

LONGHORN

Cattle Society

Issue 83

March 2014



The Blackbrook Herd has a selection of young bulls for sale by Blackbrook Trapper, Blackbrook Rochester & Blackbrook Uruk-Hai.



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Nr. Coalville, Leics., LE67 5UT
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Longhorn News

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Dear Members

Welcome to the March newsletter. The recent weeks (going into months) have been dominated by the flooding around the country. I am not aware of any Longhorn members who have been directly affected by the flooding but I do know that at least one member has donated straw to affected farmers - thank you for your generosity.

Enclosed with this newsletter is the Shows leaflet for 2014, detailing all the shows that have Longhorn classes. Please check with the individual show organiser, or the Society website, for up to date information on these shows.

The Herdbook for 2013 closes at the end of March so if you still have some 2013 births

outstanding please get them to me before the end of the month to guarantee inclusion in the Herdbook. If you haven't returned your survey please do so - it ensures we keep an accurate registry and means I can be confident that the information I provide DEFRA and other statutory bodies is correct.

There's some changes to the Autumn schedule of sales this year - more details are included in the Newsletter.

Also in the newsletter are details of a couple of members' events and the AGM. There's a very relevant theme emerging focussing on beef production. The breed is known for it's quality beef and the Society wants to help members produce the best beef they can so Longhorn beef can maintain and grow that reputation!

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

First of all many thanks to all members who voted for me to serve another three year term on Council, where I was then elected to be Chairman at the January meeting. I am looking forward to carrying on the good work that Richard started and working with my fellow Council members and Debbie.

I hope Council will run the Society to suit all members & their needs; we hope you will inform us of any ideas or suggestions that you feel will benefit members and the Society. All our contact numbers are in the Herdbook, this newsletter or on the website.

The shows & sales will soon be upon us and the Society would like to impress upon you that good body condition, trimmed feet & well behaved cattle can only reflect well on the breed as a whole; we really need to impress the public and any prospective breeders. If anybody has any doubts about their Cattle please either e-mail pictures or request a visit from a Council member to advise you. We need to follow on from the fantastic publicity we have had over the last few years from top chefs who have voted Longhorn beef the best. This benefits all members and is free advertising. If you are only keeping Longhorns purely for beef then please get a beef certificate from the Society as it certifies it is a pure bred animal and helps towards the Society's advertising costs.

Finally if you have young family members or helpers with you at the shows who are interested in Longhorns why not get them showing in Longhorn young handlers, it is possible they may be able to borrow quiet cattle from fellow exhibitors and they may well be the future Longhorn breeders we need.

David Blockley, Chairman of Council



**Debbie Dann, 3 Eastgate, Stoneleigh Park,
Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG**
Tel/fax: 0845 017 1027
Email: secretary@longhorncattlesociety.com
Website: www.longhorncattlesociety.com

twitter.com/longhornoffice

facebook.com/longhorncattlesociety

Longhorn member Roger Adams recently holidayed in New Zealand and stopped by Doug and Frances Drury's Pacific herd



SOCIETY EVENTS

SUMMER VISIT 5 JULY

The Summer visit this year is to David and Sharon McVeigh's De-Kenton Herd, Kenton, Suffolk.

The McVeighs have lived at Kenton Hall for nearly 30 years and over that time have restored the house and grounds and made improvements to the farm. Kenton Hall is a popular wedding venue and it has a glamping site for those who wish to camp but also like a little luxury!

The Longhorn herd was established in 2007 and now forms a significant part of the farming activities.

The family will have a stand selling Longhorn burgers at the Snape Maltings Farmers Market, Aldeburgh on Saturday 5 July and members are invited to visit the Farmers Market and see how De-Kenton Longhorn beef is sold. Aldeburgh is known to many people as the home of composer and conductor Benjamin Britten.

After visiting the Farmers Market there will be a tour of the farm including the new Roundhouse cattle accommodation, the new cookery school and of course the Longhorns. It is hoped there will be a butchery demonstration. Should sufficient numbers attend then an evening 'do' in the wedding marquee may be put on.

