the Salers breed will be the answer for many Beef breeders.

Andrew Sleigh – Area representative

Area 2 Report South West Scotland 2018



2018 was a strong year for the Salers breed in the South West with more farmers enquiring and starting to buy Salers than ever before. The premier sale at Castle Douglas saw increased entries of commercial cattle forward and despite Brexit and the uncertainty of future markets trade remained buoyant. Out with the sale there were a number of other events in the region.

On the 7th of September Colin McClymont and family hosted their local YF club, Machars YFC, for an open stock judging at the Cuil. Colin started

the night with a brief description of the business and the pivotal role the Salers cow play in his farming business. The quality of the stock on show was tremendous and the way they were shown was a real credit to Colin his family and staff. The event attracted breed enthusiasts from Wales to Aberdeen and was very successful at promoting the Salers breed to a wider audience. In the bar afterwards, the general consensus was how good and particularly how quiet the cattle were, with many people saying I thought they were supposed to be wild! More events of this kind are needed to highlight the benefits of the Salers breed in a farming business, this is something the society would encourage.

This year prominent Salers farmers, from the South West, Alisdair and Emma Davidson, of Poldean farm were short listed for Scottish Beef farmer of the year, ending up in the top 3. Poldean extends to 2,200 acres running 360 Salers and Salers X cows alongside 500 Lleyn X ewes. The judges commended them on: the level of stock they were running per labour unit; the fertility of the cows; grassland management and adoption of new ideas. The Salers cows excellent fertility and ability to calf unassisted producing a low birth weight calf which is quick to get up and suckle is the foundation for their excellent results within the competition. Once again highlighting the Salers as an up and coming force within Scottish and British Agriculture.

Neil Austin – Area Representative



Drumlegagh Salers

J. & E.A. Elliott

11 Lough Road, Drumlegagh, Newtownstewart, Co. Tyrone, N. Ireland

Tel: 02881661654/ 07771701086



Drumlegagh Hamish

RUAS Salers Supreme Champion
2017 + 2018

**Visitors Always
Welcome**

Drumlegagh Luna

Ballymena Show Salers Supreme
Champion 2018

Omagh Show Salers Supreme
Champion 2018

Clougher Show Salers Supreme
Champion 2018



Pictures above taken from Royal Ulster show Balmoral 2018. Pictured left, Drumlegagh Hamish and right, Drumlegagh Hamish and Drumlegagh Luna, Interbreed pairs

Area 2a Report South East Scotland & the Borders 2018

I don't want to dwell on the weather again.....but our area was hit particularly badly by 'the beast'. As well as with cattle, farmers with sheep had a costly spring. Farmers still managed to help keep roads clear and look after their neighbours.

The weather was glorious for the Highland Show and thankfully not too hot (although we never suspected just how dry it would get!). The quality of Salers exhibited was very high – numbers were good but we always need more and we would like to see new exhibitors.

Salers continue to grow in popularity with bulls and females changing hands and commercial herds turning to Salers for their ease of care and increased profitability.

Thankfully, despite the fodder shortages caused by the dry summer, the autumn was very kind to us - allowing cattle to stay out later than usual and reducing the pressure on fodder and straw. It was also good seeing the year end on a high for the breed at the Castle Douglas sale in November.

Tom Walling – Area representative

Area 3 Report Wales 2018

Salers in Wales continue to increase in numbers with many beef farmers turning to Salers for their ease of management. A live calf that does well is what we are all after and Salers can supply.

They are making good prices and are sought after at the markets and the environment in Wales suits the breed well.

We had good society sales in Welshpool in May and October but also other markets such as Knighton, Gaerwen and Dolgellau are seeing increasing numbers coming through the ring and achieving good rates.



Young breeders Llewellyn Powell & Gwawr Griffiths at the Royal Welsh Show

Alun and Anita Thomas hosted a superb open day on their farm near Bangor in September, which was well supported. The day was jointly supported by the Salers and Charolais which proved a good combination to showcase the animals Alun and Anita are so successful with. The Golden Calf bringing Golden returns! A write up on the day is included in this Journal.

The Royal Welsh Show had a limited entry from Salers, but their achievements were one of the best attained. With only six animals forward they not only put a good show in the breed classes, but also RWS Females of the Future Pairs Reserve Champions with Preenbank Miss Emma, from Bryn Robinson and Felin Mona Mai, from young first timer Gwawr Griffiths. Gwawr Griffiths and Llewellyn Powel also did very well in the young handlers, just missing out on reserve place.

Harri Pritchard – Area representative

REDNOCK SALEERS

GILL & MALCOLM PYE



REDNOCK MOLLY

1st in class & Reserve
Junior Female Champion at
The Royal Highland Show 2018

1st in Class &
Reserve Champion AOB
at Stirling Show 2018



REDNOCK LAUPER

1st in Class &
Senior Male Champion
at
Castle Douglas 2018

REDNOCK LAGERFELD

1st in Class at
The Royal Highland Show 2018

Champion AOB
at Stirling Show 2018



PORT OF MENTEITH, STIRLING, FK8 3LD

0 1 8 7 7 3 8 5 7 6 2

IN PURSUIT OF THE PERFECT SUCKLER COW

Gill and Malcolm Pye bought their 700 acre Rednock Estate in Stirlingshire in 2014. Having researched and invested in the development of an improved suckler female for the past 30 years, the site was bought with the intention of giving them enough space to run a successful commercial suckler herd alongside their Pedigrees. Today the farm is largely given over to cattle, with a small forestry enterprise being developed alongside. It is essentially a grassland farm with largely LFA permanent pasture and the better ground used for silage production.

Malcolm had been looking to replace the dairy/beef crosses they'd been using in their herd and discovered the Salers breed on a trip to France. The couple were immediately impressed. Gill told us: "it seemed to us that quietly developing in the Auvergne was the perfect suckler cow. After 18 months of further research both in France and the UK we bought our first Salers in 1990."

"The great thing about the Salers is the truly easy calving combined with natural fast growth and plenty of high quality milk giving really good 200 day weights and this is combined in an animal that is very fertile, long lived and a robust forager with great legs and feet!"

Cows often stay productive well into their teens, our oldest cows are 17 or 18 years old. The bulls also have long working lives – it's not at all unusual to have a customer coming back for a second bull more than ten years after his first purchase! The Salers is the modern beef animal with easy calving giving high welfare, able to grow and thrive on grass in a robust climate giving sustainability."

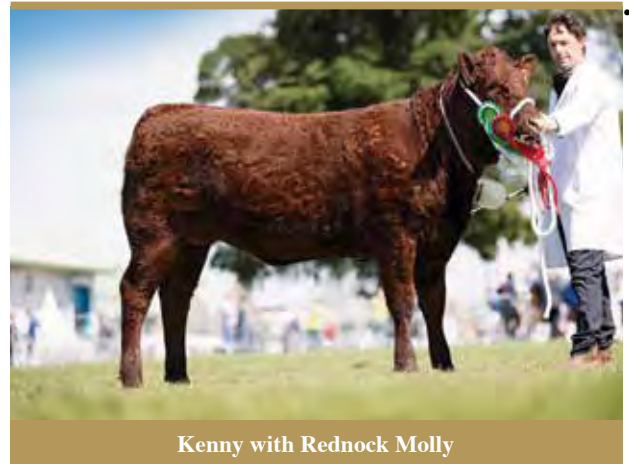
Gill leads the Rednock team supported by Kenny McKeague as Livestock Manager and Ben Outterside as Assistant Farm Manager. The team are currently growing a commercial Salers herd using the Charolais as a terminal sire, a cross that Gill believes to be a winning formula. She says "it is wonderful watching these calves grow on their mothers, the Salers X Charolais is a superb beef animal and there is always tremendous demand for them."

The commercial herd currently comprises of 15 Salers cows running with the Charolais. The team are using a son of the well known Oldstone Egbert who was homebred from semen, and the plan is to grow the herd to around 100 cows. The calves are weaned and sold at about 10 months at United Auctions Stirling and this year they will see the first batches of calves going to market.

On the pedigree side of the business, the Rednock pedigree Salers herd has 85 pedigree females running in three sire groups with:

- Officer, Senior Stock Bull - a very long bull who is in the Breedplan top 1% of the breed for growth.

Gill told us, "We love his superb locomotion and the quality of his daughters, three of which we have been showing this summer where Rednock Molly won Reserve Champion AOB at Stirling and Reserve Junior Female at the Royal Highland."



Kenny with Rednock Molly

- Kes, Junior Stock Bull.

"We bought Drumaglea Kes from Patrick Boyd's herd on Tiree. He has great depth and fleshing and is bred from two of our best bloodlines, Mithril and Alicia, sold to Patrick as heifers. His first calves were born this year and we are very excited about their quality.

