

LUING CATTLE SOCIETY LTD.

JOURNAL No. 59

JANUARY 2026

Luings



CRAIGDARROCH



William Graham & Son

Craigdarroch Farm

Eliock

Sanquhar

DG4 6LE

Tel: 07920 859668



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Luing Cattle Society Ltd.

Pedigree House | 6 Kings Place | Perth | PH2 8AD

T: 01738 448349 | E: secretary@luingcattlesociety.co.uk | W: www.luingcattlesociety.co.uk

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Wednesday 31st December 2025

Census update deadline (Grassroots)

Thursday 5th February 2026

Luing Cattle Society Annual General Meeting

Canteen, Wallet Marts, Castle Douglas

Annual Dinner

Ernespie Hotel, Castle Douglas

Friday 6th February 2026

Wallets Marts, Castle Douglas

PREMIER PEDIGREE SALE

of in-calf and bulling heifers followed by breeding bulls
(Entries close Friday 5th December)

Monday 16th February 2026**Stirling Bull Sales**

Luing Society Sale

Saturday 28th February 2026

Deadline for 2025 born calf registrations (Letter E)

Tuesday 12th May 2026**Spring Breeding Sale**

Dingwall and Highland Mart

(Entries close Friday 10th April)

Friday 21st August 2026**OPEN DAY**

By kind permission of Cadzow Brothers, Isle of Luing

Monday 31st August 2026**Deadline(s):**

Bull inspection application form

DNA hair sample submission (Bulls intended for breeding)

Saturday 24th October 2026**Autumn Breeding Sale**

at United Auctions, Stirling

(Entries close Friday 11th September)

Saturday 7th November 2026**Production Sale – Cadzow Brothers**

at Oban Livestock Centre (Provisional date)

Friday 4th December 2026

Closing date for Castle Douglas and Stirling Sales entries

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2025 has been a year of highs and lows. Political pressures, fluctuating livestock and grain prices, and unpredictable weather have all contributed to a year that farmers won't forget in a hurry. Inheritance tax issues have further complicated matters, and although there are ways to manage these situations, it is often the most tragic cases that face the harshest penalties. Combined with the uncertainty around government trade deals, it makes one wonder why food security isn't higher on the government's agenda.

The old saying "up horn, down corn" has never felt more appropriate than it has this year. Beef and sheep prices have reached record highs – something that's certainly welcome, albeit long overdue. In reality, these prices should be even higher if they were to reflect the rising input costs. One of the key drivers behind the price increases is scarcity, something we must remain cautious of. The continued shrinkage of the national beef herd will eventually impact our Luings population. So, while we're currently at an all-time high, we may see numbers plateau or even decline if the trend continues.

Summer has come and gone, and many of us have faced challenges making enough fodder for the winter, as well as maintaining grass growth for grazing animals. That said, the sunny days did at least make working outdoors more enjoyable. A silver lining for livestock farmers has been the lower quality and therefore lower price of barley, bringing feed costs down to levels similar to the 1980s. Not such good news for those selling, of course!

The summer show season has been very successful, with strong interest at every event. In Wales, we've gone from hearing "what are

they?" to "where can we get them?", which is a hugely encouraging shift. Where possible, we'd like to assist Welsh buyers with arrangement of transport if this is a barrier to purchasing at society sales. I'd also like to offer a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has helped with show stands throughout the year. Without those who generously give up their time, we simply couldn't attend as many shows as we do.

Society sales have been excellent this year with averages being up on the previous years across all sales, most notably Dingwall up £1117. Whilst it is always sad to see a herd dispersal, the Rockcliffe sale was a tremendous day, and a very healthy average was achieved. It is very encouraging to see a crowded ringside at each sale and a very positive mood in the industry. All credit must be given to the vendors with a very impressive run of cattle going through each sale.

Council have been approached by the Rare Breed Survival Trust to be included on their website. This website has previously only featured priority and at-risk breeds but has now opened it up to native breeds and would like to feature Luings. The aim is to showcase the diversity of breeds within the country by having breed profiles accompanied by pictures and videos. We think this would be a great opportunity to promote the breed to a large audience.