Accommodation is available locally for those that want to make a weekend of it, which is encouraged!

This promises to be a fantastic visit to a beautiful area that merits more exploration - stay a night or two and make a weekend of it.

Booking forms will be available soon but expressions of interest in advance of the forms being ready will help me plan. The McVeigh's website is <http://www.kentonhallestate.co.uk>

SOCIETY EVENTS

BEEF PRODUCTION WORKSHOP 17 AUGUST

In 2010 the Society organised a very successful Beef Production Workshop at Charles & Debbie Sutcliffe's Tetford herd near Horncastle, Lincolnshire.

The Sutcliffe's have kindly agreed to host another workshop on Sunday 17 August. Charlie and his son Jim (who runs the family butchers Meridian Meats in Louth) will lead the day.

Below are Charles' thoughts behind some of the themes to be explored during the day. What was discussed at the last workshop is as relevant now as it was then:

Nobody would disagree that over the past 20-25 years the Longhorn has been improved by selective breeding probably more than at any time since Robert Bakewell selectively bred the "improved Longhorn" in the late eighteenth century.

An eye to the show ring has been the motivation almost exclusively in the present day improvements whereas Bakewell concentrated on meat production and by the time he had finished his cattle were fat and meaty and suitable for the market of that era.

The Longhorn is now a mainstream breed and, on the whole, is doing a great job producing quality beef for a discerning "niche" market. But how does today's Longhorn match up to what the trade buyers look for when selecting cattle to purchase? We all know that our breed can produce beef of unrivalled taste, texture and succulence but how does it shape up in terms of wastage at the boning out stage? Have breeders moved on from viewing beef production as a by-product of pedigree breeding rather than their prime objective of breeding beef cattle? How much influence does diet, stress free rearing, age at slaughter, hanging time have on the quality of the end product? Can pedigree breeding and meat production lie together in comfort?

Booking forms will be available soon but expressions of interest would be useful. Numbers may have to be limited. Suggestions for overnight accommodation are available for those wishing to make a weekend of it. Meridian Meats in Louth will be open on Saturday for those wishing to have a look at how Jim retails Longhorn beef.

SOCIETY EVENTS

AGM 2014 11 & 12 OCTOBER

This year's AGM heads to Herefordshire. The new date for the AGM is the weekend of Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 October. It is hoped the earlier date will suit more members as cattle will still be out and the days will still be lighter as the clocks won't have changed.

Our visit on Saturday 11 October will be to Richard Vaughan's Huntsham Court Farm where will learn about finishing Longhorn cattle for the very discerning restaurant market. Richard also breeds and finishes Middle White pigs and Ryeland sheep so there will be plenty to see.

Our overnight accommodation will be in the beautiful Symonds Yat, on the banks of the River Wye.

On Sunday we will be visiting the Dinmore Herd of Limousin cattle by kind permission of Mr Paul Dawes and managed by Longhorn panel judge Richard Bartle. This herd is managed commercially, has had much success in the show and sales ring and is making use of superior genetics via AI and embryo transfer.

Alongside the cattle is the Dinmore Manor Stud which specialises in breeding showjumpers.

Relevant websites

www.huntsham.com

<http://www.dinmore.net/index.html>

Photo Competition

We'll also hold the photo competition again this year, with the judging taking place at the AGM. Make sure you take your camera or phone with you whenever you are with your cattle and start getting some pictures lined up!

Booking forms for the AGM will be available either online or in the next newsletter.

REGISTRATION FEES 2014

From 1 January 2014 the following female registration fees will apply

Online reg up to 3 months	£20.00 + £4.00 VAT = £24.00
Paper reg up to 3 months	£25.00 + £5.00 VAT = £30.00
Late reg 3-12m	£40.00 + £8.00 VAT = £48.00
Late reg 12-24m	£80.00 + £16.00 VAT = £96.00
Late reg 24 +m	£100.00 + £20.00 VAT = £120.00
Transfer fees	£10.00 + £2.00 VAT = £12.00
Beef Certificate	£5.00 + £1.00 VAT = £6.00

From **1 September 2014** the following male registration fees will apply

Up to 500 days old	£100 plus VAT £120.00
501-650 days old	£150 plus VAT £180.00
651-800 days old	£250 plus VAT £300.00

BULL REGISTRATIONS

Those members wishing to register bulls can download a registration form from the website or ring me for one - in any case please get in touch as you will need a hair sample bag for each bull being registered. The registration form, photographs and sample bag must be signed by a vet and these, along with the payment for registration must be received before the registration will be processed. Allow yourself plenty of time, especially if you are thinking of entering your bull for a show or sale and never assume the office has received the documentation!

