

AYRSHIRE NEWS



Welcome...

2019/20 President
Michael Howie

After having such a wonderful start to 2020 at the World Conference in Australia it is scary to think how much the world has changed since then due to the pandemic. Although we are all disappointed that we haven't been able to catch up with friends at our usual Society events, we all understand that our health must come first.

The staff and Society committees have adapted to new ways of working, meetings have been held online and where possible home working has been implemented. We have tried our best to come up with new ideas to connect with members and update you with the latest information and news. I am glad to report that we have also been able to sponsor some industry online shows which have seen great publicity for our members who have exhibited. I must thank those members of council that have continued since May and welcome our new members. I would also like to thank the Presidents committee who have shown their commitment, there may not have been events to attend but there is always subjects regarding the running of the Society that require their input.

I sincerely hope we can go ahead with some form of conference in May next year, in the meantime I hope you and your families stay safe and healthy and can enjoy the festive season.

HQ CATCH-UP

Claire Kimm updates members with news from the office

I hope you enjoy the winter publication that we have put together in place of the journal. Unfortunately we didn't have enough new content to make up a full journal but still wanted to communicate information, display breeder adverts and share articles of interest with you. I am sure you will appreciate the images in the "2021 Ayrshire calendar", and make use of it throughout 2021. The office have adapted to some new ways of working and getting used to online platforms for meetings and shows, my IT skills were put to the test when pulling the farm visit videos together!

There are provisional dates for our two main events for next year and we will be closely monitoring circumstances before these get the green light to go ahead. The young breeders weekend will be in York from 8th – 11th April and the annual conference in Northumberland will take place on 10th – 12th May.

Classifications and LP awards are on the Society website and the website is updated regularly so please make sure you visit www.society@ayrshirescs.org for all the latest news. Some housekeeping I would like to remind you of is to let us know if you buy animals so we can update our records to reflect the correct owner.

MEMBERSHIP

Adult Members	623
Junior	316
Total	939

Welcome New Members

NEW MEMBERS

Adam Longwell, 48 Drumlegagh Rd South, Omagh, Tyrone, BT78 5PJ
Andrew Mackey, Killealy, 86 Oldstone Road, Antrim, BT41 4SP
Christopher Yates, Ireton Home Farm, Kedleston, Derby, DE22 5JL
Eamonn O'Connor, Lisanoul, Castlemaine, Tralee, Republic of Ireland
J James, Midtoddhills, Roadhead, Carlisle, CA6 6PF
Jack Harrison, Hyndfordwell, West Linton, Peeblesshire, EH46 7AA
Lynher Dairies Ltd, Pengreep Dairy, Ponsanooth, Truro, TR3 7JQ
Mark Tythcott, Churchcombe Farm, Yarncombe, Barnstable, Devon, EX31 3NE
Richard Griffin, New Barn Farm, Swan Lane, Wildmoor, B61 0BU
Simon Salvidge, Moat Farm, Marston Bigot, Frome, BA11 5BP
William Gallimore, Watery Leese Farm, Watery Lane, Kingstone, Uttoxeter, ST14 8QU

JUNIOR

Anwen Thomas, Gelligatrog, Pontantwn, Kidwelly, Carmarthenshire, SA17 5LN
Bethany Murch, Littleweir Farm, Umberleigh, North Devon, EX37 9DU

Please see letter received from Lord Henry Plumb, Honorary President of the Society in response to the feature on the Fragy family from the spring 2020 journal.

Family Focus,

May I send my congratulations to Allen Timbrell for the excellent report and pictures of the Fragy family. Chris Window would have been so proud in achieving one of his ambitions to produce the UK's highest classified Ayrshire Cow in the country, 12 Ex 97 7E. He would never be complacent but rather satisfied that Lisa and family will continue to succeed in leading the field with Hunnington bloodlines.

Following 16 years with me, I asked him if he would manage my farm and my Ayrshires, though I knew that his real ambition was to farm himself. I gave him every encouragement when he found Hunnington and impressed, when he toured the area with a view to market his Ayrshire milk and produce.

Together with Hazel and family they started the business, Hazel knowing that she would be a workhorse, but accepted the challenge. It was always a family hands on farming business and either Chris or Lisa would return from the Royal Show or elsewhere at milking time, leaving someone else to collect the trophies!

Chris and I became good friends and I occasionally travelled with him to watch him play in his favourite sport - water polo. He often said, 'the only time I get square with the Birmingham police is in the swimming baths!' As a boy he had ambitions to swim the channel but in training found it boring!

When they left Southfields and started farming it was a bit like losing a partner in life, but my life was moving to politics. As I expected Chris wanted a few heifers to start his herd. I had 56 in a river meadow and offered him 20 - we never agreed the price! As they do, one heifer kept running back to join her mates, it had to be a Fragrance and Chris was determined to get her. She was not my favourite but perhaps I am better at judging the potential development of people anyway!

When Chris became ill, he had wonderful support from Hazel and the family. They set a fine example to many farming businesses and Lisa had to take on the role and responsibility of one of Britain's finest herds. She is well known as a Master Breeder and stock person and she would not dare to go wrong, but we should congratulate her and the family for this great success in cattle breeding.

At 95 I can look back over a busy lifetime with pride and feel I could justify my continuation as an honorary vice president of the society through my link with Chris. I still love the Ayrshires and if I can represent the breed through the legacy of Chris Window and family then it would give me enormous pleasure. May there be a long continuation of the Frags!



REGISTRATION PRICE INCREASE

In 2018 the EU brought in new legislation (EU Regulations 2016/1012 and 2017/717) regarding the standards for animal registration. This also included the roll-out of a consistent format for registration certificates and export documents, to create clearer understanding.

To allow the Ayrshire Cattle Society to remain a recognised breed society, we have had to adhere to these new legislations and have been doing so since 1.1.2020.

During 2019 NBDC alerted the Society that there will be a price rise to registrations of £1.20, at the November 2019 council meeting it was agreed that this rise would be phased over three years with 40p to be added every year. This started on 1.1.20 and as of 1.1.2021 we will be adding another 0.40p.

Please catch up on your registrations to take advantage of the lower price before the new year. If you need any help please do not hesitate to contact the office.

The 2020/2021 council and committees were formally elected at the AGM and we welcome new members on board, and will hopefully be holding our next council meeting in early March 2021. The president's committee were also re-elected at the AGM and a collective election was made to keep the existing committee in office until May 2021 when we will hold the next AGM, I would personally like to thank this committee for providing support in a number of subjects over the last six months.

There has been some progress on deciding a route for the World Federation conference in 2024 and the committee will be working towards a June 2021 launch.

In May next year Lesley Hoggitt will be retiring from her position in what will be her fortieth year of employment with the Society. The position will be advertised in the New Year and Lesley will help handover to the new employee. Many of you have got to know Lesley over the years and she has provided me with a great deal of assistance and I will definitely miss her cheeriness.

From Lesley and I, we hope you and your families stay healthy and safe. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

APOLOGY

The Ayrshire Cattle Society of the UK and Ireland would like to make a public apology to members F J & M Mattinson & Sons regarding the incorrect recording of the sire for registered animals Troutbeck Progress, Troutbeck Flawless, Troutbeck Famous Jess, Troutbeck Famous Jess 2 and Troutbeck Famous Jess 3.