As most of you will already know, at the beginning of July we sadly lost our secretary, Natalie Cormack, after a long battle with ill health. Natalie's passing is a great loss to both our society and the wider beef industry, and not to mention she was a great friend to many of us. Her knowledge, dedication, and drive played a major role in moving our society forward, and she is deeply missed by us all. Natalie had always been passionate about encouraging young people in the industry and had hoped to establish an initiative for young Luings breeders. Inspired by her vision, the council has begun discussing ways to carry this forward in her memory.

To finish off I would like to thank members of council, members and especially our vicechair Janet and fieldsman Charles for their hard work and support through what has been a challenging year.

Celebrating our 60th anniversary we shall once again be returning to the birthplace of the Luings breed on the island of Luings for the 2026 open day. I look forward to seeing you all there and I'm sure it will be a fantastic day.

Ewan McCall
Luings Cattle Society Chairman

This year's *View from the Office* is written at the end of a year of very real contrasts for the Luing Cattle Society: strong trade, busy sales and shows, and continued growth in the breed on one hand; and the loss of a key person and a period of transition in the office on the other.

As members will know, the Luing Secretary Natalie Cormack sadly passed away in July after a period of ill health. Natalie's professionalism, depth of knowledge and absolute commitment to the Luing breed helped continue to steer the Society through growth and change, and she is deeply missed both within the Society and across the wider beef industry. Many of the systems, initiatives and relationships we now take for granted have Natalie's fingerprints on them, and it is very clear from Council and committee reports that much of the current momentum owes a great deal to her work.

Following Natalie's illness and subsequent passing, broader Pedigree Cattle Services Ltd (PCS) staff stepped in to provide registration, herdbook and administrative services. The priority through the summer and autumn has been continuity: keeping registrations, transfers, sale catalogues and DNA results moving while we work through the practicalities of new systems, new people and a large volume of historic information. There have inevitably been some bumps along the way, particularly around the integration of DNA data and Grassroots updates, but Council has been reassured that the underlying data remains intact and that processes are settling as PCS and the Society refine how they work together.

Breed Numbers and Market Backdrop

Against this backdrop of change, the underlying story for the Luing breed remains one of steady growth and strong commercial relevance.

BCMS/CTS data for Great Britain shows Luing and Luing-cross registrations rising from 7,257 head in 2018 to 9,645 in 2025. The pattern is not a straight line – there has been some levelling in the last couple of years – but over eight years the direction of travel is clearly upwards. This independent data underpins what Council and the Fieldsman are seeing on the ground: more herds, more Luing-sired calves and a growing number of commercial producers choosing Luing genetics as a core part of their breeding strategy.

The wider beef market has also been a defining feature of the year. The October GB average prime steer price has climbed from 368.4p/kg in

2020 to 650.0p/kg in 2025, an extraordinary rise in a relatively short period. Members consistently report that this strength in finished cattle prices has provided welcome – and overdue – support in the face of high input costs, volatile weather and ongoing policy uncertainty. At the same time, as the Chairman notes, a degree of scarcity is now built into these prices: the national beef herd continues to contract, and we should expect that to influence Luing numbers in time if the trend continues.

The combination of a buoyant beef price, a shrinking national herd and growing interest in grass-based beef has kept the Luing very much in focus. Demand for hardy, forage-efficient cattle that fit native-breed and environmental schemes remains strong, particularly in the upland and hill areas where the breed's attributes are most obvious in day-to-day work.

Sales and Commercial Demand

Society sales have again been a major shop window for the breed, and 2025 will be remembered as a year of strong clearances and lifted averages.

At Castle Douglas, averages improved across all main classes, with particularly notable lifts at Dingwall compared with the previous year. The Rockcliffe reduction sale, produced a tremendous day's trading and demonstrated real depth of demand for well-bred Luing females. A crowded ringside and positive mood at each sale have been recurring themes throughout Council reports this year.

The Premier Sale at Castle Douglas saw 16 bulls sold to average 8,925gns and top at 24,000gns, with Luing bulling heifers averaging 2,841gns and in-calf heifers 2,708gns. The Stirling bull sale within the February multi-breed week continues to earn its place on the calendar, with a small but select entry of seven bulls averaging 9,086gns and topping at 14,000gns. The tie-in with the Simmental sale is working well, giving excellent exposure to commercial buyers who may not otherwise travel to Castle Douglas.