Emailed registration forms or photos cannot be accepted as delivery cannot be guaranteed - the Society has pretty strong spam filters on the computer which sometimes do not allow big photo files through. We have had one incident this year where a member thought an email had been sent but the office had never received it so please post everything.

REGISTRATIONS

The Year Letter for 2014 is



BEEF CERTIFICATES

Beef certificates are £6. They are proof that your finishing animal is a pure-bred Longhorn should you need to offer such proof to a butcher, finisher, meat marketing scheme or restaurant.

HERDBOOK 2013

Please ensure all your 2013 registrations are up to date in time for the 2013 Herdbook

The Herdbook will close on 31 March 2014 for 2013 registrations.

The Society is offering advertising opportunities in the Herdbook again. Copy date for adverts is 31 March.

Black & White display adverts

Full page	£150.00 plus VAT (£180.00)
1/2 page	£90.00 plus VAT (£108.00)

If you advertised in the Journal then advertising rates are:

Full page	£75.00 plus VAT (£90.00)
1/2 page	£45.00 plus VAT (£54.00)

BEEF EXPO 2014 21 & 22 MAY

After a spell of four years away NBA Beef Expo 2014 is returning to Hexham for two days of exciting activity focusing on the theme, "British Beef Feeding our Nation".

NBA Beef Expo 2014, organised by the National Beef Association will be centred around Hexham Mart Centre and the surrounding Northumberland countryside on Wednesday 21st May and Thursday 22nd May.

The first day will see three farm tours in the Hexham area, followed by the annual Beef Expo Beef Industry Dinner.

Thursday 22nd May, will provide the ideal forum for beef farmers to access the latest information and advice on production techniques with the trade stand area set between the National Spring Spectacular Show of cattle and the Beef Breed Society trade stand/demonstrations of cattle. This should help with a natural flow of visitors around the whole event. The overarching theme of efficient and profitable beef farming will also add to this high profile technical event for the beef industry.

Showing also features heavily, with four special classes organised to encourage young handlers plus novices who have always fancied a crack at showing, but were concerned their animals would be overshadowed by some of the high-value cattle shown by experienced competitors.

For more information and entry forms see the website www.beefexpo.co.uk/

The Society will have a stand at the event so please come and see us!

BORDERWAY AGRI-EXPO

FACTS AND FIGURES NEEDED!

The Society had a stand at the Borderway Agri-Expo at Carlisle on Friday 1 November 2013. Nicky Lockett was in charge of the stand and reported that the event was very busy and there was a lot of interest in the stand.

The breed cannot sell itself on looks alone and it would be good to have performance information from members to provide to potential breeders. If you keep accurate records with regard to the physical and financial performance of your herd and are happy to share these in confidence I can then put together anonymous information for farmers wishing to compare Longhorns with other breeds. Thank you!

NATIONAL SHOW 2014

The National Show will be at the Lincolnshire Show on Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19 June. Put the date in your diary! The Society will be hosting a lunch after the judging on Wednesday 18 - please let me know if you are hoping to attend so I have a rough idea of how many to cater for. Thank you!

Schedules will be mailed out shortly. Mr & Mrs D Blockley have kindly offered £250 to the Breed Champion so there's all to play for! Get your entries in and let's show the good citizens of Lincolnshire just what a good show we can put on.

Adrian McConnel wishes all his Longhorn friends a Happy and prosperous New Year, and a successful showing season.

COUNCIL MEMBERS 2014

The following Council members represent you in 2014.