The official DNA results confirm that Delta Webmail is the sire of the registered animals and not Hunnington Famous as previously recorded, meaning that the Ayrshire percentage for the registered animals will change from 87.5% to 37.5%.

All members directly affected have been contacted and we would like to reassure all members that we have dealt with the situation as a priority and have introduced extra measures to the current process to ensure an error like this will not happen again.

The Society sincerely apologise for the error and reiterate that F J & M Mattinson & Sons followed all the correct Society procedures and are in no way responsible for the incorrect information that was recorded.

Any queries relating to the matter must be directed to Alan Timbrell, Breed Manager.

SPECIAL AWARDS

2019 RESULTS

Due to holding the AGM by video conferencing we could not present the annual awards, so certificates and awards will be delivered to recipients. Please see below for a list of these awards.

120,000 KG CLUB LP120

Sandyford Clover 10, EX97 8E 4 Star LP120 E T Tomlinson & Son

100,000 KG CLUB LP100

Combebow Polka Dot 4, EX91 2E LP100 Brian & Sharon Coombes
 Cuthill Towers Regal Ray 9, EX94 7E LP100 A&S Lawrie
 Heydale Winsome 110, EX94 5E 3 Star LP100 D W Berresford & Son
 Hilltown Snowball 544, EX90 2E LP100 M/S R T & J I Adams
 Loukat Lucky, EX96 4E LP100 R A Bown
 Morwick Sand Princess Red, EX93 4E LP100 M&A Howie
 Ridley Hill Orchid, EX93 5E LP100 James Howie
 Swaites Bunce 4, EX92 2E LP100 J Adamson & Son

STAR BROOD COWS

Ravenhill Ethel 200	J Suffern	10 stars
Haresfoot Bella 6	Mapleburn Farms	8 stars
Haresfoot Pamela 5	D C Alderson	8 stars
Rosehill Magenta	WRC & J E Christophers	8 stars
Haresfoot Easlad Ella	R A & S Arnott & Son	6 stars
Ravenhill Tulip 15	J Suffern	5 stars
Rosehill Black Magenta	WRC & J E Christophers	5 stars
Lynner Blue Fairystory	C Walters	4 stars
Middle Punchs Emerald Blend	R A & S Arnott & Son	4 stars
Sandyford Clover 10	E T Tomlinson & Son	4 stars
Sandyford Maple Clover	E T Tomlinson & Son	4 stars
Heydale Winsome 110	D W Berresford & Son	3 stars
Cottown Amelia 2	J Drummond	2 stars
Haresfoot Ella 60	D Hunter	2 stars
Pam Ayr's Dream Hawaii	P G & S Williams	2 stars
Rosehill Magenta 3	WRC & J E Christophers	2 stars
Caldervale Reality Bella	W S Millar & Son	1 star
Cottown Lynne 3	J Drummond	1 star
Cottown Rachel 2	J Drummond	1 star
Cottown Rihanna	J Drummond	1 star
Cottown Ruth 3	J Drummond	1 star
Largyvale Marie Girl 3	R McConnell	1 star
Lynner Fairytale	C Walters	1 star
Marleycote Sea Lily 14	J McLean	1 star
Ravenhill Ethel 394	J Suffern	1 star
Ravenhill Ethel 395	J Suffern	1 star
Ravenhill Tulip 55	J Suffern	1 star
Rosehill Real Black Magenta	WRC & J E Christophers	1 star
Stamford Charm 59	H W Oultram & Co	1 star
Stretton Connie 15	P & T Jeffries	1 star

The 2019 winner of the Premier Ayrshire Breeder exhibitor award and recipient of the Haresfoot Vase is E T Tomlinson and Son. Congratulations to Blaise, Deborah, Evie, Millie and Annabell who have such dedication to showing their animals all over the UK, providing a showcase for their herd and the breed.

The reserve for 2019 is H W Oultram & Son, Stamford.

PHOTOGRAPHIC AWARDS

2019 RESULTS

PHOTOGRAPHIC WINNERS

Class Under 12 months

Allstar Supreme Joybell 2	Evie Tomlinson
Beechmount Marie Girl 23	R & C McConnell
Moathouse Skyfall Kiss	Richard & James Danforth

Class 12-18 Months

Sandyford Famed Clover	E T Tomlinson & Son
Butterbesley Famous Marjorie	R & A Cornish
Moathouse Emjest Pearl	Richard & James Danforth

Class 18-24 Months

Sandyford Triclo Fable	E T Tomlinson & Son, Alan Timbrell & Brent Crothers
Millford Maple Lark	A Timbrell & M Tomlinson
Sandyford Supreme Sea Lily	E T Tomlinson & Son & E & O Wake

Class 2 Yrs

Allstar Triclo Joybell	Evie Tomlinson
Fineview Skyfall April 2	R & S Clark
Stardust Supreme Queenie	Millie Tomlinson

Class 3 Yrs

Allstar Triclo Joybell	Evie Tomlinson
Cuthill Towers Highland Bloom	A&S Lawrie
Sandyford Provider Fragrance	E T Tomlinson & Son

Class 4 Yrs

Allstar Provider Honesty	Evie Tomlinson & Ifan Wilson
Sandyford Dark Hester 2	E T Tomlinson & Son
Sandyford Lucky Florrie	E T Tomlinson & Son

Class 5 Yrs

Sandyford Dark Hester 2	E T Tomlinson & Son
Harperfield Sandy Rose	Firm of DM Lindsay
Sandyford Lucky Honey	Ian & Joyce Mclean

Class 6-7 Yrs

Ardmore Janet 110	J & M Hunter
Butterbesley Obliques May	R & A Cornish
Willowfields Winnie 2	Firm of DM Lindsay & H & L Batty

Class 8 Yrs

Troutbeck Burdette Jess 3	FJ & M Mattinson & Sons
Gargus Jemima 3	C & C Creeper
3rd Rosehill Viagra Primrose	W R C & J E Christophers
3rd Pylon Minty 12	Richard & James Danforth

Red & White Heifer

Rockset Integral Rae	G Lawrie & Sons & B Yates
Cuthill Towers Addition Peony	A&S Lawrie
Megarose Red Sapphire	Megan Stratton

Red & White Cow

Eastford Atonium Kiwi	Caroline Lawrie & Sheila Yates
Knowe Barby 2	G Templeton
Beeline Texas Swan 2	S N Bailey & Partners

Amateur

Interbreed Pairs	Evie Tomlinson
Sandyford Provider Fragrance	Evie Tomlinson
Harperfield Sandy Rose	Linda Batty



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LOOKING BACK

Breeder Linda Batty, shares, a nostalgic look back at the transportation of cattle.