- Munro, Polled Stock Bull.

Munro is homozygous polled and following onto the Officer daughters to produce the highest quality polled progeny. The team have also been also showing Munro progeny and his son Rednock Lagerfeld was successful at Stirling (Champion AOB) and the Highland (first senior bull class).

The pedigree bulls are sold at the major Scottish Pedigree sales in Stirling, Castle Douglas, Thainstone and Carlisle, with some of the bulls, and also the heifers sold direct from home. The Salers breed and the system run at Rednock has been attracting interest from farmers and the industry at large, and the team regularly take visitors around. They enjoy showing and talking about the breed and feel it's valuable to hear how others in the industry see the way forward.

Calving in the spring/summer, they run a closed herd and only bring in new genetics from herds of the same health status or through semen. They are great believers in the High Health Scheme and are BVD accredited free, Johnes risk level 1, TB4 and also surveillance test for Leptospirosis and IBR in the young stock.

Rednock work closely with their vets, Jackson Vets Ltd and believe that being in Scotland is an advantage as it generally has a lower disease challenge than other parts of the UK. Gill also commented that she feels the industry is well supported in their area by the Scottish Vet schools and agriculture colleges who are driving hard to keep the country world leading in Livestock health and production efficiency. She told us, "we work with the superb team at Glasgow University Vet School who bring young vets to us to be trained in cattle handling, semen testing and disease management, building their understanding of the key livestock farmer / vet relationship."

Rednock is largely a grassland farm and the forage based production system is a perfect fit for the Salers. Stock that are being weaned and prepared for showing or sales are fed on silage together with Harbro feed. They are fed Beefstock Nuts with Yeasacc, Alkacid and Rumitech as the main diet, a high energy pelleted feed designed to help achieve full growth potential. The

REDNOCK ESTATE, STIRLING

inclusion of Rumitech in the pellet helps create a more efficient rumen environment, reducing the amount of methane produced to make more energy available to the cow. This increase in efficiency means the animals perform better but eat less which has had a knock on effect in terms of feed consumed, and therefore cost.

The bulls are supplemented with Pedigree Bull Finisher and Olympic Mash in the final stages before showing or sale. Made from quality raw materials, the product is designed to meet the high demands of the bull in terms of fertility, body condition, health and immunity.

Gill told us about the improvements they have seen in the stock since introducing Harbro feed: "We switched to Harbro in 2016 and saw an immediate improvement in daily liveweight gain and performance in general. Today we're achieving 1.9kg /day on the sale bulls and feel that the feeding regime allows them to fully express their growth potential, something we're finding that the majority of buyers want to see."

Nutritional advice is supplied on farm by Harbro Beef and Sheep specialist David Allan who works closely with Gill and Livestock Manager Kenny, monitoring the performance of the herd to recommend rations that are finely tuned to their exact requirements. Ian Anderson, Harbro Pedigree Specialist also helps provide technical and nutritional support on the lead up to sales and shows, making sure the animals are in peak condition. This season the advice is certainly paying off, with the farm having been successful across a number of key

shows and sales up and down the country.

The Pyes constantly strive to make improvements on farm through closely analysing all aspects of the herd performance. All stock are performance monitored and regularly weighed from their day of birth to when they leave the farm. Membership of the Breedplan scheme also gives a valuable insight into the true performance of the genetics they are working with.

Gill reflects on the journey the couple have made over the past three decades: "We feel our greatest achievement is the small part we and other Salers breeders have played in the development of the cattle industry, providing something, that by the end of the 80's, was urgently needed - a beef animal perfectly adapted to be the ultimate suckler cow. Next years focus is all about continuing to grow the herd; it's been a great experience so far and the market is growing!"



Ballykeel Salers

www.ballykeelsalers.com

Seamus & Christine Connell

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Area 4 Report Northern Ireland 2018

Ballymena Show

Judge: Mr David Boyd

Bull or Heifer Calf, born on or after 1st September 2017

1st Lower Bolie Neala

Cow in calf or with own calf at foot

1st Brookfield Abbey

2nd Lisnamaul Eimear

Heifer born on or before

31st December 2016

1st Drumlegagh Luna

2nd Brookfield Eva

Heifer born on or after 1st

January 2017 and on or

before 31st August 2017

1st Lower Bolie Molly

2nd Lisnamaul Molly

3rd Majeste

4th Lisnamaul Magic

5th Maya

Bull born on or before

31st August 2017

1st Drumlegagh Hamish

2nd Mileview Lester

Pair of animals bonefide the property of one exhibitor and entered in the above classes for which they are eligible.

1st J Elliott

2nd PJ Maginn

3rd R Millar

4th B & P O'Kane

Champion: Drumlegagh Hamish

Reserve Champion:

Drumlegagh Luna



Ballymena show Champion Drumlegagh Hamish with Judge Mr David Boyd



Ballymena show Reserve Champion Drumlegagh Luna with Judge Mr David Boyd

Armagh Show

Judge: Mr Colin McClymont

Junior Bull, born on or after 01/01/17

1st Lisnamaul McGregor

Cow any age

1st Brookfield Abbey

2nd Lisnamaul Eimear

Heifer born on or before 31/12/16

1st Brookfield Eva

Heifer, born on or after 01/01/17

1st Lower Bolie Molly

2nd Ballykeel Missy-Moo

3rd Ballykeel Mademoiselle

4th Lisnamaul Magic

5th Lisnamaul Molly

6th Lisnamaul My Girl

Calf, born in 2018

1st Lower Bowe Neala

Champion Brookfield Eva

Reserve Champion

Brookfield Abbey

Opposite sex to Champion

Lisnamaul McGregor



Armagh show Champion Brookfield Eva with Armagh show Reserve Champion Brookfield Abbey



Cattle line up Armagh show

Saintfield Show

Judge: Jason Edgar

Cow in calf or calf at foot.

1st Lisnamaul Eimear

2nd Brookfield Eva

Heifer born on or before

31st December 2016.

1st Brookfield Eva

2nd Lisnamaul Katie

Heifer born on or after

1st January 2017.

1st Lower Bolie Molly

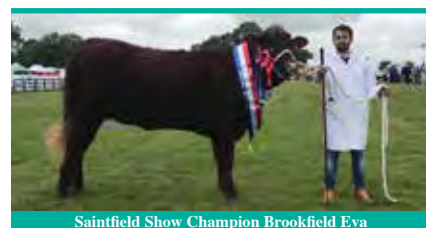
2nd Lisnamaul Molly

3rd Ballykeel Missy-Moo

4th Lisnamaul Magic

4th Ballykeel Mademoiselle

5th Lisnamaul My Girl



Saintfield Show Champion Brookfield Eva



Saintfield Show Reserve Champion Lisnamaul McGregor

Bull under 2 years.

1st Lisnamaul McGregor

Champion: Brookfield Eva

Reserve Champion:

Lisnamaul McGregor

Newry Show

Judge: Mr John Elliott

Cow in calf or having calved in the last 12 months.

1st Lisnamaul Eimear

2nd Brookfield Abbey

Bull or Heifer born on

or after 01/09/17

1st Lower Bolie Neala

Heifer born on or after 01/01/17

1st Brookfield Eva

Heifer born before 01/01/17

1st Lower Bolie Molly

2nd Lisnamaul Magic

3rd Ballykeel Missy-Moo

4th Ballykeel Mademoiselle

5th Lisnamaul Molly

6th Lisnamaul My Girl

Junior Bull born on

or after 01/01/17

1st Lisnamaul McGregor

2nd Lisnamaul Mike

3rd Ballykeel Magnus

Pair of two animals' property of one exhibitor and entered in their respective class.

1st Ballykeel Salers

2nd Lisnamaul Salers

3rd Lower Bolie Salers



Strong Junior Heifer Salers lineup at Newry Show with Judge Mr John Elliott

Area 4 Report Northern Ireland 2018 continued...