Beyond the Society rings, brokerage and private sales have again been busy. Charles has continued to place significant numbers of Luing and Sim-Luing cattle into new and existing herds, including finishing and retail systems that are now taking regular consignments of Luing-sired cattle week after week. Careful adjustments to commission and entry fees agreed by Council during the year are intended to strike a balance between supporting Society sales and

recognising the role that brokered and local sales play in getting cattle to the right homes.

Shows, Promotion and New Audiences

On the promotional side, 2025 has been an exceptionally active year, carried forward in no small part by the programme Natalie had set in motion and by the commitment of the Promotions & Events Committee.

The AGM and annual dinner at Wallets remained a valued social anchor early in the year, with a strong turnout of members and guests, including an enthusiastic group of Swiss visitors who combined their Castle Douglas visit with farm tours to see Luings working in their home environment.

The summer show circuit has been both demanding and rewarding. A well-supported stand at Beef Tech 2025 in Aberdeenshire, ably demonstrated by an outstanding pair of Sim-Luing heifers from Over Finlarg, generated a great deal of interest among commercial producers in the North-East. Further south, the Society's presence at the Welsh Hill Farming Event and the Royal Welsh Show has helped shift the conversation in Wales from "What are they?" to "Where can we get them?", backed up by eye-catching heifers supplied by local members.

The Royal Highland Show stand, fronted by four quality commercial Luing-bred heifers from Tillyrie, once again demonstrated how comfortably Luings sit alongside the best of the pedigree lines in the cattle hall. The Society also made a first appearance with the stand at the Black Isle Show, where in-calf heifers from Culmally showed the breed to great advantage to a northern audience.

All of this activity relies heavily on members who provide cattle, tow trailers, stand on concrete for long days and answer a steady stream of questions. The Society is extremely grateful to everyone who has contributed stock, time and energy to keep the Luing profile high throughout the summer.

Looking ahead, the 60th anniversary Open Day on the Isle of Luing on 21st August 2026 is already in members' diaries and will be a fitting return to the birthplace of the breed. Accommodation and travel details will follow through the Journal and newsletters, and members are encouraged to plan early.

Breed Development, Recording and Young Breeders

On the technical side, the Signet performance recording trial has now completed its first full year, with membership in the mid-teens of herds and encouraging signs that more breeders are beginning to see the value of structured recording and EBVs. A webinar earlier in the year helped demystify the process and highlighted

how even modest levels of data can contribute to more informed breeding decisions.

The sire verification and DNA profiling programme continues as an important underpinning of herdbook integrity. All bulls intended for pedigree use must be sire-verified, and members are reminded of the importance of pulling tail hair and submitting samples in good time to avoid delays in approvals. Council has deliberately chosen to retain a proportionate, practical approach to DNA testing and registration, recognising both the benefits of genomic information and the realities of working within a relatively small but growing population.

Work also continues on cow classification and inspection consistency. Council has agreed to arrange a classification workshop so that Council members and inspectors can calibrate their assessments and ensure as much consistency as possible across herds and regions. The graduated scale for scrotal measurements, allied to the 38cm minimum requirement, is now bedded in and appears to be functioning well in practice. Semen testing for sale bulls remains voluntary but is strongly encouraged where practical.

A particularly positive development this year has been progress towards a Luing Young Breeders Programme, an idea that Natalie had championed for some time. Council has agreed in principle to establish the programme, with a focus on practical skills such as handling, show preparation, classification days and farm visits, alongside opportunities for social and educational events. Funding will come from Society surpluses, donations and specific initiatives such as the JO heifer at Castle Douglas, with a trophy to be named in Natalie's memory. The younger generation are clearly central to the future of the breed, and the Society is determined to support and encourage them wherever possible.

Governance, Finances and Office Systems

Council and its committees have remained active throughout the year in the less visible but vital areas of governance and finance. The Governance Committee has continued to review the Society's Strategy Document, Risk Register and Council Handbook, ensuring that decision-making is transparent and in line with best practice. Minutes are now being circulated within 10 days of meetings to help Council keep on top of actions and maintain momentum.

The Finance Committee reports that the Society remains in a healthy financial position, with solid working balances, an established investment portfolio and a fixed-term savings account providing additional income. Registration and herdbook fee income remain the backbone of Society finances, supported by levies from Society and brokered sales, advertising and

events. Council has agreed a modest increase in the annual subscription to £50 + VAT from 1 January 2026 when the Direct Debit scheme will also be introduced.