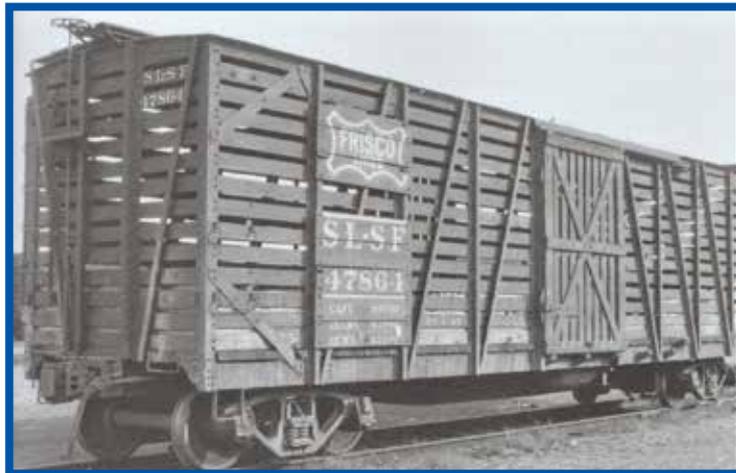
BREEDER COMMENT

I'm sure we're all missing the camaraderie of the shows and events we're normally enjoying around the country, and further afield, throughout the year. Bearing this in mind, I decided to look at some of the interesting journeys cattle made. The information comes from a book called 'Boxcar Boys' by Ronald F. Eustice.

Tips on showing also included ignoring friends around the ring, along with only watching your exhibit and the judge, points everyone recognizes today, however the rosette everyone was hoping for was blue – not the more usual red most shows present!

The early rail boxcars were transporting cattle from the early 1830s. They were generally a boxcar with a flat roof and slatted sides for ventilation, and a sliding

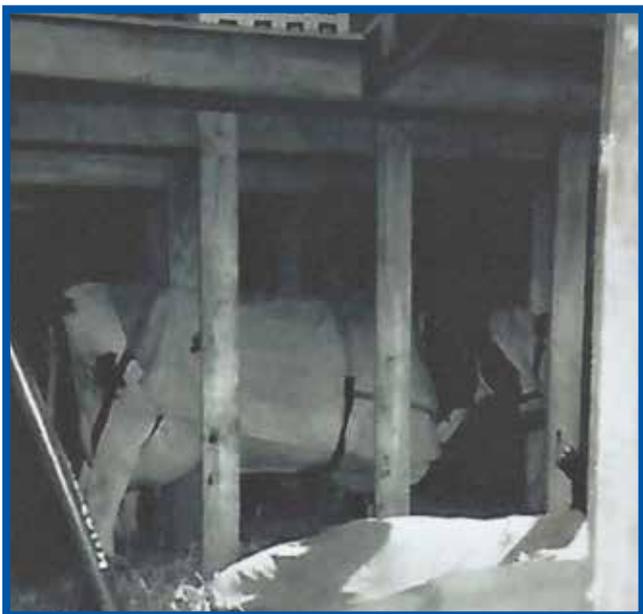
door for access. Show cattle were moved in special enclosed boxcars with solid sides, although ventilation would be via an open door. Early cars were built from wood, changing to steel in the mid-1900s.



Many cars were lined with boards running horizontally, so that some could be removed for ventilation – generally the fifth and seventh. Cattle on the show round often maintained their own stall in the car, sometimes tied up, and other times in a stall with ropes across to keep them in place. There would be a loft above for storage of food and bedding, which also provided a place for the stockmen to sleep. There would also be a gravity fed water tank for watering

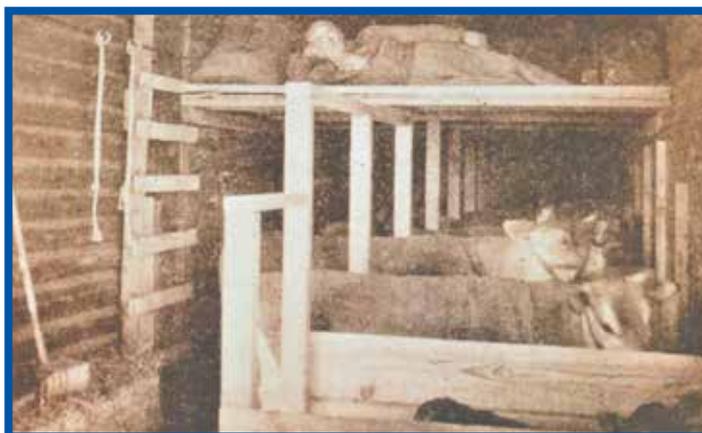
In 1946, a shipment comprising of ten Ayrshires (purchased by a wealthy planter and dairyman) left New York, bound for South America. There were various inspections by vets and government authorities before the cattle were loaded into a Douglas DC-3, which had been converted into a model flying barn, for a twenty hour flight. There were three rows partitioned by panels, with the heaviest cattle at the front. The journey utilized just one bale of hay for the whole trip, and was far quicker than the 39 day journey by land and sea which would have been the alternative prior to this.

Another flight, which was claimed to have been the first transatlantic shipment of cattle, was of five bulls from Massachusetts to Milan in 1947. As the plane flew over the Alps, a crew member was highly concerned as all the cattle were out cold and thought to be dead. However, as the plane descended, the cattle came round - probably a result of an unpressurized compartment! Evidently cattle are sensitive to changes of pressure at high altitudes....



the cattle into buckets via a hose pipe. Milking would take place on route – by hand...on journeys which could easily take a week!

Apparently Jersey cattle were never to be washed while on the circuit as it would destroy the natural oil in the hide and hair – they required plenty of rubbing and brushing, and wore a blanket to protect the coat. All of this eliminated the need for oiling the coats, along with stopping the judge from being covered in oil by the end of judging!



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020

Ayrshire Breed Manager Alan Timbrell shares his thoughts on 2020.



What a past nine months it has been for every person in the World because of COVID 19. Little did we realise that this virus, which was first mentioned on the news in early 2020, would have such a

lasting effect on the way we interact with our friends and colleagues, with many of our lives being turned upside down.

With no shows or meetings in the last nine months it's been hard to get to visit as many areas as I would have liked to, but hopefully 2021 will bring us all back to some sort of normality.

There have been some highlights this summer, the Friday Farm virtual herd visits that were posted on the Society YouTube channel were a big success. This was an idea formulated originally by Richard Baynes, of the Marleycote herd, and it went down so well we were asked if we could get other breeders to do virtual tours of their herds too. If you didn't get to see them please visit the YouTube channel, or go to the Society website and head to the news area and scroll back through the pages, the links are still there. The herds that were featured were Marleycote, Troutbeck, Bigginvale, Ravenhill, Plaskett, East Church, Grove, Swaites, Heydale, Tontine, Hilltown, Gwynnog, Rosehill and Whitecroft. Many thanks to all the herds that did the videos, it really helped some members get through a difficult summer with nowhere to go. We will be carrying this on next year, so any member wanting to showcase their herd please contact the office and we will upload your video to the website.

BREED HERITAGE

The breed heritage committee has been busy looking at some of the elite cows of the breed, both pure and blended, to formulate breedings that hopefully Cattle Services can use for future bulls or bull mothers. While I appreciate sexed semen has become so consistent, and there is very little negativity on fertility with its use, we do need breeders with these elite cows to be willing to serve some of them to conventional semen

to produce future sires for the progress and longevity of the breed.

Another project currently in progress for the advancement of the breed is to genomic test all males that are registered with the society, to help build up our reliability in the genomic database. This will be done with a simple tissue sample which will also give us the parentage, so there will be no need to pull hairs as is done at present. It will all be done with one sample through our preferred Genomic partner, Cogent. The upside to this is that we may find a bull very high genomically that has been overlooked, because perhaps its dam or grand dam were lost before they had reliable milk records. Once our council are able to meet we will be discussing this with a view to implementing the process.