Newry Show Champion Brookfield Eva
with Judge Mr John Elliott.jpg



Newry Show Reserve Champion Lisnamaul Eimear
with Judge Mr John Elliott

Omagh Show

Judge: Mr Roy Crockett

Champion: J & EA Elliott
Drumlegagh Luna

Res. Champion: J & EA
Elliott Drumlegagh Galaxy

Bull, any age

1st J & EA Elliott Drumlegagh
Hamish (only one entry in the class)

Cow, 3 years and over or having had a calf on or before 1 December 2017

1st J & EA Elliott Drumlegagh Galaxy
2nd B & P O'Kane Brookfield Abbey
3rd PJ Maginn & Sons
Lisnamaul Eimear

Heifer, born before 1st January 2018

1st J & EA Elliott Drumlegagh Luna
2nd PJ Maginn & Sons
Lisnamaul Katie
3rd B & P O'Kane Brookfield Eva

Heifer, born after 1 January 2018

1st B & P O'Kane Lower Bolie Molly
2nd PJ Maginn & Sons
Lisnamaul Molly
3rd PJ Maginn & Sons
Lisnamaul Magic

Pair of Animals

1st J & EA Elliott
2nd PJ Maginn & Sons
3rd B & P O'Kane



Omagh Show Judge Roy Crockett
talking with Salers breeders



Omagh Show Champion Drumlegagh Galaxy



Omagh Show Reserve Champion Drumlegagh Luna
with Judge Mr Roy Crockett



Omagh Show Second Reserve Champion
Drumlegagh Hamish

Castlewellan Show

Judge: Sam Hallos

Champion: Brookfield Eva
Reserve: Lisnamaul McGregor

Cow Class

1st Brookfield Abbey
2nd Lisnamaul Eimear

Heifer, born on or before 31/12/16

1st Brookfield Eva
2nd Lisnamaul Katie

Heifer, born in 2017

1st Lisnamaul Magic
2nd Lower Bolie Molly
3rd Ballykeel Missy-Moo
4th Ballykeel Mademoiselle
5th Lisnamaul Magic
6th Lisnamaul My Girl

Junior bull

1st Lisnamaul McGregor
2nd Ballykeel Magnus.



Castlewellan Show Champion Brookfield Eva
with Judge Mr Sam Hallos

Bull or heifer calf, born in 2018

1st Lower Bolie Neala.

Pair, property of exhibitor

1st PJ Maginn and Sons
2nd Seamus Connell
3rd B & P O'Kane.

Group of three, property of exhibitor

1st PJ Maginn and Sons
2nd Seamus Connell
3rd B & P O'Kane.

Best NI-bred Salers

1st Brookfield Eva
2nd Lisnamaul McGregor
3rd Lisnamaul Magic



Castlewellan Show Reserve Champion
Lisnamaul McGregor with Judge Mr Sam Hallos

Clogher Valley Show

Judge: Robin Anderson

Pedigree Salers Cattle Cow in calf or with calf at foot

1st Drumlegagh Galaxy
2nd Brookfield Abbey

Pedigree Salers Cattle Calf Bull or Heifer born the year of the Show

1st Drumlegagh Neptune
2nd Lower Bolie Neala

Pedigree Salers Cattle Heifer Born on or before 31st December 2017

Drumlegagh Luna
Brookfield Eva

Pedigree Salers Cattle Heifer born on or before 1st January 2016

1st Lower Bolie Molly
2nd Drumlegagh Mia

Champion: Drumlegagh Luna

Reserve Champion:
Lower Bolie Molly



Clogher Valley Show Reserve Champion
Lower Bolie Molly with owner P O'Kane

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WHITEBOG KRACKER, BREED RECORD PRICE FEB 17



WHITEBOG KIM
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ECHT SHOW 17



WHITEBOG KARBOLIC, RESERVE CHAMP RHS 17
RESERVE CHAMP CASTLE DOUGLAS 17



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Email: bertie@millbuie.plus.com Telephone/Fax: 01381 620006/01381 621368

Area 6 Report North of England 2018

Well what a year of contrasts 2018 was, one of the wettest and latest springs on record followed swiftly by a record breaking late spring and summer of high temperatures and drought conditions with an extreme lack of forage produced. In common with many others we had to start feeding our cattle outside at the start of August continuing until housing. Meanwhile we only managed to make half our silage requirement for winter, which after some head scratching we have got around by replacing with ammonia treated straw. Despite these pressures on the cows we were very pleased that only 3 weren't in calf when we housed them once again demonstrating the breed's resilience.



Values achieved and numbers sold at sales, though moderate early in the year did improve as the year went along. Area 6 members achieved both good clearance rates and acceptable values at the spring sale at Newark, at both of the Welshpool sales and at Castle Douglas in November. If you would like to enter cattle at any of the Society sales this year please don't forget the herd health scheme rules need to be adhered to for entry and that bulls need to be DNA tested beforehand.

July sees the highlight of our show season in the area with the Great Yorkshire Show, where several breeders from the Area, alongside some from Scotland, competed and had a bit of a social. Many thanks to Mr Glen Welsh for judging at the GYS and congratulations once again to Roy and Adam Crockett, Bacardi Salers, who were awarded Champion and Reserve Champion. The GYS is preceded and followed by many local and county shows that are attended by ourselves and some other breeders from the Area. Showing is great fun and highly addictive and we are always keen to welcome new exhibitors. If you would like to show your cattle please don't hesitate to get in touch for any help you may require, and don't be daunted as there is always help available for anyone interested in showing, both beforehand and on the day.

Thanks go to Geoff and Olwen Lawrenson of Parkfield Salers, Preston and to Bevis Jordan of Mains Rigg Farm, Whitfield for hosting open days demonstrating the benefits of running Salers in two different situations. The Lawrenson's running a pedigree herd with the emphasis being on polled breeding and Mains Rigg Farm being a commercial herd with the best SA X cows bred to a Salers bull to produce replacement heifers, these then being pelvic measured before being selected as replacements to ensure ease of calving is maintained.

May I wish everyone in the Area a healthy and happy 2019 and I hope we have more 'normal' weather this year!!

Angus Gowthorpe – Area Representative

Area 7 Report Western England 2018



Unfortunately this year has been dominated by the atmosphere surrounding Brexit and farm subsidies. However, what a year it has been for Salers, giving not just competition to, but very often beating the other breeds in the show ring. Salers have really established themselves and are generating a real respect, more importantly from real grass root cattle farmer's across my area and indeed the country as a whole. This region like many other areas has experienced extreme weather conditions, in particular the drought, which Salers have excelled in their ability to utilise body reserves giving priority to their calves, so many people have mentioned this to me. Also, many farmer's have confirmed Salers hybrid vigour and ability to cross into, and perform with

other breeds so well. Indeed, if meat and carcass are a measurement of this, then Salers really excel with grades, killing out percentages, and carcass weights in particular surprising all breeders. The other very encouraging fact this year is the increasing number of younger breeders keeping the cattle, getting involved and showing, all good news. But please, many more are required to keep these show classes, get out there, we are all a really friendly bunch! It is fair to say that in uncertain times Salers have done really well with a solid genuine interest all through, in fact a positive outlook overall, a good year for Salers. What ever is to come Salers have always proven how well they can adapt to any system, climate, or maybe even what politicians may throw at them! Good luck for the next year!

Bryn Robinson Area 7 Representative

Area 8 Report South West England 2018



Royal Cornwall Show-Cumbrian Camella 589



North Devon Show- Left to Right
Cumbrian Camella, Rigel Paloma, Kington Maple

2018 has been a good year for Salers all over the country. We have had a lot of interest in both bulls and heifers for both pedigree and commercial herds.

We attended Agrifest South West in November where we had a lot of interest from the dairy industry because Salers have proven themselves as easy calving cattle with calves that get up and grow.

In the South West we started our show season with the Royal Cornwall Show in June, sadly we were the only Salers breeder there but we won our class and Any Other Pure Bred Continental Champion.

North Devon Show 2018

Salers Cow in-calf or calf at foot

1st Cumbrian Camella 589 (Sophie Simmons)
2nd Rigel Paloma (Steve Simmons)

Salers Heifer born in 2017

1st Kington Maple (Sophie Simmons)

Salers Champion

Cumbrian Camella 589 (Sophie Simmons)

Salers Reserve Champion

Rigel Paloma (Steve Simmons)

Honiton Show 2018

Any Other Pure Bred Continental

Cow in-calf or calf at foot

1st Cumbrian Camella 589 (Sophie Simmons)
2nd Blonde D' Aquitaine (Mr. R. Joyce)

Champion

Cumbrian Camella 589 (Sophie Simmons)

Reserve Champion - Simmental (Mr. J. Ellicott)

Supreme Champion - Limousin (Smith)

Reserve Supreme Champion

Cumbrian Camella 589 (Sophie Simmons)

Okehampton Show 2018

Salers Cow in-calf or calf at foot

1st Rigel Paloma (Steve Simmons)
2nd Cumbrian Camella 589 (Sophie Simmons)

Salers Champion

Rigel Paloma (Steve Simmons)

Salers Reserve Champion

Cumbrian Camella 589 (Sophie Simmons)

Gillingham & Shaftesbury Show 2018

Any Other Pure Bred Continental

Cow in-calf or calf at foot

1st Cumbrian Camella 589 (Sophie Simmons)
2nd Blonde D' Aquitaine (Mr. R. Joyce)
3rd British Blue (Mr. R. Spiller)

Champion - British Blue (Newpole)

Reserve Champion

Cumbrian Camella 589 (Sophie Simmons)

S Simmons - Area representative

Area 9 Report Mid to South East England 2018

This year has probably been the challenging test before even more difficult times within farming but, these are often the best time to make positive steps for future. Breeding from Salers will have a great advantage to start with as ease of management is going to be the vital starting point for profit. Salers breeders benefit from the outstanding ease of calving which combined with a low maintenance milky suckler cow will continue to give the breed a great future both pure and crossed with any terminal sire.