On the administrative side, Grassroots remains the core platform for registrations, census and sale entries. Recent software upgrades and the movement of some functions into PCS have caused intermittent issues, particularly around DNA result display, but these are being worked through in collaboration with the provider. Members are encouraged to submit registrations and transfers in good time, to ensure birth weights are entered at registration where possible, and to keep contact details up to date so that newsletters and sale information reach the right people.

Looking Ahead

It has not been an easy year. The Society has had to manage the loss of a much-loved Secretary, and navigate the practical realities of changing office arrangements – all while continuing to deliver the registrations, catalogues, shows and sales that members rightly expect. That this has

been achieved without losing momentum in breed development, promotion or governance is a credit to the Council, committee members, volunteers and staff involved.

Under the leadership of Chairman Ewan McCall and Vice-Chair Janet Pringle, supported by the Council, Breed Development Officers, Fieldsman and PCS team, the Society is in good hands. Demand for Luing cattle remains strong, the breed's reputation for efficiency and adaptability is growing, and there is a clear programme of work ahead – not least the Young Breeders initiative and the 60th anniversary celebrations on the Isle of Luing.

On behalf of Pedigree Cattle Services Ltd, thank you for your patience, support and good humour during a year of transition. We look forward to working with you all in the coming year to support the continued progress of this remarkable breed.

Pedigree Cattle Services Ltd

On behalf of the Luing Cattle Society Ltd

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Stock bull Monzie Zeppelin Maol

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To constantly improve the herd we use our own scoring system which is measured when a cow calves.

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Approx, 99% of our cattle are polled having bred our first polled bull back in 1968!

We currently have a good selection of sensibly priced traditional bulls for sale (not forced)

We will also have a few heifers forward for the society sale in Dingwall

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BEEF THE WAY IT USED TO BE

The ancestry of the Luining combines the historic breeds of Shorthorn and Highland lineage blends which, were part of the very essence of the 'Prime Scot' – the by-word for quality in London's Smithfield Market of the 19th century.

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OUR HERITAGE

The Story Behind Luining Beef

Luining (pronounced Ling) is a small, windswept Hebridean island on the West coast of Scotland, where kind soils and abundant rainfall make plentiful cow pasture between the rugged crags that give shelter from the wild Atlantic breeze. Visitors, taking the 200 yard ferry journey, can expect spectacular views and tranquility – with rush hour traffic only of contented cows ambling towards sweeter pastures. These cows are of the breed known as Luining – and this is the Island of their home.

The Luining of today captures these traditional qualities of early maturity, marbling and tenderness from grass fed systems that enhance taste (and health benefits) while also delivering greater biodiversity and enabling the natural carbon-cycling capabilities of our soils.

How Did Luining Cattle Come About

In the 1940's, three brothers embarked on a project to secure a source of cattle for their established farming businesses on the east coast. They were looking for a breeding ground for healthy, well-bred cattle that could be journeyed East to better grazings for further growing, nearer to market. With great ambition, they started by buying an Island and set about improvements. In securing the right cow herd their vision was to embrace the best of tradition with a new approach. Taking a well proven blend of breeding, they established a breeding philosophy, kept their own bulls and over the course of the following 20 years 'invented' a new breed.

These men were the Cadzow brothers: Denis, Shane and Ralph. The Cadzow family still run the farms on Luining today and share the custodianship of Luining cattle with breeders from all over the UK and beyond.



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Promotion and Events Committee

2025 is coming to a close and as I look back with sadness at Natalie's passing, it is also with a huge admiration. Natalie worked very hard for our luings, right to the end and left us with a busy touring schedule round the shows and sales to be proud of. Her dedication and resilience will push me to better myself and go the extra where required.

While members were probably disappointed there was no "Open Day" in 2025 it did allow for some extra visits where we had a greater influence on catching new interest to the breed. It also allows a real build up to our 60th Anniversary Celebrations to take place on the Isle of Luing with traditions holding firm and the Cadzow family, along with Jo Mardsen and the wider team throwing open their doors to welcome us back for an update on what is happening now, while truly celebrating the past alongside. All roads lead to the Isle of Luing on Friday the 21st August 2026.