At the last council meeting it was decided that as it has been five years since the Ayrshire Type formula had been looked at a small working party be appointed to look into it. We have been working very closely with Fern Pearston, from AHDB, who came and spoke to us at our March council meeting and I hope by the December proof round we will have this finalised to bring the Type formula up to date for what our breeders will need in the Ayrshire Breed for the next decade.

Claire and I have been working very closely with the Scottish Government to bring our breed in line with the zootechnical legislation which has been made a requirement for animals in our herd book. One of the consequences of the UK leaving the EU is that the Republic of Ireland will no longer be able to register their animals in the UK herd book as the EU does not allow our herd book to be extended into Europe. We are looking into how we can best advise our Southern Irish members what is their way forward.

With all the work carried out on the zootechnical legislation both Claire and I have noticed that there are some slight alterations needed to the Society By-laws to bring this all in line, so at the next council



BECA JONES

meeting these changes will be addressed.

BREED PROMOTION

There have been many online shows dotted around the country with good entries all round and we, as a Society, have got right behind these events and have put sponsorship in to support these very worthwhile events. Hopefully next year we will have the real thing and get to see these magnificent animals once again grace the ring.

The Young Breeders weekend was cancelled earlier in the year and it was missed by all. So, with that in mind an idea was put forward to run what we finally called the Field to Photo competition, and it was exactly that. The competitor was asked to take a calf from the field and clip and prepare it for a photograph. The competitors were asked to provide a video and photographs of them completing the challenge, and this would be shown to our judges - Wendy Young and Sam Wake. We must say the standard was quite outstanding throughout all the age groups. There were three groups: under 13 years, 13-17 years and 18-26 years (on the 1st of August 2020). Our group winners were William Honeybun for the juniors, Beca Jones for the Intermediates and Jake Sayer for the seniors. Our overall winner was Beca Jones from South Wales, whose family own the Gilwen Herd of Ayrshires. Our judges' reasons for Beca Jones being their overall Champion was that she had really looked at her calf (Gilwen Roselinda 2) and told the judges what she felt were its weaknesses, and she had clipped and presented it with this in mind, and the final outcome had really improved Roselinda.

BREED DISPERSAL SALES

This year has seen many new herds being set up, and the Ayrshire cows' popularity for withstanding harsh climates and the ability to convert even poor forage into milk has made her the ideal cow for many farm systems. There has also been some dispersal sales and draft sales in this period with many outstanding prices. The Trenhayle herd of Messrs Roskilly & Sons, Cornwall sold 166 animals in their dispersal sale at Exeter Market, and there was brisk bidding throughout for these very correct Ayrshires, and the overall average was £1400 a life.

Another Dispersal sale this autumn was the Marshview herd of Messrs Bolderston & Partners, Norfolk, at Sedgemoor Market, Somerset, which saw their outstanding Stella family making all the top prices of the day. Marsh View Simbad Stella VG88 2nd calver made the top price of 1800gns going to a new breeder in Somerset and her yearling daughter by Plum-Bottom Tridents Lot making 800gns to the David & Jake Sayer's Denmans herd.

Mervyn and Mark Nicholls' Hilltown Ayrshires had their tenth annual draft sale of calved heifers and young stock in Exeter livestock centre, and on the day it was a very sticky trade throughout with some great animals on offer. The top price of the sale was for a freshly calved heifer, Hilltown Violet 461 by Hilltown Einstein's Regard, which traced back to the 4-Star Brood cow Hilltown Violet 59 EX91 2E PL60 and was purchased by Robert & Anita Cornish, Butterbesley herd.

Border and Lakeland monthly sales have seen strong interest in the Ayrshire cattle, with many prices topping £2000 with some top cow families being forward, one was Cuthill Towers Magic Ray, granddaughter of our National Ayrshire show 2015 Champion Cuthill Towers Radar Ray 13 EX94 2E, selling to Raymond Stewart's Fortfield herd in Northern Ireland and also Sam Wake sold a stunning individual, Blydale Famous Sea Lily out of our 2019 National Calf show Champion, for 2900 gns to Martin King, Kirkinriola Ayrshires, Northern Ireland.

Something that has come to light over last few months is that we have had many enquires for organic Ayrshire cattle and at the office we don't have a record of the herds that are organic. Can we please ask all the organic Ayrshire herds to drop us an email so we can put this on our database so if we have any enquiries, we can contact you immediately.

I hope 2021 will be kinder to us all and if there is anything I can do for you then please don't hesitate to contact me. Stay safe everyone and I very much hope to see you all soon.

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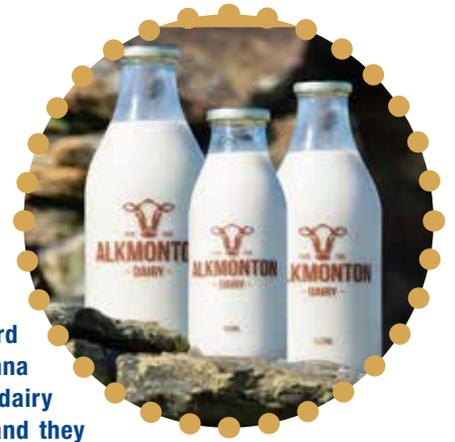
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FARM FEATURE

It all started in 2008 for Paul, Lenora and Richard Harris with the purchase of Alkmonton Old Hall Farm, just south of Ashbourne in Derbyshire. This is where today they are farming 1000 acres, which is split into 300 acres of grass and 700 acres of arable land. It was five years later, in 2013, that the family started producing milk at the farm from their 150

Ayrshire dairy cows. The Harris family also have a herd of 60 pedigree Limousins and a flock of 200 sheep. After much research as a family the decision was made to select the breed of cows that they felt would give them the dynamics to a thriving business. By looking into many different breeds and their strengths and weaknesses, they decided that the Ayrshire cow was the one for them because of its excellent milk quality and the overall health and fitness of the breed. They also liked the look of the Ayrshire cow and would enjoy working with a traditional breed.

The family always had in the back of their minds that they would one day like to retail their own milk, and this was another main consideration in choosing the Ayrshire Cow. The success of this would depend on taste and in their own words, the milk tastes so good!

The Harris family selected their foundation stock from some of the most established Ayrshire herds in the UK, with the majority of animals purchased from Stamford, Willhome, Pylon, Castern, Hunnington and additional animals from Whitecroft, Bigginvale, Tessvale, Garret Hall and Heydale. The Harris family have always believed in buying good genetics and that is very easy to see when you look in the bull pens at Alkmonton; Swaites Dermot and Biddesden Hector have both been purchased to run with heifers over the last few years and many top AI sires have been used to great effect. At the last classification visit there were three homebred excellent cows, two by Wroughton Lord Winston and the other by Haresfoot Panache.

In 2019 son Richard married Joanna Jeffery, a local dairy farmer's daughter, and they decided that this was the right time to start their new venture, retailing their own milk, and to supply a healthy nutritious product to local people with a low carbon foot print. They wanted to come up with a way of promoting their own products locally, cutting out the middleman and getting it straight to the people of Derbyshire. Richards parents, Paul and Lenora, who run the family construction business, drew up plans and, with their wealth of knowledge in the construction industry, put together the retail dairy and bottling plant.