Many dairy farmers are recognising the excellent benefits of the Salers bull, especially on their heifers with the ease of calving resulting in increased live calves and less stress on the cow so improving milk yield and income. The breeds black hardy feet and leg strength is also proving the Salers bulls have more tolerance to dairy systems than many other breeds.

The number of Salers is steadily growing within the region with demand increasing yearly. This year's sales have shown that the demand for both males and females continues to strengthen.

The Spring sale at Welshpool saw judge Tudor Jones pick out Seawell Laurence as his champion from Peter, Sheila and Sophie Dingers herd in Northamptonshire.

The same breeders also took champion at the Autumn Welshpool sale with Seawell Maverick and reserve champion with Sewell Magician, the pre-sale show was judged by Aled Jones.

A large number of commercial heifers headed back to the area from the Salers premier show and sale at Castle Douglas this time.

On the show circuit the Salers proved their worth at many of the County shows. Manor Lane Logic won 5 interbreeds plus junior interbreeds competing against all the other continentals, Natives and Commercials. The interest he and all entries attracted from other breed judges and exhibitors confirmed how the Salers breed is being recognised and taken very seriously as a commercial breed. More exhibitors are always needed to promote the breed so if you wish to have a go help is always available, you will be made very welcome.

Date for your diary – Newark Multibreed sale on 23rd March 2019

Carolyn Fox – Area representative



Seawell Laurence



Manor Lane Logic

2018 Welshpool Society Sale October

A good autumn sale at the Welshpool Livestock Market, with commercials averaging £1029.12 to a maximum of £1580

Pedigree Bulls averaged £3360 with a high of £4200

Pedigree Females average £2205 with a high of £2205

Prices reflected the current climate in farming with Brexit looming and the weather this year bringing feed worries for the winter.

There was a good crowd around the ring at the show and sale, Judge Aled Jones from Pwllheli, Gwynedd picked out Seawell Maverick as his champion, which unfortunately didn't make his reserve in the ring; reserve champion was Seawell Magician who sold to Mr Huxtable of Devon for 4000gns, the top price at the sale.



Seawell Maverick – PM & SM Donger, Seawell Salers



The Seawell Team

FOCUS ON BOVINE VIRAL DIARRHOEA (BVD)

BVD virus (BVDV) is closely related to the viruses that cause classical swine fever in pigs and border disease in sheep.

BVDV causes a complex of diseases in cattle, the most important of which interfere with reproduction, affect the foetus and lead to mucosal disease. BVDV infection causes significant suppression of disease resistance and so contributes to disease complexes in calves such as pneumonia and neonatal diarrhoea.

The disease is maintained by a small population of animals that become persistently infected (PI) with the virus. These PI animals are the major reservoir of BVDV and arise after becoming infected whilst in the uterus during early pregnancy. Such infections remain throughout the pregnancy and, after birth, for the lifetime of the animal.

Cattle exposed to BVD virus may show few clinical signs, producing protective antibodies within three to four weeks. In some situations, BVD virus infection may temporarily lower immunity to other infectious diseases exacerbating these clinical infections particularly in young calves.

BVD virus, during early pregnancy causes embryonic death and return to oestrus, foetal death/abortion, mummification of the foetus, birth defects of the nervous system and eyes, weak/premature calves, and live persistently-infected calves.

Treatment

Three inactivated BVD vaccines are available in UK. Initial vaccination comprises two doses 3-4 weeks apart before first service followed by booster vaccination at 12 months' intervals. If all breeding

females are vaccinated then this will control disease by preventing BVD infection of the developing foetus during pregnancy and production of PI calves.

Prevalence in UK

It is estimated that more than 90% of UK herds have had exposure to bovine virus diarrhoea virus (BVDv). Losses result from reduced fertility, poor production and increased susceptibility to other infections especially in young calves.

Impact

The economic losses from an uncontrolled outbreak of BVD can be very high. It was calculated in 2004 that in a 100-cow beef herd these can exceed £45,000 over a ten-year period, while losses in the dairy herd have been estimated at twice this level. In most outbreaks, reproductive losses are the most significant, although mucosal disease cases are the most obvious.

Prevention/Control

Control and prevention can only be achieved through adhering to strict biosecurity procedures, vaccination and long term control strategies. BVD eradication is possible following whole herd blood testing and elimination of all PI carrier animals. If farmers go for eradication then strict herd biosecurity measures must be maintained to prevent re-introduction of virus infection as the herd will soon become naïve and therefore fully susceptible to infection.

2018 Castle Douglas Society Sale November

DESPITE horrendous presale weather and more entries, prices held up well against last year's record breaking sale of pedigree and cross-bred Salers cattle at Castle Douglas, where two bulls led the trade at 9000gns apiece.

While a good solid trade prevailed in both sections, averages were mostly down on last year's extreme levels which had a new 15,000gns record for a bull and a cracking trade for females.

On a more optimistic note, the growing demand for easy calving, low maintenance, hardy suckler females, ensured a buoyant demand amongst the commercial stock, which saw a 25% increase in entries, with a good number of new buyers forward from throughout Ireland, Aberdeenshire, the north of England and down to Northampton and Wales. "Considering the year we have had, we had a good sale," said Liz Wilde, secretary of the Salers Cattle Society.

"Farmers are apprehensive about what is going on within the industry with Brexit fast approaching and winter feed being an issue for many, so understandably, people were a bit more cautious. "The ease of calving and management of Salers is paramount in today's world. That live calf with hybrid vigour and fertile, healthy milky mother is worth every penny and will always be much sought after," she said.

Wallets Marts managing director and auctioneer, Robin Anderson, was also keen to highlight the buoyant trade. "Once again the commercial trade set the trend. To have a 25% increase in bulling heifer numbers aged between nine and 18 months that still average £1307, just highlights the benefits of this suckler cow breed in the market place. At a normal sale, such numbers would have depressed the trade, but averages were only back marginally on last year's record levels. "Calf sellers have taken a bit of a hit this year, so it is understandable trade was back. There was nevertheless more a difference between the top and bottom end of the market with farmers still prepared to fork out more for better quality stock," added Mr Anderson.

Leading the commercial market at £2200 per head was the champion pair of in-calf heifers from Adam Crockett and his father, Roy, who runs 100 cows from their base at Deanfoot, Denholm, Hawick. Their rising two-year-old heifers are both by the French sire, Iron and sold due in April to Seawell Kitemark, to Alex and Jonathan Wright, Pinmore Mains, Girvan.

First to hit the 9000gns mark was the presale champion at the pedigree show, Harestone Lamborghini, from Neil and Stuart Barclay's 25-cow herd from Harestone, Banchory, Aberdeenshire.

Producing a personal best both in the Salers show and sale ring for the father and son duo and stockman, Robert Marshall, was a son of Whitebog Convener – a bull bought in 2009 at Stirling for 7500gns which is still going strong



at 11 years of age. The dam of this two-year old is Ideale; an imported show cow is by Variegeois. Lamborghini was knocked down to Murray Alexander, who was buying a fourth Salers bull for the family's 800 Limousin cross cow herd based at Mains of Mause, Blairgowrie.

Harestone, which is better known for its pedigree Charolais cows and more recently, it's Blackies – having sold a tup lamb at £11,000 at Dalmally – also got 4800gns for the second prize winner to Lamborghini, Harestone Landward, another two-year old by Convener. Also bred from an imported French cow, in the Ulysse daughter, Iena, Landward headed home with commercial breeders, W and AM Aitken, Scotchston Bank, Blyth Bridge.

Matching the 9000gns top price was one of the best bulls bred by retired vet, Patrick Boyd, who runs 40 pedigree Salers on the Isle of Tiree. His Drumaglea Legend, a 26-month-old bull which passed the weighbridge at 1112kg, was unshown at the pre-sale show and sold to John Martin, Swinlees, Dalry, Castle Douglas. Backed by some of the best bloodlines in the breed, he is by the French sire, Baron, a bull that has bred sons to 5500gns and 5000gns at Stirling, while his dam is Drumaglea Alice, a daughter of the French bull, Variegeois, that was also the mother of a 5500gns bull and the 12,000gns Drumaglea Kingpin 2.