The year kicks off with the AGM at Wallets mart followed by a very fine and relaxed evening with our annual dinner. We were joined by a very enthusiastic study tour of Swiss farmers who had come across to see the Castle Douglas Sale and visit some host farms, viewing the cows in their natural thriving environment. We have been invited to Switzerland on a return tour so if there was enough interest out there, a group would be made very welcome.

Beef Tech 2025 was hosted by the Royal Northern Agricultural Society at the end of May at Home Farm in Mintlaw, Aberdeenshire. We took the Stand and were supplied by a pair of tremendous sim luing heifers from Hazel and Robert McNee, Over Finlarg. This pair of heifers were a real draw to our stand and created a good deal of interest and were ideally suited to the location and audience in the North East, although the event has such a reputation, people were far travelled to attend.

Very quickly after beef tech saw a 500-mile trip south to The Welsh Hill Farming Event. Which was well attended on perhaps a rather wet day. There is real benefit in attending these smaller set ups and supporting our members in these areas while still creating interest in our breed. It builds the momentum for The Royal Welsh Show. While Jo and Charles were with out cattle on the stand at this event, they still found themselves

with a busy day fielding interest and robust questioning on our cows' abilities. Of course, we know how well these questions can be answered in full by the cow herself in any location.

The Royal Highland Show is a recognised highlight in the touring show circuits. The Thomson family, Tillyrie provided 4 excellent heifers for viewing. The very pleasing thing here is that everyone gets to see some of the best beasts bred for showing in the cattle lines and then 4 commercial luing bred heifers that absolutely hold their own in the showing back drop we have to the stand. A real testament to the quality the Thomson's have in their Luing herd. The conversations these create are invaluable to our work promoting the breed. We fielded some very strong new enquiries across the show days, while also welcoming members to the stand.

Back on the road, back to Wales! (My own personal highlight and first-time visiting Wales). The Royal Wesh Show. The stand was supplied with two very canny fine heifers from Iwan Davies. This particular pair of heifers created a huge amount of interest. I am reliably informed from the usual Welsh show team, that they saw a big difference and the narrative definitely changing from "What breed are these?" To "Where best to get some of these?" We had 4 incredibly busy days on stand and that's what makes these longer trips worthwhile. Very strong interest and a growing number of members and farmers steadily building luing numbers here in Wales.

A first outing for the stand this year to the Black Isle Show didn't disappoint. Our very able Chairman Ewan McCall, Culmally provided the stand centre piece heifers for the talking point and main attraction. This time two in calf heifers showed the luing breed to very good advantage. Again, it's always about promoting the breed to potential converts while supporting our members across the country. The Black Isle was the last show of the season with just sale events remaining.

The Rockliffe Reduction Sale then onto the Autumn Stirling and Cadzow production sales.

All the effort behind the scenes that goes into making stands work, is considerable. We as a Luing Committee are extremely grateful to all our members who contributed their help

with manning the stands and the organising of providing cattle, because that in itself is another level of support. We all benefit in getting that Luing message out there. Looking forward to 2026 please consider how you as a member can help and come get involved, there is great laughs to be had along the way. We attend these shows for you and please do come and visit the stand and get a chat. We want to hear what your up to with your Luings too.

Newsletters have been both electronic and paper format. Please keep all your contact details on Grassroots updated so you don't miss anything sent out. Facebook is also a popular page for people to follow and use.

The photography competition made a come back in 2024/25 and will be running again into 2025/26 so keep a look out for more information coming through. Good pictures are of course welcome throughout the year and can be sent in or tagged on the society Facebook page.

The Promotion and Events Committee are Janet Pringle Chair, Sub Committee Members Ewan McCall, Jo Marsden, Pieter Bakker, Finlay McIntyre, Stephen Little, Rebecca Thomson and Charles Symons.

Breed Development

The breed development committee has been exploring the possibility of holding regional cow classification days for members. It is felt that this would be of a great benefit to both new and established breeders. Council members met at Incheoch during the summer to refresh and update the cow classification. This was a great day, having both past and present fieldsmen to give their knowledge was a great advantage to us. By the end of the day everybody was within a point of each other.

One of the topics which was discussed was black noses. It has been raised, to what degree is a nose classed as black? After much debate, shuffling of photographs a scale was devised which will be shown in an article later in the journal. Many thanks to the McGowan family for hosting this day and providing a good selection of cattle with varying scores of traits for us to work with.