Ayrshire branded Alkmonton Dairy delivery vans

In June 2020 Alkmonton Dairy started delivering milk to the local area and, from a standing start during a global pandemic, they now retail 7000 litres a week. They supply their products to the local area using an online ordering system which they have developed, and to date have 250 doorstep deliveries for which their customers place orders using an app. They also deliver to cafes, shops, hotels and restaurants.

Alkmonton Dairy supply whole, semi skimmed and skimmed milk in 500ml and one litre glass screw top bottles, rather than the traditional foil tops, which are returned, washed and used over and over again so reducing their carbon footprint. The milk is also available to purchase in 500ml, one litre and two litre plastic cartons.



The girls behind the brand

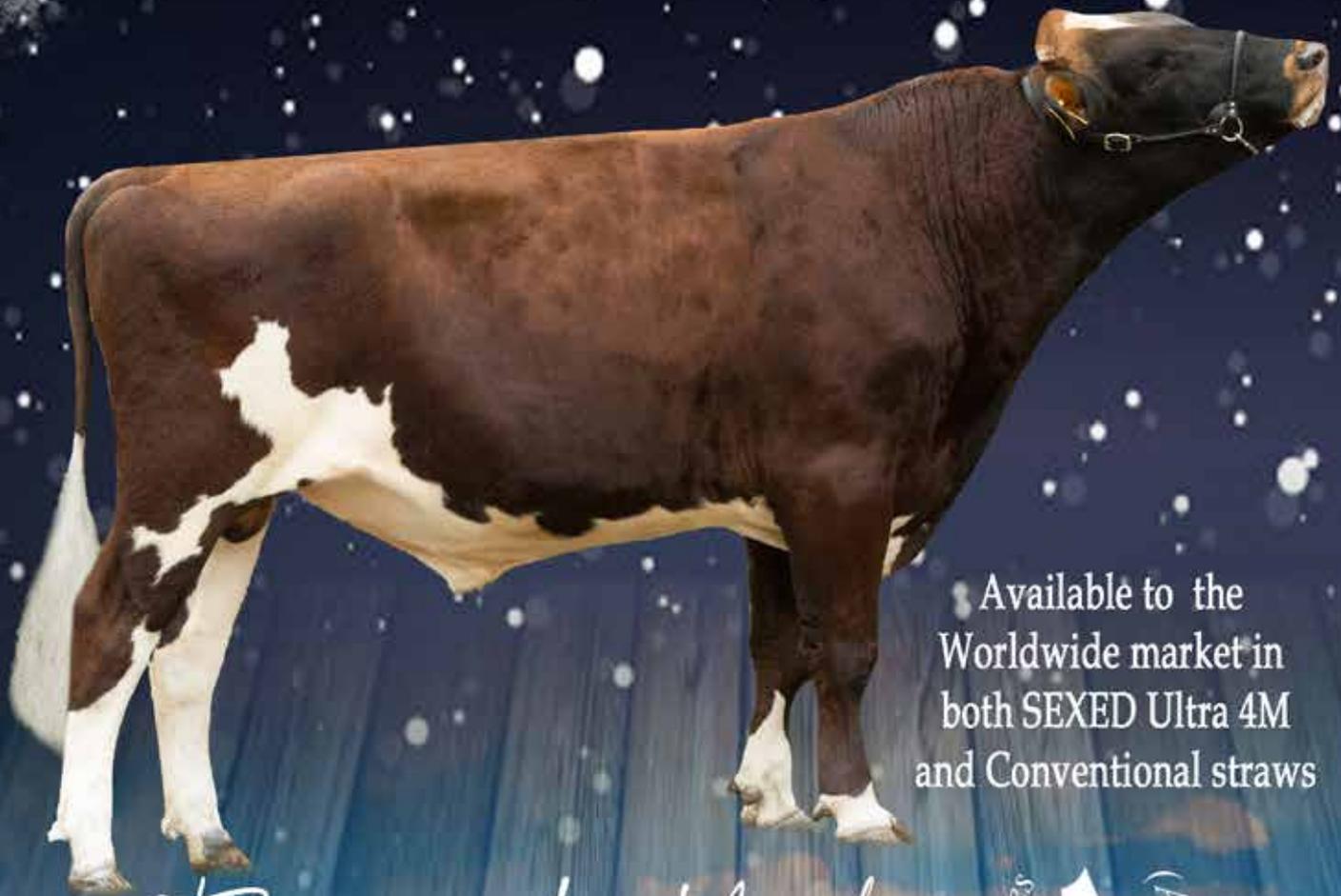
In addition to milk, they are selling double cream and fresh free-range eggs - from their own flock of Black Rock hens.

Richard and Jo have proved to be a formidable team, and with their hard work and determination Alkmonton Dairy has come a long way in six months, and with the Harris family's drive and passion it will go from strength to strength, their moto is 'Passionate about our cows and our product, we are committed to delivering the highest quality to your door'.



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CATTLE SERVICES NEWS

Sam Wake rounds up 2020 with the latest from Cattle Services.

Well what a year! When 2020 started, there was a lot to look forward to and then it all took a sudden turn for the worst straight after the UK Dairy Expo in March. As most of the country ground to a halt, it was refreshing to see the public start to take note of what you all do as farmers in the UK. You couldn't stop and have continued to produce products from your farms and kept the country going.

In these unprecedented times Cattle Services have been lucky to have your support, and

business has continued as usual. We have been very fortunate that we have been able to still deliver straws and collect bulls on centre. Sales for 2020 have been very strong, with Sexed Ultra 4M straws from Brieryside Hail, Biddesden Hector, Moathouse Monopoly, Pam Ayrs Hawaiian and Sandyford Time Lord selling very well. It is also great to hear that breeders are having such good conception rates when using Sexed Ultra 4M semen. The only challenge for Cattle Services is that everyone is now breeding their best cows to sexed semen, therefore it will reduce the amount of bull calves being born, which in turn limits the options of new bulls coming into the breed, so if you do have a bull calf born that you feel may be of interest then please can you let me know.

Internationally, 2020 has been the best year to date for exports from Cattle Services with straws being sent to the following countries: Australia, Canada, Finland, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden and the USA. It is amazing to see these countries using UK genetics, with a range of sires such as Heydale White Willow, Hunnington Famous, Sandyford Triclo and Whitecroft Panell, adding these bloodlines to their national herds.

When I am talking to you all, I often get asked which bulls excel in certain traits, so I thought I would list some bulls that rank the highest in the three most popular traits that people ask about: Type Merit, Production and Components.

Type Merit Proven Sires – Hilltown Oblique, Changue Stadium and Gwynnog Primetime

Type Merit Genomic/Future Sires – Whitecroft Nectar, Cuthill Towers Buster and Brieryside Hail

Production Proven Sires – Sandyford Triclo, Brieryside Snowman and Caldervale Realisation

Production Genomic/ Future Sires – Brieryside Magic, Pam Ayrs Hawaiian and Beeline Santa Rock

Fat % Proven Sires - Haresfoot Panache, Hilltown Oblique and Hunnington Famous

Fat % Genomic /Future Sires - Whitecroft Panell, Brieryside Hail and Heydale White Willow

Protein % Proven Sires – Stamford First Quality, Haresfoot Panache and Rosehill Vitality

Protein % Genomic/Future Sires – Willhome Pams Horizon, Beeline Santa Rock and Pam Ayrs Hawaiian

All the above sires are available today to use in your breeding program alongside many more, including Ardmore Jeepers Creepers and Brieryside Hail who are available in sexed semen.