Mr Boyd also received 5000gns for his fourth prize senior, Drumaglea Lord of the Isles, a March, 2016-born son of Baron bred from another Variegeois daughter in the shape of Drumaglea Beyoncé. He scaled 1040kg and goes out to work at East Lediken, Insch, having been purchased by commercial producer, Murdoch Duncan.

Stirling-based breeders, Gill and Malcolm Pye, who together with stockman, Kenny McKeague, run 85 cows at Rednock House, Port of Menteith, also had a good day with bull sales at 5500gns and 4800gns.

Dearest was Rednock Lagerfeld, an April, 2016- born polled bull that stood first at the Highland and champion at Stirling Show. Sired by the home-bred Rigel Munro which also bred the top priced bull at Stirling in October 2017, at 6000gns, he is out of Rigel Chanel, a daughter of the French sire, Sagitaire, which has produced a potential

show heifer this year. Lagerfeld also headed home to Mains of Mause with Murray Alexander.

The Pyes' senior male champion, Rednock Lauper, a July, 2016-born bull then made 4800gns selling to John Mitchell, Rumbleton Rigg, Greenlaw, Duns. Closely bred on both sides, this bull boasts Sagitaire in both his sire and dam's side, with the sire being Rigel Officer, onto Rigel Cindy.

Top price amongst the pedigree females was 3000gns paid for Colin McClymont's Cuil Mabel, a 21-month-old heifer from Cuil, Palnure, Newton Stewart, purchased by Andrew Hamilton, Marr, Thornhill, Dumfriesshire. Second in her class at the pre-sale show, Mabel is the first heifer sold from the French sire, Jordan, and out of Cuil Fabby, a daughter of the privately purchased Irish bull, Ballygar Galway. She sold in calf to the retained stock bull, Cuil London.

Cuil also produced two of the next four highest priced heifers at 2500gns and 2200gns and enjoyed a cracking trade for their entry of 50 yearling commercial heifers. The former, which made up part of the herd's reduction sale, was Cuil Lemon, a Cumbrian Jonnie sired two-year-old, sold in calf to Cuil London. She is out of the Blazer-sired Cuil Davina, and sold to Northern Ireland breeder, Stephen McGinn, Downpatrick, Co Down.

Cuil Lisa, a similarly-aged heifer by Jonnie and in calf to London, was bought by David Anderson, Barnakill, Lochgilphead. Her dam, a home-bred cow, is by Cleuchhead Xerox.

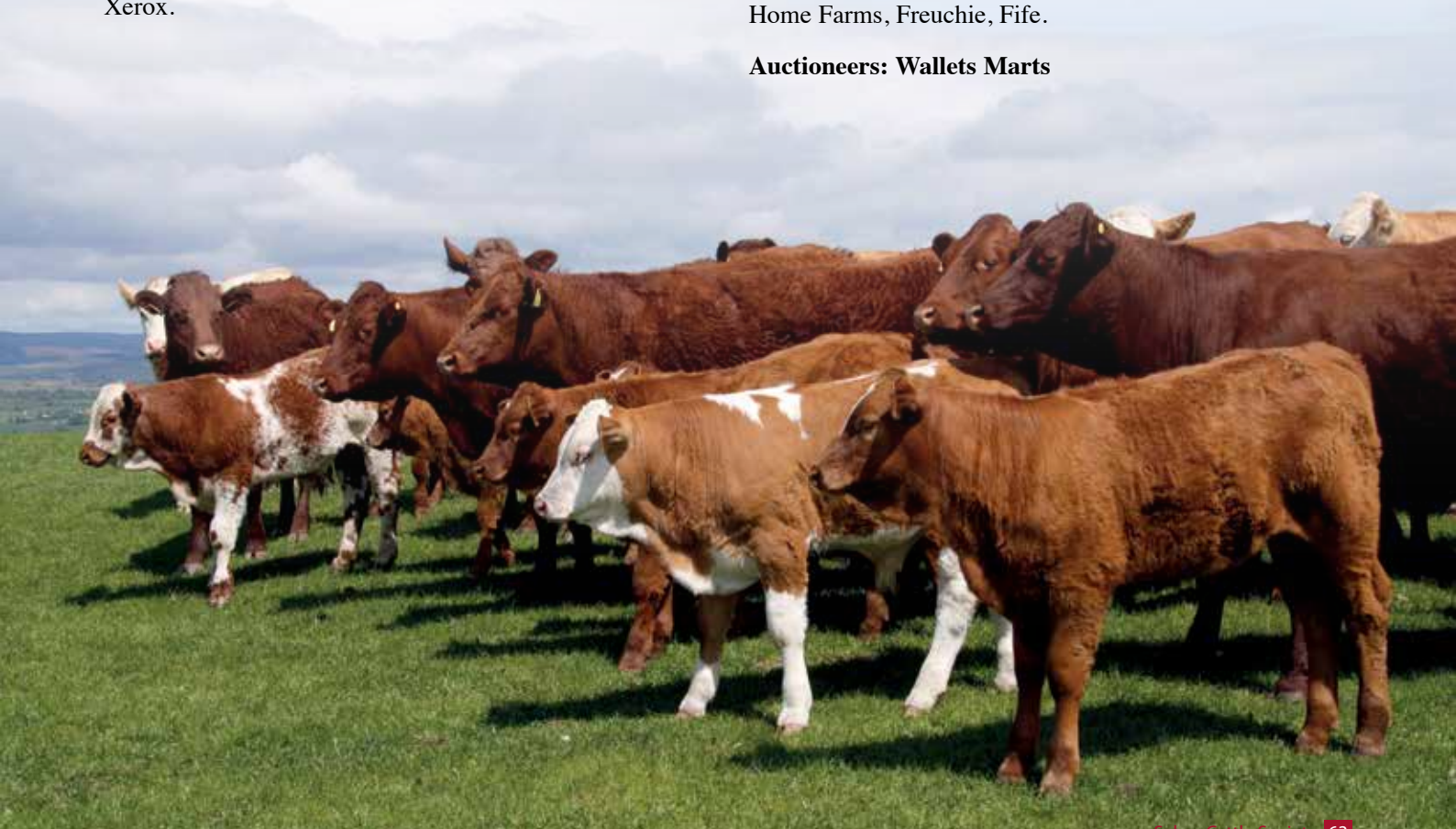


Northern Ireland breeder, John Elliot, who owns the Drumlegagh herd at Newtownstewart, sold two heifers at 2400gns including the female champion, Drumlegagh Lea. This May 2016-born heifer is by the French sire, Fanfan, a bull that has bred many show winners, and out of Drumlegagh Fabia, a Vicomte daughter. She sold in calf to Drumlegagh Hamish, a former champion winner at Balmoral and reserve at the Highland, to Alex and Jonathan Wright, Pinmore Mains, Barr.

The second, Drumlegagh Lisa, a similarly-aged heifer by the same sire and in calf to the same bull, was bought by P Stobart, The Square, Kirkcubbin. She secured a blue rosette at the pre-sale show and is out of a homebred Precieux dam.

Commercial bulling heifers peaked at £1800 from Rob and Kath Livesey, Firth, Melrose, purchased by Balbirnie Home Farms, Freuchie, Fife.

Auctioneers: Wallets Marts



SALERS SUCCESS FOR THE MCINTYRES

Feature courtesy of Scottish Farmer, photographs by Rob Haining



SALERS cattle are famed for being a hardy, easily managed and fertile breed, and its these attributes which have allowed one Aberdeenshire farming family to not only run a profitable suckler herd which produces quality store and finished progeny each year, but run an additional business away from the farm.

Father and son team, Ian and Jamie McIntyre, who farm at Milton of Cullerlie near Echt, with their respective wives, Audrey and Kirsty, and Jamie and Kirsty's two sons Hamish (4) and Lachlan (1), are strong converts of the Salers since introducing the breed to their enterprise 10 years ago and believe the milky, low maintenance female is the ultimate suckler cow.

"We first went into the Salers as we needed a breed that was self-replenishing yet could still be crossed with the likes of a Charolais to produce progeny which could be finished," said Ian, who came to the 170-acre unit in 1989 and first took to the breed when attending a show in the Republic of Ireland.

"Before introducing the Salers to our herd, we were buying Limousin, Simmental and Aberdeen-Angus cross cows with calves at foot as replacements from Thainstone but we felt it wouldn't be a sustainable system in the long run. We didn't get the consistency either, so we were looking for a maternal breed that could produce an even batch of calves each year for finishing and selling through the store ring."