James Barber, karenbarber7@hotmail.com , 01789 840271
 David Blockley davidblockley@btconnect.com , 07831 247405
 Charles Cottrell-Dormer ccd@rousham.org, 01869 347110
 Peter Guest, colabalonghorns@aol.com , 01568 760251
 Bernard Llewellyn, carregcennencastle@btinternet.com, 01558 822291
 Nicky Luckett, nickyluckett@aol.com , 01697 371487
 John Stanley, info@blackbrook-longhorns.com , 01509 503276
 Charles Sutcliffe, ctd.sutcliffe@btinternet.com , 07771 611718
 Richard Warner, jawarnercattle@tiscali.co.uk , 01530 243957

Please contact any one of them if you have any queries regarding Society or Council matters.

COUNCIL MEETINGS 2014

Council meeting dates for the rest of 2014 are as follows. If you have a matter you wish to raise with Council please either contact one of the Council members listed above or Debbie in the office in plenty of time before a meeting.

Tuesday 8 April, Tuesday 15 July, Tuesday 9 September

FLOODING

By definition the situation with flooded farms across the country is 'fluid' so I will refrain from detailing the current situation. Further to the email I sent out in February up to date information on how to help with straw, forage or monetary pledges, or to get assistance, can be found on the NFU website, link here.

<http://www.nfuonline.com/news/latest-news/flooding-how-you-can-help/>

NATIONAL SHOW & SALE 2014

The National Show & Sale will take place at The Livestock Centre, Worcester on Saturday 30 August. Put the date in your diary!

Unfortunately Rugby Farmers Mart at Stoneleigh could not accommodate us on the dates Council felt would be most suitable so we are using the facilities at Worcester this year. In view of the diminished entries at the National Show & Sale over the last couple of years Council decided that a National Sale maintaining the quality and standards that have been established should continue, but in order to make the event financially viable the Autumn sale should be held on the same day.

This means there will be a Premier Show and Sale and there will also be a sale for unled cows, bulls and finishing stock that will not have to be shown.

Entry forms will be available nearer the time - for those of you who normally prepare cattle for the Autumn sale, usually held in September, please remember to get your cattle ready three weeks earlier.

SOCIETY SALES

The Longhorn breed is known for it's resilience and hardiness but the Society sales are the breed's shop window and potential new members may be put off by seeing cattle in poorer condition. Council want you to get the best price for your cattle at Society sales and be happy with what you have put forward to represent your herd and the breed.

When assessing your cattle for potential entry to Society sales please consider if they will be in a condition that will reflect well on you as a vendor as well as the breed in general. If in doubt please ask Debbie to arrange for a Council member to visit who will be able to advise you.

Council reserves the right to inspect any cattle entered for Society sales to assess their suitability.

TB testing is compulsory for all cattle entered in the Society sales being held at Worcester this year.

REGIONAL GROUPS

The regional groups operate independently of the Society and organise herd visits, social events and herd competitions. Enthusiastic group members are always welcome. Do get in touch with your local breeders group co-ordinator and get involved in group activities

Mid West Longhorn Breeders Group

For details of Group activities

Contact: Peter Guest, Colaba Lodge, Hamnish, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 0QN Tel: 01568 760251.

Email: colabalonghorns@aol.com

Midland Longhorn Breeders Group

For details of Group activities

Contact: Rachael Heard, Hill House, Welford, Northamptonshire, NN6 6JQ Tel: 01858 575 280

Email: rheard@live.co.uk

Northern Longhorn Breeders Group

For details of Group activities

Contact: Nicky Luckett, Wellhead, Mealsgate, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA7 1DJ Tel: 01697 371487,

Email: nickyluckett@aol.com

Welsh Longhorn Breeders Group

For details of Group activities

Contact: Bernard Llewellyn, Carreg Cennen Castle, Trapp, Llandeilo, Dyfed, SA19 6UA Tel: 01558 822291

Email: carregcennencastle@btinternet.com

NEW MEMBERS



We should like to welcome the following new members to the Society:

Mr D Brittain, Pinecroft Farm, Pinecroft Way, Chapeltown, Sheffield
Mr K Uridge, Townings Farm, Chailey, Nr Lewes, East Sussex
Mr P Sadler, Springhead Farm, Hag Lane, Easingwold, N Yorkshire
Mrs B Edmunds, The Old Barn, Cinder Hill, Stretton, Derbyshire
D Pearson & R Weston, Silverhills, Walgrave, Northamptonshire



FEMALES FOR SALE

Please check the website for up-to-date listings of cattle for sale, photos and extra information

M&C Ridewood, Whitemoor Lane, East Anstey, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 9JF

Mobile: 07590 255852

Email: piggingswood@hotmail.co.uk

PIGGINGSWOOD NOODLES 24739/N01027

Born: 24/02/2013

Sire: Holcombe Gringo 16081/G0673

Dam: Long Ash Iora 17529/I0241

PIGGINGSWOOD NIBLET 24764/N01027

Born: 28/02/2013

Sire: Holcombe Gringo 16081/G0673

Dam: Tripps Greengage 14553/G0605

PIGGINGSWOOD NUGGET 25106/N01027

Born: 21/04/2013

Sire: Holcombe Gringo 16081/G0673

Dam: Long Ash Korea 21055/K0241

PIGGINGSWOOD NELLIE 25625/N01027

Born: 19/07/2013

Sire: Holcombe Gringo 16081/G0673

Dam: Long Ash Kinder 20509/K0241

JJ Turner, Aikbank Farm, Calthwaite, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 9QZ

Mobile: 07788 542087

Email: jamesturner@aikbankfarm.co.uk

GREENGHYLL NIAMH 24975/N01225

Born: 22/03/2013

Sire: Raby Kaiserchief 23143/K0079

Dam: Broomfield Kerry 24441/M00565

Also a non-pedigree heifer born 29.03.13 for sale

Ken Prestidge, Forest Farm, Small Lane, Earlswood, Solihull, Warks, B94 5EL

Mobile: 07774 878134

Email: ver7acity@aol.com

FISHWICK MARYLOU 24359/M00087

Born: 16/07/2012

Sire: Bollin Eugene 13805/E0343

Dam: Louella Carefree 12975/C0707

In calf via AI to Plaitford Orlando 2714

JIA Newby, Pool House, Nibsheath, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 1HL

Tel: 01939 260381

NIBSHEATH MIRABELLE 23751/M00693

Born: 11/04/2012

Sire: Three Bridges Galileo 15393/G0797

Dam: Nibsheath Fickle 13470/F0693

NIBSHEATH MOLLY 23753/M00693

Born: 14/04/2012

Sire: Three Bridges Galileo 15393/G0797

Dam: Nibsheath Gertrude 14434/F0693

NIBSHEATH MARYANNE 23754/M00693

Born: 15/04/2012

Sire: Three Bridges Galileo 15393/G0797

Dam: Nibsheath Frances 13469/F0693

NIBSHEATH MARGARET 23755/M00693

Born: 17/04/2012

Sire: Three Bridges Galileo 15393/G0797

Dam: Milborough Ellen 7541

FEMALES FOR SALE

Dr CC Jones, Tan-y-rhiw, Frondeg, Wrexham, Wales, LL14 4ND
Tel: 01978 750275
Mobile: 07517 728800

BROMWYLVA HERD DISPERSAL

The Bromwylva herd of Longhorns is for sale due to retirement. Cows & calves, bulling & junior heifers and stockbull Blackbrook Obi-wan.

Ginny Kingshotte & David Ellis, Middle Dean Farm, Trentishoe, Parracombe, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 4PJ
Tel: 01598 763218

Mobile: 07710 274079

E: virginiakingshotte@btinternet.com

TRENTISHOE HERD DISPERSAL

The Trentishoe herd is being dispersed at Sedgemoor Market on Saturday 8 March 2014. Further details on the website or from the Auctioneers GTH on 01278 410278

BULLS FOR SALE

Peter Milburn, Butterknowes Farm, Pauperhaugh, Longframlington, Morpeth, NE65 8JF
Tel: 01665 570231
Mobile: 07533 733361

ROXTON GERALD 16640/G0333

Born: 25/02/2006
 Sire: Rousham Antonio 9404
 Dam: Waltham Jenny 10338/B0462
 For sale as he will be back on his daughters.