On behalf of the directors and myself I would like to sincerely thank Blaise Tomlinson for his time and input into the Cattle Services Committee over the last six years.

Hopefully 2021 will see us getting back to some normality and I hope to see you all soon. Have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Cuthill Towers Famous Sarah – sired by Hunnington Famous



Whitecroft Bella 60 – sired by Whitecroft Panell



Whitecroft Emmie 151 – sired by Heydale White Willow



Rosehill Phlache – sired by Haresfoot Panache

PNEUMONIA AND IT'S COST ON YOUR HERD

Katherine Ball of George Veterinary Practise, Malmesbury, Wilts offers expert advise to breeders on pneumonia prevention.



**BREED
TECHNICAL
ADVICE**

As winter quickly approaches the high risk period of calf pneumonia starts. With warm days but cold night, humid and wet environment, and also the stress and effect of mixing cattle at housing all has a part to play.

Pneumonia costs the UK dairy industry an estimated £60 million a year, with each case said to cost on average £43 for a dairy heifer and £82 for a beef animal. However it is not just the veterinary and medicine costs, but 26% of the cost is due to lack of growth rates and 11% on extra labour. This does not include

the effect on increased days to service and a 5% yield decrease in the first lactation for every bout of pneumonia. There are also other hidden costs as according to post mortem data only half the animals that showed lung damage had been treated for pneumonia, so even the ones in the group that look unaffected are likely to have slowed growth rates and can have long term lung damage.

Pneumonia is a multi-factorial disease meaning that many aspects can influence the disease. The key areas are the calf itself, the environment it is housed in and what bugs are present and in what numbers.

- We have limited control of the bugs present on farm, however having strict biosecurity and vaccination policy.
- Ensuring the calf has good level of nutrition (up to 900g powder or 6L fresh milk a day) to secure a strong immune system often has a surprising but dramatic impact on pneumonia levels. A low stocking density of 2.5m² per calf should be allocated to lower the risk of spread. Vaccinations can play a part in improving the calves specific immunity against pneumonia viruses and bacteria.
- The environment also has a dramatic effect on many diseases but specifically pneumonia.

Jamie Robertson LMS states that 50% of current youngstock building do not ventilate adequately. Of the ones specifically designed to house calves this will only ventilate 70% of the time due to weather conditions. Therefore there is a great amount of work to be done in this area.

To assess existing building there are 5 key areas that are investigated suggested by Jamie Robertson

1. FRESH AIR

Fresh air is essential to life, but also clean dry air will kill viruses very quickly, so dramatically lower the risk of viral pneumonia. The fresh air will also remove other harmful gases such as ammonia which can damage the air ways making it more vulnerable to attack.

All cattle buildings should have a full change of air at least 4 times an hour ideally 6 times an hour, to ensure the fresh air is constant.

For this to occur an outlet of 0.04m per calf or 0.1m² per cow is required, the air should then enter in the inlets, at least twice that of the outlet.

2. AIR SPEED

However with all this fresh air entering the building we should not create draughts. A draught is deemed to be when the air speed is over 2m/s (slow walking pace), and ideally should be below 0.3m/s with in the calf micro-environment.

A typical Holstein calf will have a lower critical temperature of 15 degrees (a beef calf will be lower and a jersey will be up at over 20degrees!). This means that below this temperature the calf will use its own energy to keep warm instead of growing and improving its immune system. If the calf is placed in a draught the lower critical temperature will rise by 7 degrees, so 22 degrees for a Holstein calf. If the calf is placed on a damp bed the lower critical temperature will rise by 5degrees, so 20 degrees if not in a draught or 27degrees if damp and in a draught, that's an average summer day!

3. MOISTURE

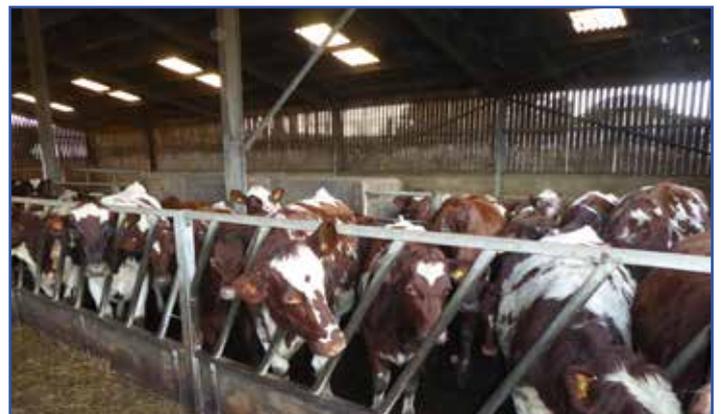
As we have already stated, a moist damp environment alters the calf lower critical temperature. We ourselves know that wet clothes feels cold. 1L of water, covers approx. 1meter square of concrete, this will take 3.4 hours of calf warmth energy out of the environment to evaporate and will then sit in the air as dampness. The areas of wet flooring within calf systems is often high to try to increase hygiene however we need to be aware that this is removing significant energy from the environment.

Damp environments also increase the survival of viruses in the air as drying has the most impact in stopping spread. Systems were there is wet areas either under the calves or around feeders will also increase the spread of scour pathogens.

4. TEMPERATURE

The temperature inside a calf shed is often same or can even feel colder than outside (due to lack of direct sunshine, draughts, and moisture removing energy). The small non-ruminant calves will not produce enough heat energy to warm the air to drive stack effect. Stack effect is where we presume heat is created from the cattle, this warms the dirty air, which then rises up and out of the roof, because of this fresh new air will be sucked in at the sides.

As we have already said the calves' lower critical temperature is above the average UK temperature for a significant number of months, therefore for efficient calf rearing this area needs to be addressed. This can be addressed by trying to conserve the energy the calves have by using calf jackets, and/or using plenty of straw so



the calves can nestle into it so it is above the hocks when they are lying down. Or by providing them with more energy, with is often done by increasing the amount of milk powder by 100g/d, however heaters are also being considered in a number of builds.

5. EASE OF CLEANING

This is an area the cattle farmers are poor at compared to the pig and poultry industry. All calf systems should be thoroughly cleaned between calves with all organic material removed, steam pressure washed then specific disinfectants used depending on whether crypto and cocci are a problem, with a 7d period to dry and be exposed to UV light. However in many systems this is difficult as this adds significant moisture to the area, the use of lime as a drying agent is often advised however this should not be confused with a disinfectant. All water troughs, feed troughs, and racks should be fully emptied and refreshed before the new batch arrives. The use of plastics to cover walls or used as pen sides is great as this is easy to clean but also more of an insulating material compared to metal or concrete. An Annual "deep clean" should also be planned for the summer when calving is as light as possible to totally try to break the disease cycle.

The five points show that by assessing the housing in a structured way we may be able to suggest quick and cheap solutions that can help. These can range from placing rubber, or board across the bottom of doors to prevent draughts at calf level. To advising on stopping tipping the water out into the central passage, brushing it to prevent pooling, or placing gunnels into drain it away. However

“Pneumonia costs the UK Dairy Industry £60 million a year .”

if limited fresh air is the problem which it often is forced ventilation is required, remembering that we need to be aware of creating draughts.