With many members having young folk involved within their business and herds, council have discussed the introduction of a young breeder's programme. This is something which our late secretary Natalie had always wanted to do. Council feel that this is the time to do such a thing, in her memory. Council shall put this forward as

a proposal at the next AGM. We would like to hold days such as the dam classification day, bull handling and various trips for young breeders. Ultimately this would be led by feedback from the young breeders themselves, they can shape what they would like to do. This inevitably will carry a cost which the society will put in any surplus funds and invite donations from Luing members too. The younger generation are the future of our breed and the society should encourage and help them as much as possible.

The breed development committee are Robert McNee Chair, Sub Committee Members Finlay McIntyre, Ewan McCall, Graham Cakebread, Stephen Little, Rebecca Thomson, Alastair MacArthur, Neil McGowan and Janet Pringle.

Finance Committee

A small finance committee has been established to monitor cash flow, budgeting and investments. The members of this committee are Stewart Wood Chair Sub Committee Members Ewan McCall, Billy Neilson, Janet Pringle and Alastair MacArthur.

Remuneration Committee

Following guidance on governance matters, the Luing Cattle Society's Remuneration Committee has responsibility for managing employment and self-employed contractors on behalf of the Society. The committee consists of Janet Pringle Chair, Sub Committee Members Pieter Bakker and Alastair MacArthur.

Governance Committee

On external advice the Council has established a committee which aims to oversee the implementation of Governance measures. The creation of a Handbook for Council members has been followed by the creation of a Strategy Document and Risk Register. These documents outline the responsibilities, guide policies, and provide a framework for Council to measure and check procedures in an objective manner. All of these documents are available on the website for members to view, and potential Council members to review ahead of nomination. The Governance Committee has met in 2024 to review these documents and implement actions derived from this review, which aim to meet the goals determined within them. The members of the Governance Committee are Billy Neilson Chair, Sub Committee Members Ewan McCall, Stewart Wood, Stephen Little, Alastair MacArthur and Graham Cakebread.



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2025 sale:

16 Bulls sell to a top of 24,000gns and average 8925gns
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with 24 in-calf heifers topping at 3700gns and averaging 2708gns

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LUING CATTLE SOCIETY PREMIER SALE 2025

7th February – Wallets Marts, Castle Douglas

The Luing Cattle Society held their annual PREMIER SALE on 7th February at Wallets Marts, Castle Douglas. Demand for both males and females exceeded expectations, and averages for all sections were up on the year. Heifers enjoyed a 100% clearance, while bulls averaged 8925 gns (£9371) for 16 sold, and a clearance of 80%.



*Pre-Sale Show winning pair of in-calf heifers
consigned by Robert McNee Ltd.*

The pre-sale show of heifers, divided into bulling heifers and in-calf heifers, saw judge Craig Hamilton, Allanton, Darvel, Ayrshire, choose a pair of bulling heifers consigned by D & A Barr, Milkieston. This May 2023 born pair, sired by Blackhouse Yarrow, were purchased by John Jardine, Fairgirth, Dalbeattie, for the day's top price females at 4100gns (£4305) apiece. The best pair of in-calf heifers were consigned by Robert McNee Ltd, Woodend, Armadale and were due to calve to Benhar Yankee, and purchased by Craig Hamilton, Allanton, for 3200gns (£3360).

Bulling heifers sold to an average of 2841 gns (£2983) for 32 sold, an increase of £364 on the previous year. C.C. MacArthur & Co, Nunnerie, achieved the best herd average among the bulling heifers, selling 4 to average 3350 gns (£3518), and to a top of 3400gns (£3570). D & A Barr, Milkieston sold 11 heifers to average 3209gns (£3370), for a level bunch of heifers, almost exclusively by Blackhouse Yarrow. Wm. Graham & Son, Craigdarroch, sold a run of 8 heifers to average 2625gns (£2756), and to a top of 2900gns (£3045) twice, both going home with David Hyslop, Kilbrook Farm.

In calf heifers sold to a top of 3700gns (£3885) for a pair of heifers consigned by Robert McNee Ltd, Woodend, Armadale. This summer 2022 born heifers sold in calf to Benhar Yankee and were purchased by K. Park & Sons, Dalpeddar. In-calf heifers averaged 2708gns for 24 sold, up £475 on the year.