Steve Wigmore, The Stables, Barrington, Ilminster, Somerset, TA19 0JP
Mobile: 07734 584673
Email: s900mlh@hotmail.com

BLACKBROOK TOLSTOY 21295/J0380

Born: 11/06/2009
 Sire: Blackbrook Philosopher 14255/F0380
 Dam: Blackbrook Natasha 11234/D0380
 For sale as he would be back on his daughters. Very quiet to handle.

C Miller, Cumrey Kitchen, Ponsonby, Seascale, Cumbria, CA20 1BX
Tel: 01946 841426
Email: cathymliller@uwclub.net

WELLHEAD IRON MAN 18573/I0268

Born: 11/02/2008
 Sire: Raby Gladiator 8623
 Dam: Wellhead Yewberry 8665
 Has been shown, well handled & quiet.
 Four year TB test area. For sale as he will be back on his daughters.

Dr CC Jones, Tan-y-rhiw, Frondeg, Wrexham, Wales, LL14 4ND
Tel: 01978 750275
Mobile: 07517 728800

BLACKBROOK OBI-WAN 13290/E0380

Born: 28/01/2004
 Sire: Blackbrook Hawkeye 8034
 Dam: Blackbrook Leia 9847/B0380

For sale as part of herd dispersal

STEERS & OTHER ITEMS FOR SALE

M&C Ridewood, Whitemoor Lane, East Anstey, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 9JF

Mobile: 07590 255852

Email: piggingswood@hotmail.co.uk

Piggingswood Nemo XB72880

Born: 04/02/13

Piggingswood Nik Nak XB72280

Born: 11/05/2013

Both sired by Holcombe Gringo

Gordon Townend, Park Farm, Hoo Lane, Tewkesbury, GL20 7DE

Mobile: 07778 576968

E: gordon.townend@btopenworld.com

Batch of 10-12 steers & heifers, 10-12 months old. All dehorned. By Carreg Herby 17281/H0149

MJ Bradley, Broadlands, Holmpton, Withensea, Yorkshire, HU19 2QR

Tel: 01964 630832

Mobile: 07825 361499

Following his retirement Mike has a number of farm items for sale include a tombstone round feeder, a couple of feed troughs, a flatbed and tipping trailer and a haybob. Please contact him for more details. Pictures and prices are on the website.

BULLS WANTED

C Miller, Cumbria, CA20 1BX

Tel: 01946 841426

Email: cathymliller@uwclub.net

Stock bull wanted for the Ponsonby herd.

BULLS WANTED

Cheshire Wildlife Trust, Cheshire, SK14 8EF

Tel: 01948 820728

Email: rowen@cheshirewt.org.uk

Stock bull wanted for the Gowy herd.

Graham Lea, Cheshire, SK11 9DP

Tel: 01477 571312

Email: glea@fsmail.net

Older stock bull required to work in a small herd of around 12 cows.

Peter Milburn, Morpeth, NE65 8JF

Tel: 01665 570231

Mobile: 07533 733361

Stock bull wanted for a herd of approximately 20 cows

Hayden Phillips, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 4NG

Email: mcjeyers@gmail.com or

homington@hotmail.co.uk

Stock bull required for the Homington herd.

Nick Read, Dorset, DT2 0HF

Tel: 07831 334480

Stock bull wanted for the small St Quintin herd.

Kenny Trembath, Cornwall, TR10 7QB

Tel: 07717056736

E: kenny@sunsetproperties.co.uk

Stock bull wanted for the Sun-set herd

Andrew Williams, Swansea, SA4 8DH
01792 884455

Stock bull wanted for the Rhyfel herd, preferably Blackbrook breeding

CATTLE WANTED**CATTLE WANTED**

Richard Vaughan, Goodrich, Ross on Wye, Herefordshire HR9 6JN

Tel: 01600 890296

Well grown store cattle male or females required for finishing.