Fans will draw fresh air in to a building however will only act on air within 3m of the fan. Fans can also be placed to suck dirty air out of the building, however again only works within a limited area. If the building is very enclosed the positioning of both in and out fans can be used to direct the flow of

air, however little evidence is there to show what effect this has on the calves environment at 15cm from bedding level.

The use of a fan and tube/duct system was created to ensure the air brought into a building is spread all the way along the building. However many of the tubes currently in calf sheds in the UK were not calculated accurately to ensure that the air left the tube in an even way, that prevented draught at calf level, so many I see are turned off or removed. Ken Nordlund a Vet based in Wisconsin USA fan system accurately calculates the fan and duct needed to ensure that air leaves the tube at less than 6m/s and arrives at calf level at 0.3m/s so ensures there is no risk of draughts at calf level. The calculations also ensure that the air leaving the tube is even along the whole length of the tube due to the pressures with in the tube, often poor in the older systems. I have a number of farms using this new design fan and duct system in place and more currently being ordered, the air test prove they are working and the farmers are pleased.

Whitecroft Ayrshires

Providing the complete Package

	LONGEVITY	TYPE	PRODUCTION
W Bella 30	24/08/02	EX94 (7)	128,356KG 14L
W BROWN GIRL 7	20/06/05	EX94 (8)	106,226KG 12L
W MYRA 28	03/03/07	EX94 (6)	103,047KG 12L
W BELLA 32	22/03/07	EX92 (3)	101,278KG 11L

ALL 4 MILKING IN THE HERD TOGETHER



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SAY YES TO JESS!



**TROUTBECK
BURDETTE JESS EX96 4E**
BY PALMYRA TRI-STAR BURDETTE

1. 8,273 kgs 304 4.30% 3.39%
2. 9,238 kgs 274 4.76% 3.27%
3. 10,900 kgs 305 5.13% 3.40%
4. 10,728 kgs 305 4.85% 3.31%

Adding to many other achievements
1st Prize 8yr and over Cow in the 2019
All Britain & Ireland Photographic



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NEW EX96 POINTED COWS



GARGUS JEMIMA 3 EX96

A standout moment for the breed is that we have had four EX96 point cows in the period since our last publication.

These are Troutbeck Burdette Jess 3, Gargus Jemima 3, Cuthill Towers Crown Ray and Hunnington Fragy 16. I was very lucky to see all of these great cows and it's such a shame that shows like the Royal Highland, Royal Welsh and the National Ayrshire show at UK Dairy Day did not go ahead, because I'm sure that if these cows had been exhibited it would have given us some great advertising to show what the Ayrshire breed has to offer.



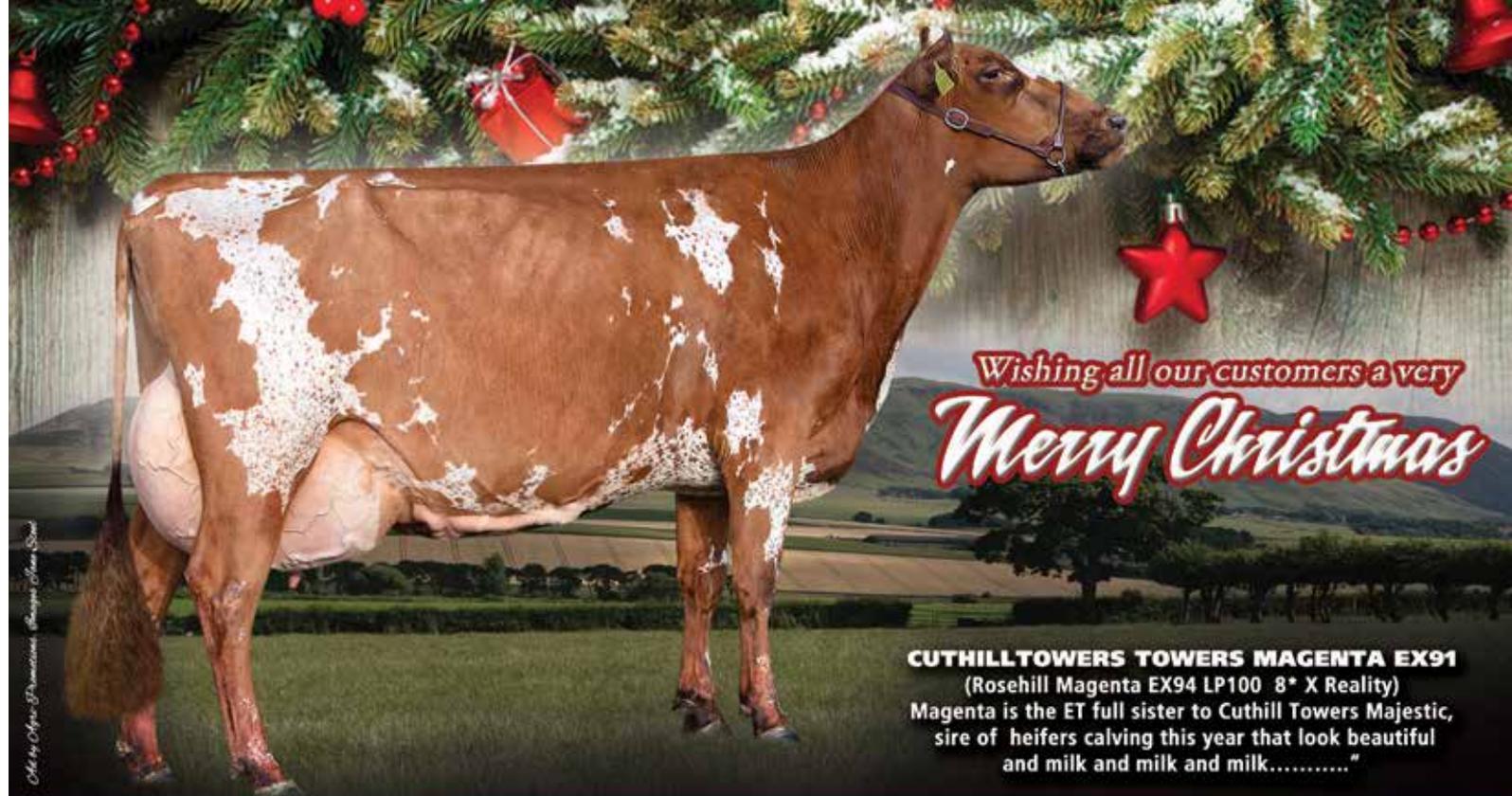
HUNNINGTON FRAGY 16 EX96



TROUTBECK BURDETTE JESS 3 EX96



CUTHILL TOWERS CROWN RAY EX96



Old by Chris P. Photography, Glasgow, New York

Wishing all our customers a very
Merry Christmas

CUTHILLTOWERS TOWERS MAGENTA EX91
(Rosehill Magenta EX94 LP100 8* X Reality)
Magenta is the ET full sister to Cuthill Towers Majestic,
sire of heifers calving this year that look beautiful
and milk and milk and milk....."