Jamie, who also works fulltime between the farm and the family's McIntyre Ground Management business which was established in 1996, added: "The Salers has it all – it's fertile, easy calving with good feet and udders, and has a great temperament.

"When we were buying the replacements, we had the odd Salers cross and they were always the cows that we didn't have any hassle with. We could never run the number of cows that we are if we hadn't gone down the Salers route. They allow us to run the farm on a parttime basis although the farm always comes first."

Having built up cow numbers to an 80-strong herd, as well as 10 in-calf heifers, the family first brought the breed home when they bought Salers cross heifers at Castle Douglas from 2009 to 2013, with the majority bought from the Penninghame and Cuil herds.

Pedigree wise, the McIntyres run a small herd of eight females under the Corrichie prefix. The first two pedigrees came from the Callander herd in 2009 and, since then, they've bought females from the Cuil, Cleughhead, Cumbrian, Lisnamaul and Darnford herds, while the latter female from PJ Maggin and Sons, Northern Ireland, was gifted to Jamie and Kirsty as a wedding present from Jamie's papa, John Black, who used to farm near Drumoak.

Two-thirds of the herd calves in the spring from March 10 onwards and the remainder calve from midSeptember. Heifers and second calvers are bulled to the Salers to produce hardy, milky replacements, while third calvers and so on go to the Charolais bull which gives the boys the real icing on the cake, attracting topend prices in the store ring at Thainstone, and good weights and grades if sold fat.

"Most of the cows calve outside but if we have space in a shed, some will come in for easy looking," explained Jamie.

"We keep the bulls in with the cows for 12 weeks and heifers seven to eight weeks".

Heifers are also calved a fortnight earlier than the rest, so we can give them a bit more time before they go back to the bull. The herd has been clear of BVD since 2012 and is in SRUC's Premium Cattle Health Scheme.

All breeding females are vaccinated for BVD and dosed for fluke".

"This year, all cows in our spring calving herd calved within 12 weeks and 80% of them calved in the first six weeks. That's another advantage of the Salers breed – they're very fertile," added Jamie, who also pointed out that they only had to attend to one of the Salers cows from the spring herd at calving time this year and that was due to a ring womb.

Cows from the spring calving herd are kept outside all year round and are rotationally grazed on good grass leys through the summer and then grazed on rough ground in the winter. Low maintenance in terms of feed too, they survive on mature grass silage and minerals, while their calves are offered creep from August onwards until weaning in late November.

They then come onto slats inside and thrive on good quality, first cut pit silage, home-grown barley from the 25 acres grown on the unit and a protein supplement. The strongest heifer calves from the spring herd are outwintered.

Autumn calving cows are brought inside with their calves in December when the weather gets too wet for ground conditions.

Back-end cows also receive first cut pit silage to ensure milk quality is of a high standard throughout the winter and Autumn-born calves follow the same diet as the spring calves.

"Cows from the autumn calving herd aren't usually turned out until mid-May and calves are left to suckle their mothers all summer and are weaned about five weeks before calving is meant to start," explained Ian. *"This helps keep the summer mastitis at bay but since moving to the Salers we've had next to no mastitis, even in a summer as dry as the one we've just had."*





A top draw of Charolais and Salers stots weighing between the 480kg and 500kg mark are sold through the store ring at Thainstone in February or March and regularly hit the £1250 bracket. In contrast, the rest, including all heifers, are kept on and summered at grass to be finished before Christmas.

The McIntyres aim to finish stots before 20 months of age at 380kg on the hook, while heifers go a bit lighter and both stots, and heifers produce U and R grades.

"When we weigh all the calves in the summer time, there is no difference between the ones that have been inside and the ones that have been outwintered," said Jamie.

"The Salers is predominantly a maternal breed so the fact that we can finish stots at 380kg under 20-months-old is good. They weigh the exact same as the Charolais stots when sold as stores and only make around £100 less."

Backing this up, Ian added: "We have no problem finishing Salers stots. We still get them up to the weight with the same grades, albeit one month or six weeks older than their Charolais mates."

The Corrichie team are quite picky in what they select for keeping on as replacements, with heifers bulled at 18 to 19 months of age. They select on feminine looking heifers, with a good body, correct legs and tight udders.

"Although we're relative newcomers to the Salers, we've been ruthless from the start in what we have kept for breeding, but you do benefit from that down the line," said Jamie. "We run a fairly tight culling policy as anything that gives us a problem be it not holding to the bull or not weaning a calf heavy enough, it's down the road. If they're still producing a good calf every year, they can stay in the herd."

But, there's seldom any problems like that and one characteristic that's certainly evident at Milton of Cullerlie is the longevity of the breed. "The first original batch of five from Castle Douglas are still here and they were bought 10 years ago," said Ian.



Jamie added: *"A Salers just does what a cow should do. It has a calf ever year which is quick to its feet and suckle, and she looks after her calf well and then gets back in calf the following year."*

Admittedly, the McIntyres don't fork out a huge amount on stock bulls, but they were able to rely on AI for the first few years. The first stock bull bought was Ashbury Jackal, a bull bought privately from a herd in NI. He made a real stamp on the herd and produced growthy daughters and easily fleshed stots.

Last November, the boys splashed out 7800gns on Cuil King, at Castle Douglas, and with his first crop of calves arriving on the ground now, the first few are looking promising.

In the past, AI home-bred sons have been used on the herd, while the current Charolais stock sire is a home-bred son of the family's only pure Charolais.

"We look for growthy, fleshy bulls which are good on their legs and feet," commented Ian. "The Salers will calve to anything and we aren't feart of bulling them to a big, muscly Charolais."

On the other side of the coin, the Corrichie herd has enjoyed their own success at Stirling Bull Sales with sales at 4000gns and 3800gns for sons of the AI French bull, Druide. They've also sold bulls privately, but both Ian and Jamie commented that they never imagined to be selling pedigree bulls as early on as now, so it really is a bonus to the business.

"Moving forward, we want to keep on improving our own stock and sell a surplus of breeding heifers and a few bulls," said Jamie, who has enjoyed wins with Salers at both Banchory and Echt shows.

"By breeding our own replacements, we can select for the traits that we want so that we can continually improve. Calf registrations of Salers-sired calves are steadily increasing each year and the Salers is a breed that suits part-time farmers like ourselves but works just as effectively at the other end of the spectrum on large-scale suckler herds," he concluded.



BALLYWILLAN SALERS

Ballywillan Road, Gleno Larne, County. Antrim, Northern Ireland

HORACE (STOCK BULL) ▶

(son of Don Juan)

Imported from Gaec Freyssac
Semen available – see below



◀ **BALLYWILLAN BIRRICK**

(son of Horace)

Reserve Champion at the Royal Ulster Show 2016



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Semen from Horace available from
AI Services (NI) Ltd. – Tel: 028 9083 3123 / www.ai-services.co.uk
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Robert Millar

Tel: 02828 276633 / 07807 572737 **Email:** richardmillar_2005@tiscali.co.uk



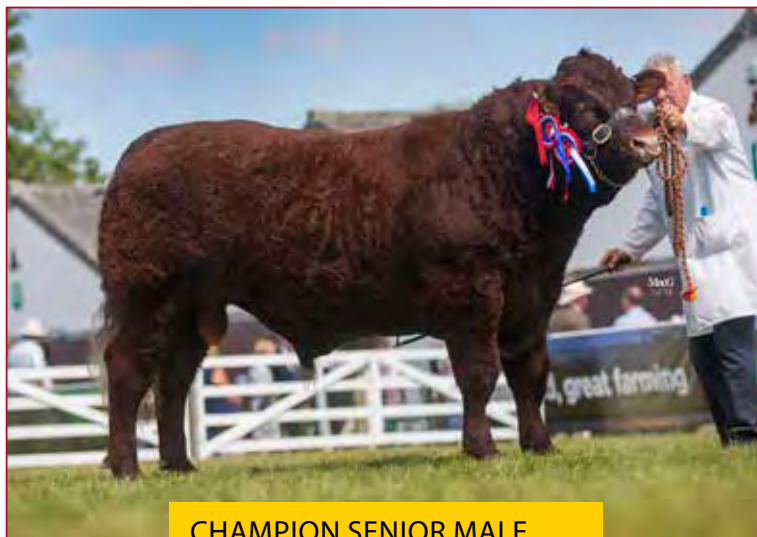
Ballywillan Pedigree Salers

ANIMALS OF THE YEAR 2018

Showing animals throughout the year is a difficult but rewarding task; selecting, feeding and training animals starts well before they are taken anywhere near a showground. Then there is transportation and time away from your farm whilst you attend shows and the society appreciates the effort it takes and the expense involved. In appreciation of the commitment we have the Animals of the Year Awards, where points are allocated according to shows attended, classes and placings and the winners received £250 for each champion animal.