DC Greaves, Ranton, Staffs ST18 9JU

Tel: 01785 282616

Stores always required for rare and traditional breeds finisher

A Goodman, Great Witley, Worcester-shire, WR6 6JJ

Tel: 01299 896590, mob: 07980271173

Steers wanted for finishing

Adrian Bytom, Alvechurch, Worcester-shire, BB48 7BX

Tel: 07836 681847

Email: newgapltd@googlemail.com

Wanted—Longhorns for grazing projects. Large or small, barren, culls, steers, what-have-you.

Mr P Grabham, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 7AN

Tel: 07875 464424

Email: tintin11@btconnect.com

Steers wanted for finishing

Charles Ashbridge, Thirsk, N York-shire, YO7 2HL

Tel: 01845 525330 or 07790 016823

Email: charles@tastetradition.co.uk

All types of cattle wanted for finishing

Sam Barker, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 3HS. Tel: 07793 365517

Email: sam@longhornbeef.co.uk

Organic steers and heifers wanted for finishing.

Piers Langdon, Bideford, Devon, EX39 5TA

Tel: 07989 382520 or 01237 431305

email: pierslangdon@btconnect.com

Steers wanted for finishing

Robert Vaughan, Fishguard, Pembro, SA65 9UA

Tel: 07773 789850,

email: robert@carnedward.co.uk

Cattle wanted for finishing.

Messrs JW & LJ Mellin & Sons, Skipton, N Yorks, BD23 4JP

Tel: 01729 850220

Email:

john.mellin@hullhousehellifield.co.uk

Steers and bulls wanted for finishing.

Simon Rigby, Nantwich, Cheshire, CW8 2RF

Tel: 07976 842761

Email: simonrigby@talktalk.net

Weaned steers wanted for finishing

SALES 2014

All dates subject to confirmation and DEFRA movement and gathering regulations

Saturday 26 April 2014

Society Spring Show & Sale,

The Livestock Market, Worcester WR4 0SQ
Auctioneers: McCartneys. Tel: 01905 769770

Entries close 14 March

Monday 5 May 2014

Society Scottish Sale

Stirling Agricultural Centre, Stirling, FK9 4RN,
Auctioneers: UA Group. Tel: 01786 473055

Saturday 17 May 2014

Society Northern Sale

Beeston Castle, Cheshire, CW6 9NZ
Auctioneers: Wright Manley. Tel 01829 262100

Entries close 22 April

Saturday 30 August 2014

Society National Show & Sale

Society Autumn Sale

The Livestock Market, Worcester WR4 0SQ
Auctioneers: McCartneys. Tel: 01905 769770

Thursday 11 September 2014

Multi breeds sale incorporating the Mid West Longhorn Breeders Club Sale
Sedgemoor Market, Somerset,

Auctioneers: Greenslade Taylor Hunt. Tel 01278 410278

Friday 12 & Saturday 13 September 2014

Traditional Native Breeds Show & Sale,

Melton Mowbray Market, LE13 1JY

Auctioneers: Melton Mowbray Market Auctioneers, Tel: 01664 562971

Cattle auctioned by Clive Roads, McCartneys LLP

Bulls and Biosecurity

Richard Lawrie PhD DVM&MRCVS

The purchase of a bull is one of the commonest ways in which disease enters farms. Too many farms think they are closed but buy bulls. A bull is as likely to be infected with an important disease as a cow and, because of the close contact during mating, far more likely to spread it.

So what should you be doing when buying a bull to prevent disease getting on your farm?

1) Bull Health Declaration

The first thing to do is determine his disease status. The best bulls to use have a Bull Health Declaration covering the major diseases: BVD, Leptospirosis, IBR, TB and Johne's. This declaration will show whether the bull's herd is free of the specific disease in addition to showing that the bull is free of that disease. In addition it will show whether the bull has been vaccinated.