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Genomics



The Future of Improved Herd Performance

Over the past few years Genomic testing has become more readily available within the UK offering farmers the opportunity to better understand the genetic potential of their herd. Genomics allows us to predict the traits that the tested animal will pass on to his/her progeny therefore allowing us to establish the genetic potential of an animal from a young age and allowing us to make informed and accurate breeding decisions. In doing this, you only breed from the best driving genetic gain and ultimately



In the past Parent Average (PA) data has been relied upon to make data driven decisions, however the reliability of this information for the Ayrshire breed is low (15-22%) whilst genomic data provides over 40% reliability. Couple this with the fact testing often re-ranks animals flagging up animals which are better than PA or sometimes worse (table 1). For example, females originally ranked on PA £PLI with a genetic merit high enough to be served to sexed semen, had a lower genetic merit upon genotyping, resulting in these being served to beef. Whilst females deemed genetically inferior on PA £PLI were in fact of high genetic merit upon receiving the more reliable genomic evaluation and therefore were recommended to be served to sexed semen. Without genomic evaluation it is difficult to predict an animals true value. It is all about accuracy of decision making.

Table 1-Farm Example: Comparison between PA PLI and Genomic PLI

£GPLI	Breed Category	PA £PLI	Breed Category	Variance
124	Beef	221	Sexed	-97
145	Beef	212	Sexed	-67
165	Beef	298	Sexed	-133
278	Sexed	175	Beef	103
261	Sexed	189	Beef	72
232	Sexed	172	Beef	60

Why Genomic Test?



Improves Reliability: Genomic testing offers 40-50% Reliability compared with 15-22% for parent average data



Removes Guesswork: Provides you with hard facts about an animals potential along with more data to make informed decisions.



Selection Pressure: Allows you to increase the pressure you put on specific traits to drive improvement.



Validates Parentage: Genomic Testing has shown about 10-12% of recorded sires are not actually the tested animal's sire

How It Works

- ⇒ An ear sample is taken from a heifer calf using a device with a tissue sampling tube
- ⇒ The tissue sample is returned to Cogent who process pedigree information and send the sample to Genetic Visions for testing
- ⇒ The DNA is extracted and tested on a 70K chip to ensure the highest reliable result possible.
- ⇒ This information is sent to AHDB Dairy who formulates the genomic evaluation
- ⇒ The farmer receives a genomic proof including genomic breeding indexes for the animal. The whole process takes 6-8 weeks to complete





HOW NOW DAIRY

The home of Ladywell Ayrshires.



Oliver Lee believes in challenging the norms if they no longer work for the good of people, animals or the environment.

Through his innovative new start-up venture, How Now Dairy, he wants people to share his pride and love for the land, his cows and their milk. Milk, which is holistically produced in the South Hams area of Devon, beneficial to the environment and just so

“So often in farming producers miss out on the true value of their crop,” says Oliver, . “We are striving to be a vertically integrated operation, producing, processing, marketing and delivering our milk direct to local households, hence with the overall aim to maximize our profits.”

Throughout Oliver’s farming practices he has been combining traditional methods with newer techniques, aiming to improve efficiencies. How Now Dairy is proud to be a part of the Free-Range Dairy Pasture Promise, which aims to keep cows out for more than 180 days a year. Oliver has been grazing his cows in 12-hour paddocks, splitting his 20-acre grazing block into 48 paddocks with a 24-day rotation on organic grazing.

happens to be local and direct.

Oliver’s mantra is: ‘Look after the land and the land will look after your cows. Look after your cows and they will look after you’.

Fresh-faced out of Duchy College in 2016 with a foundation degree, and in the same year chosen as a finalist in the Farmers Weekly Awards’ Agricultural Student of the Year category, Oliver, 24, is aware he has less experience in the industry than most. However, his vision, drive and enthusiasm more than make up for this.

At How Now Dairy they produce, process and deliver every single drop of milk. With twice daily deliveries, mornings and evenings, taking place twice a week, How Now Dairy deliveries whole and semi-skimmed milk to Ivybridge and surrounding area’s door steps.

The milk they deliver only ever comes from How Now Dairy’s 24-strong herd of pedigree Ayrshire cows leased from Russell Ashford’s Bowden herd. How Now Dairy loves the world we live in and wants to play their part in its health and restoration. They started from a great position recycling their plastic milk pouches, however, they found it difficult in reality and were mortified to hear some “recycling” was just shipped around the world to be swept under the carpet. Oliver made a decision to take a positive step and lead a change in the packaging of his product. He said, we don’t see glass as a viable option due to all the heating and carbon costs that are associated with it. We don’t just recycle our packaging; we go one step further. We fully compost all our returned pouches and boxes. This is possible because we have found a biofilm, that not only holds the milk, but we can also use it to produce more milk! By opting for a COMPOSTABLE biofilm and non-toxic cardboard, using biological processes we can turn the film and cardboard into compost. This compost increases the amount of organic material in our soil, which then aids the growth of our grasses our cows graze on. Turning our packaging into grass.



As part of his farming strategy, Oliver is also embracing herbal leys. This offers a more varied diet for the cows, as well as improving the green cover of the farm over the grazing season, while at the same time storing more carbon in the soil; possible because of the increased root mass.

In addition, Oliver has been reinvigorating the land by planting a variety of leys including an oats and pea arable silage, acting as a nursery crop for the herbal ley seeds underneath.



Alongside farming, Oliver has been pasteurising and packaging the milk for delivery himself. There is a real intimacy on the farm at How Now Dairy between Oliver and his cows, something which he is passionate to also replicate with his customers.

There is a ring of nostalgia about How Now Dairy and how they sell their milk, selling from the farm through a milk round, with the cream still rising to the top in every jug. Oliver concludes: “How Now Dairy is an exciting enterprise with a clear difference, aiming to improve the value of the fields and the quality of milk sold.

“Through combining old and new techniques, How Now Dairy is creating a nostalgic product, selling milk as it should be, from a living farm, direct to people’s homes.”

For further information about How Now Dairy visit their website www.hownowdairy.co.uk



Know your cows Know your milk Know your business

Making small controlled changes to herd management, based on the highest quality information, is one of the best approaches to improving profitability.

Contact us today to discover the gains to be made from adopting cost-effective and efficient services from the NMR Group.

Total Herd Recording option available for registrations - demonstrating strong cooperation between NMR and the Ayrshire Cattle Society.



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bulk milk



Improve
pregnancy
rates



Breed more
profitable
cows



Increase herd
longevity



Access flexible
on-line reports



Use less
antibiotics

ETHEL - THEY HAVE IT ALL!

100 TONNE PRODUCTION RUNS IN THE FAMILY



RAVENHILL ETHEL 200 EX92 4E 10*
Gave over 100 tonnes in 12 lactations
Her daughters Ethel 393 EX95 7E (left)
Given over 100 tonnes in 10 lactations and SM.
Ethel 394 EX95 7E has given over 100 tonnes
in 11 lactations and SM
ETHEL 245 EX92 5E gave over
100 tonnes in 12 lactations
Type too- 5 EX and 3 VG daughters

Visitors & Enquiries welcome

Ravenhill
AYRSHIRES

JOHN SUFFERN

Ravenhill, 10 Ardmore Road, Crumlin, Co Antrim, BT29 4QS
Tel: 02894 452691 Mob: 07867 536032 Email: suffern@btinternet.com



Merry Christmas
to you and your families
from Presidents
and staff of the
Ayrshire Cattle Society



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