Yes it's time consuming but what a craic everyone has at shows, why not give it a go and see!

This year's winners are as follows –



CHAMPION SENIOR MALE

Manor Lane Logic

Carolyn Fox



CHAMPION SENIOR FEMALE

Brookfields Eva

P O'Kane



CHAMPION JUNIOR MALE

Cleuchhead Munro

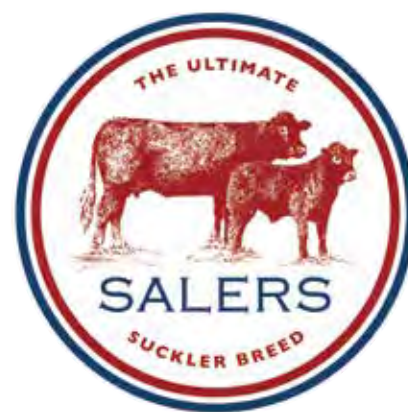
M Durno



CHAMPION JUNIOR FEMALE

Lower Bolie Molly

P O'Kane



THE GOLDEN CALF FOR



A unique joint breed open day – between the Charolais and Salers – pulled in the crowds to Alun and Anita Thomas' suckler unit in Bangor, Gwynedd in September, with those attending all impressed with the 'golden calves' on show.

Alun farms 275 acres with additional mountain rights at Tyn Hendre Farm which enjoys stunning views across the Menai Straits to Anglesey. The farm itself is nearly all grass, with about 17 acres down to a catch crop of stubble turnips, ryegrass and rapeseed cut to feed his ewes across the winter.

A total of 72 head went to the bull this year, with 11 heifers put to a borrowed Salers bull, and 61 cows put to a Charolais bull. He aims to get all calving between March and April so he can have the resultant calves ready to sell at seven months in October.

"I want the best prices, and sell through Gaerwen market on Anglesey – hitting that first sale in October is key," he says. "I usually put them in groups of six, and consistently get good returns. This cross bred – nicknamed the 'golden calf' grows well and allows me to group them easily, they look like peas in a pod when they go into the ring."

Alun start in Charolais in 2012, when the single suckler cows he ran were Belgian Blues. He found their udders were too big, and that he was

getting foot problems with them as they struggled to use his cubicles due to their size.

"I go to the markets quite a bit, and saw the Charolais was the premium animal," he says. "I decided I wanted to produce a Charolais crossbred and, at the same time, saw a chance to sell the Belgian Blues and move into the Salers".

"They are great mothers, very fertile they mature early, so we don't have any calving problems with the heifers. They wean calves that fit market requirements and have easily adapted to the resources here on the farm. They are also 'low maintenance' and I believe they will bring longevity and depth into my herd. Combined with a Charolais the calves put on weight like nothing else so offer me excellent returns."

He bought the Salers privately in three different groups, paying between £1400 and £1700 a head, and believes they were a great investment. "My aim now is to reduce my sheep numbers and increase cow numbers – up to 100 in the next two to three years."

Alun runs a tight ship, and admits 'nothing gets pampered' on his tenanted farm, part of Penryn Estates.

"Nothing grows like a Charolais," he says. "They are in big demand at the markets, and the buyer who bought quite a few of my calves in 2016 came back for more in 2017. That's good news."

His heifers sold for £750 apiece last autumn, and his bulls at £830. That's at just seven months of age. "When they're earning me £100 a month I see that as a good return," he says. All the weight gain comes from their mother's and grass, with just a small amount of creep feed introduced before they get sent to market... so they know what cake is when they move to the next stage of their lives.



THE GOLDEN FUTURE



Alun is relatively confident in the future of beef production post Brexit, and says that as Britain is not self-sufficient as a whole in this sector, he has an opportunity to grow his herd and produce more.

"In lamb we depend on exports, because we produce so much, one of the reasons I am looking to cut back on sheep and increase my herd".

"Farmers have to produce food. Very few people today remember food shortages, and we have to remember we play a vital role in feeding the nation and caring for the environment. We've got to stay positive".

"If I lose all my subsidies I will be losing between £35,000 and £40,000. That's a massive hole in my farm income. But it's no good sitting down and crying about it. The farming community has had a lot thrown at it over the past 20 years – foot and mouth, TB, BSE, for example – it's survived and we're still here. We are resilient".

"I'm planning for the future and looking at my business with a new enthusiasm".

"That's another reason why I'm so certain the Charolais x Salers is the beef breed for the future. It meets all the consumers' and buyers' requirements and delivers good profit on-farm. I just wish I had started with this 25 years ago!"

"The Charolais x Salers is key to this job. It gives you the best weight gain and the best financial returns. I want something that calves easily and something I can rear without any hassle. And that's exactly what I have when producing these golden calves."



Salers Events 2019

February 18th Stirling Bull Sales

United Auctions, Stirling

March 23rd English Premier Pedigree Show & Sale

Newark Livestock Market, Newark

May 6th Stirling Bull Sales

United Auctions, Stirling

May 15th-18th Royal Ulster Show (Balmoral)

Northern Ireland

May 16th Welshpool Show and Sale

Welshpool Livestock Centre

May 23rd National Beef Expo

NW Auctions, Kendal

May 30th Scottish Beef Event

Inverurie, Aberdeenshire

June 6th-8th Royal Cornwall Show

Wadebridge, Cornwall

June 20th-23rd Royal Highland Show

Ingleston, Edinburgh

July 9th-11th Great Yorkshire Show

Harrogate Show Ground

July 22nd – 25th Royal Welsh Show

Builth Wells

October 16th Welshpool Show and Sale

Welshpool Livestock Centre

November 1st – 2nd Premier Show and Sale

Wallets Marts, Castle Douglas

November 6th Agrifest South West

Westpoint, Exeter

November 25th-26th Royal Welsh Winter Fair

Builth Wells

Council Meetings take place

March 3rd / June 2nd / September 1st / December 1st

Annual General Meeting

November 1st Wallets Marts, Castle Douglas

Events/dates may change, be added or removed as applicable.