2) Testing

If such a declaration is not available then you should get the bull tested. This is best done before moving the bull onto the farm. If this is not possible then the testing should be done as part of the quarantine system. Bulls should be tested for BVD, Leptospirosis, IBR, TB and (if older than two) Johne's. The best results need to be interpreted by your vet as the bulls' history (particularly any contact with a major disease) will affect the results. However, it is a major presponder that negative Johne's result does not mean a bull is free of disease as many infected bulls can test negative. The only way of ensuring that an animal is free of Johne's is to buy it from a herd that has been tested and shown to be free of disease. Never buy a Johne's vaccinated bull as this is likely to have come from a farm with a significant disease problem and vaccination does not prevent infection.

3) Quarantine

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if the bull passes these initial tests it should then go into quarantine on your farm. For BVD, Leptospirosis and IBR, it pays to retest negative animals that you have bought at a sale as they could have been infected at the sale and so the capable of spreading disease for another eight to ten weeks. Also ask your vet about treating the bull with antibiotics to prevent the excretion of Leptospirosis, which can happen even if the bull has no antibodies.

4) Other Disease Checks

The quarantine period is also useful for checking for digital dermatitis, Salmonella and Campylobacter. The latter is one of the commonest causes of infectious infertility, but only occurs in herds using natural service. Get your vet to test for Campylobacter and if necessary wash the prepuce and scrotum of your bull. Also ensure that all other additional TB test while in quarantine, so that the only bulls from such areas which are allowed to enter the herd have had two recent clear TB tests.

This testing will significantly reduce the risk of bulls bringing disease onto your farm, preventing such diseases as the 80-cow stud farm that lost 30 calves in one year due to BVD and the farm on which less than half of the cows got pregnant during the service period as a result of a bull infected with Campylobacter.

5) Vaccinate

Although the biggest risk is the bull bringing disease onto your farm, don't forget that infection can spread the other way. So if you have IBR, BVD or Leptospirosis and the bull you are buying tests negative, vaccinate to prevent it getting infected as these diseases can have significant effects on bulls as well as cows.

Neosporosis

Richard Lawrie PhD DVM&MRCVS

The MAADIS data show that the number of cases of abortion so far this year has been higher than average. One of the most recently identified causes of abortion is neosporosis, however recent studies suggest that neosporosis causes over 10% of all abortions in UK cattle.

What is Neosporosis?

Neosporosis is caused by infection with the protozoa *Neospora caninum*. Neosporosis has been found world-wide and in many species other than cattle. Currently abortion due to Neospora has been shown in cattle, sheep and horses. The dog and other canids (such as foxes) are the definitive host. That is they are the animals in which the parasite becomes sexually mature and reproduces.



Clinical signs

Abortion, between 3 and 8 months of pregnancy (particularly 5 to 7 months)

Still born or premature calf

Occasionally, calves will have brain disease at birth

No other signs seen in the mother

Repeal abortions possible in the same cow.

Diagnosis

- Clinical signs of late help

- Characteristic heart and brain damage in aborted calf

- Identification of parasite in the calf tissue

- Antibodies in the mother's blood

However, as a large number of healthy calves can be infected with Neospora it is important to eliminate other causes of abortion, particularly BVD or leptospirosis before a diagnosis of neosporosis is made

Treatment

- No treatment of any proven benefit

Prevention

Dogs are potentially a source of disease. So prevention must include:

a) Keeping cattle food and water away from dogs and foxes

b) High hygiene standards at calving. Dispose of placental membranes and aborted or dead calves before dogs can get them

However, transmission from mother to calf (known as vertical transmission) is far more important. Over 90% of calves born to cows in the month that Neospora will have been infected in the womb. The importance of transmission between cattle is less clear. Nevertheless, vertical transmission alone can maintain infection in a herd. To eliminate Neospora you need to:

1) Identify infected cattle and cull them. All cattle with antibodies to Neospora are sources of infection to their calves. Additionally cattle with antibodies are 20 times more likely to abort between 90 and 270 days of pregnancy than cattle without antibodies. Finally, on average, infected cows produce less milk than antibody negative cows.

2) Select only seronegative cattle for breeding. Heifers with antibodies should be sold for meat not bred.

These strategies look expensive to achieve, however the cost of neosporosis far outweighs the cost of eliminating it from the herd

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