Salers can be seen at many other events around the UK

Your area representative will be able to inform you of events in your area

SALERS CATTLE SOCIETY PRE-SALE CHECKLIST – PEDIGREE ENTRIES

- **Closing Dates:** Check the closing date for entries with the Auctioneers or the Society website, and ensure all documentation is provided as per the entry form. Late entries or entries with incomplete documentation may be rejected to avoid delaying production of the sale catalogue.
 - **Tagging:** Ensure animals are double tagged in accordance with current EU legislation.
 - **Herd Health:** Ensure all animals meet the requirements of the Salers Society Herd Health regulations and submit a Salers Society Herd Health Declaration for each sale. In addition, you should submit an Owners Declaration of Health Status listing the ear tags of your entries using the form provided by your CHeCS scheme. Be aware that entries of animals not born in your herd may need a separate health certificate depending on the health status of their herd of origin. You will be required to display your CHeCS Herd Health Certificate, or a Health Declaration Pen Card for each animal, supplied by the CHeCs Approved Health Scheme of which you are required to be a member.
 - **Herd Health Requirements:** All cattle pedigree and commercial entered for official Society sales must satisfy the following.
 - **BVD Accredited herd:** Entries must be vaccinated with an approved vaccine no more than 12 months prior to the date of sale.
 - **BVD not accredited herd:** The individual animals which have entered must be tested free of BVD virus and vaccinated at least two weeks prior to the sale date. Females that are sold in-calf or running with the bull must be from a BVD accredited herd or individually tested before service, with the BVD status of the bull being determined before he serves any females that are to be sold.
 - **Johnes:** All entries to Society sales come from herds which have entered into a CHeCs Approved or comparable Health Scheme and have a risk classification of 1-4 for the disease. (www.checs.co.uk)
 - **Beta-mannosidosis:** All Fullblood and Purebred animals must have a non-carrier DNA status for beta-mannosidosis.
 - **TB:** All entries must comply with current TB pre-movement testing requirements. Cattle coming to Scotland from 1 or 2 year TB testing areas must have passed a TB test within the previous 60 days of the movement. This applies to all cattle over 6 weeks of age. Animals staying in Scotland must pass a post movement TB test carried out between 60 and 120 days following the movement. The current TB test cannot be carried out twice with 42 days or false results may occur. Proof of testing will have to be provided by yourself and dates of testing announced.
 - **DNA:** All bulls sold at a society sale must be DNA profiled prior to entry of the sale. Test kits are available via the society
 - **Eyes:** The veterinary surgeon may examine the animal's eyes to ensure that the retinas and lenses are sound. The vet retains the right to reject an animal for eye defects.
 - **Dentition:** The veterinary surgeon will check the dentition is correct and the incisor teeth are biting on the upper pad. Animals will be rejected from the sale if the vet determines that their bite is severely overshot or undershot.
 - **Scrotal Size:** All bulls will have their testicles examined by a vet. Testicles should be firm and even sized. Bulls deemed by the vet to have defective testicles will be rejected from the sale. The circumference at the widest part of the scrotum will be measured and should be 32cms at 12 months of age, 34cms at 18 months of age and 36cms at 24 months of age. The measured scrotal circumference will be displayed on the pen, and the Society may require the Auctioneer to announce in the ring that a bull does not meet our standards.
 - **Teats:** All female animals will be put through the crush and have their udders/ teats examined for defects by the vet. They may be rejected from the sale if significant defects are found.
 - **Diseases etc:** Check the animals are free from warts (pay particular attention to the sheath and scrotal areas), Ringworm, Mange, Lice or other contagious diseases.
 - **Treatments:** If your entries are showing signs of any of the above conditions and have been treated then a signed veterinary certificate to that effect must accompany your entry.
 - **Locomotion:** Check the animal's feet and legs are sound and the general locomotion is satisfactory. The animal may be rejected from the sale if the Society Inspector determines that it is defective in its legs, feet or locomotion. Where possible, allowance will be made for animals that have had a long journey time to the mart.
 - **Docility:** All entries are to be halter trained and led using bull ring, or nose clip/bulldog for females. The animal may be rejected from the sale if the Society Inspector determines that it is displaying unruly behaviour.
 - **Conformation and Condition:** Check the animals are of good conformation and in good condition and meet the minimum weight for age standard as per the Society rulings. The measured weight for bulls will be displayed on the pen, and the Society may require the Auctioneer to announce in the ring that a bull does not meet our standards.
 - **Declarations:** If semen has been taken from a bull, this must be declared for inclusion in the catalogue, along with the number of straws retained. If females have been flushed, this must be declared for inclusion in the catalogue, along with the number of embryos retained. If females are in-calf by AI, this must be declared in the catalogue and AI certificates must be provided.
- Following arrival at the sale premises all pedigree cattle are subject to an official inspection conducted by a veterinary surgeon and a Society Inspector.
- The aim of the inspection is to ensure that all animals sold at sales are of a consistently high quality and are free from any health and/or structural defects.
- To avoid the disappointment of having cattle rejected, members should carry out checks before consigning Salers cattle to Society sales.
- Further information regarding Society rulings re health, testicle size, and weight for age can be found on the Society website or from the Secretary**

BREED HISTORY and 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 usually horned with a dark red coat, though there have always been some with black coats. Polled Salers were once very rare. Since the mid '90s, the availability of polled and/or black fullblood Salers has increased due to the efforts of UK breeders. 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.

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: Though equivalent in all other respects, the Herd Book maintains a permanent distinction between Full Blood pedigree animals with ancestry 100% traceable to French origin, and Purebred pedigree animals resulting from a grading up program. The registered name of Purebred animals will be followed by (PB). Progeny of a Purebred sire or dam can never be designated as Full Blood.

The poll/horn status is to be recorded as part of the registration. The poll/horn status can be amended if required and a new warranty issued. Up to the age of 12 months of age this is free of charge, and thereafter the normal fee for a replacement warranty applies. Polled animals must include either Poll or Polled in the name.

No calves can be registered unless they are confirmed as being non-carriers for beta-mannosidosis, either by parentage or testing (copy of test results to be supplied).

No calves can be registered unless the sire has been DNA tested and the result lodged with the society; hair sample kits are available from the society office.

To register a calf got by embryo transplant, the Embryo Registration Form No. and Embryo Number (e.g. 186/3) need to be supplied, and its registered name will be followed by ET.

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 females will be registered in the Grade Register. Only Full Blood bulls can be used in a grading up program. Though not recommended, a Purebred bull (31/32 or greater) may be used on a Grade C female and her heifer calf be registered as a Grade C.

Following its first calving, a Grade C cow may be designated as Purebred and transferred to the Herd Book, subject to passing an inspection for conformity to Breed Standard and being tested non-carrier for beta-mannosidosis. Application for inspection must be made in writing to the Secretary. On passing the inspection, to effect the transfer the original warranty and transfer fee must be forwarded to the Secretary. This cow's calves can then be registered as Purebred according to the table. Grade C cows are transferred as 7/8 PB no matter what % Salers blood they actually are.

UK HERD BOOK NUMBER: The herd book number is now the UK tag number as the unique identification of each animal.

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 £42+VAT, if registered within 3 months of import. For imported cattle, with an in vitro calf, registration is £64.50 + 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 ALPHABETICAL 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
Vainqueur	1	1584052218	£30 + VAT	Rigel Pedigree	01624 590125	Non-Carrier
Vauban	3	1584054531	£25 + VAT	Rigel Pedigree	01624 590125	Non-Carrier
Kracker	IMP 97053	6327580166	£40 + VAT	John Elliott	02881 661654	Non-Carrier
Drumlegagh Dennis	DRU2010017	63659800107	£40 + VAT	John Elliott	02881 661654	Non-Carrier
Turbulent	IMP2007004	1522218702	£40 + VAT	Thomas Kelly	07801 105655	Non-Carrier
Gulliver	IMP2012010	1531258814	£50 + VAT	Roy Crockett	07929 306160	Non-Carrier

- 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.

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.

CHARGES for 2019

	Charge	VAT 20%	TOTAL
Registering Commercial SalersX (Grade A, B & C) All cattle Upgrade a C to Purebred (fee plus society inspection and clear beta M report) Intimations are free	£5.00	£1.00	£6.00
Registrations All other calves (except ET) up to 3 months 3-6 months over 6 months	£28.00 £49.00 £91.00	£5.60 £9.80 £18.20	£33.60 £58.80 £109.20
Registrations Embryo transplant calves up to 3 months 3-6 months over 6 months	£33.00 £59.00 £112.00	£6.60 £11.80 £22.40	£39.60 £70.80 £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) Thereafter per embryo After 3 months-minimum per animal flushes (up to 10 embryos) Thereafter per embryo	£11.00 £1.00 £21.00 £2.00	£2.20 £0.20 £4.20 £0.40	£13.20 £1.20 £25.20 £2.40
Subscription payable 1st January if paid before 4th January	£55.00 £50.00	£11.00 £10.00	£66.00 £60.00
Joining Fee and Registration of Herd 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 3-6 months over 6 months	£42.00 £81.00 £159.00	£8.40 £16.20 £31.80	£50.40 £97.20 £190.80
Registration of Imported Cattle with in vitro calves up to 3 months from date of entry 3-6 months over 6 months	£64.50 £103.50 £183.00	£12.90 £20.70 £36.60	£77.40 £124.40 £219.60

All transactions are plus vat. No transactions complete until payment is received 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.

Membership Application Form

I wish to become an Annual member of the Salers Cattle Society of the UK Ltd.

And hereby agree to abide by the Rules of the Society until the termination of the year in which I withdraw my membership by notice in writing.

I also agree for my personal information (name, address, contact and relevant membership details as is currently published) to be published online through the Salers website and be available freely to visitors to the website. I also agree that my contact details can be shared over the phone with members and other people wishing to get in touch with me. I also agree that any pictures taken at shows/sales or any other Salers events can be published by both printed and digital means.

YES / NO please delete as necessary

Signature _____

Date _____

Terms of Membership

Initial Joining Fee & Registration of Herd Prefix
£37.00 plus VAT @ 20% Total = £44.40

Annual Subscription
£55.00 plus VAT @ 20% Total = £66.00

Total Initial Fee = £110.40

**Please complete the following in block capital
(except for email & website address)**

Membership Name

Address

Post Code

Email

Website

Tel

Mobile

UK Number

*Salers Herd Prefix Name

**Salers Letters

* Salers Herd Prefix Name – this can be any name you choose provided it is not already registered with the society.

** Salers Letters – Select three letters of your choice which will be the society computer reference for your herd.

Return this form to the secretary:

Liz Wilde

**Ball Green Cottage,
Well Head lane,
Hubberton,
Halifax HX6 1NN**

Payment Details

A Payment can be made by cheque made payable to Salers Cattle Society of the UK Ltd.

B Payment can be made direct into the society account, please pay RBS for the credit of the Salers Cattle Society of the UK Ltd.

Account Number 11861110 Sort Code 16-26-14

Gift Aid

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 25%. So for every £10 we receive it is worth £12.50. 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.

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

Charity Number: 1115115

Donor Details

Name _____

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 donation.

Salers

Cattle Society
of the UK Ltd