*Lot 106 Craigdarroch Coe, 24,000gns,
sold to Kedzlie Farms Ltd.*

A smaller selection of bulls saw a tremendous trade throughout, with 80% of the 20 forward finding new homes. Top price of 24,000gns (£25,200) went to Wm Graham & Son, Craigdarroch, for Craigdarroch Coe, a heterozygous polled son of Craigdarroch Alves, and out of a homebred daughter of Finlarg Nimrod. Craigdarroch Coe was purchased



*Lot 112 Craigdarroch Craigie, 13,000gns,
sold to R.O. Williams.*



Lot 122 Nunnerie Crusader, 13,000gns, sold to Blackmuir Trading.

by Kedzlie Farms Ltd, Galashiels, for use on pedigree cows in their Kedzlie herd. Next top price was claimed jointly by C.C. MacArthur & Co, Nunnerie, and Wm Graham & Son, Craigdarroch at 13,000gns. The first to achieve this was Criagdarroch Craigie, a homozygous polled son of Kirkland Yorkie, who will travel all the way to Wales to join the herd of R.O. Williams & Son, Caerddaniel, Llanbaber. The second bull to achieve 13,000gns was Nunnerie Crusader, a May 2023 born son of Finlarg Tornado, who was purchased by Philip and Reece Simmers for their Backmuir herd in Aberdeenshire. RH Bell & Co, Plenderleith sold Plenderleith Colonel, a heterozygous polled Tillyrie Yemen son to John Lawrie (Tillyrie) Ltd, Kinross, who were buying back some of their own breeding for their pedigree herd. Again at 11,000gns (£11,550) T. Renwick & Sons sold Blackhouse Cobra, by Nunnerie Xenon and out of a Craigdarroch Vinnie daughter, to Messrs Dodd, Lockerbie. Wm Graham & Son spent some of their income on Allanfauld Clansman, a heterozygous polled Harehead Yoyo son out of a Finlarg Wrangler daughter, going to 10,000gns (£10,500) to secure him. Nunnerie Caledonia, who goes back to the prolific Finlarg Tornado, realised 9,000 gns (£9,450), selling to the newly set up herd at Castlemilk Trust, Lockerbie. The last bull in the ring, and youngest in the catalogue, Benhar Cooper, was briskly bid to 8,000 gns (£8,400) and knocked down to David Stanners for his Tynedale herd, at Hexham. Top herd average for bulls was Craigdarroch, selling two to average 18,500gns (£19425).

Other leading prices: AC & AL McCall, Culmaily, 7500gns to Snaigow Farms, W.W. Dunlop & Son, Commonsides, 7000gns to D. Hyslop Farms, W.W. Dunlop & Son, Commonsides, 6,500 gns to Messrs Harrison; T. Renwick & Sons, Blackhouse, 5,500 gns to Clachan Farms; W. W. Dunlop & Son, Commonsides,

5000gns to R. Sutherland; Mrs Una Hodge, Kirkland, 4,800gns to E. Jones; Robert McNee Ltd, Benhar, 4,000gns to D & A Barr; F. Scott Renwick, Lochbroom 3,500gns to A. Pollock.



Lot 94 Plenderleith Colonel, 11,000gns, sold to John Lawrie.



Lot 119 Blackhouse Cobra, 11,000gns, sold to Messrs Dodd.



Lot 121 Allanfauld Clansman, 10,000gns, sold to Wm. Graham & Son.

Sale Statistics

	No. Sold	Av. Price (gns)	Top (gns)	Change on the year
Bulls	16	8925	24000	+1093
Messrs W Graham & Son	2	18500	24000	
R.H. Bell & Co.	1	11000	11000	
C.C. MacArthur & Co.	2	11000	13000	
Mr A. MacGregor (Allanfauld)	1	10000	10000	
T. Renwick & Sons	2	8250	11000	
A.C. & A.L. McCall	1	7500	7500	
W.W. Dunlop & Son	3	6167	7000	
Robert McNee Ltd.	2	6000	8000	
Mrs U. Hodge	1	4800	4800	
Mr F. Scott Renwick	1	3500	3500	
Luing Bulling Heifers	32	2841	4100	+364
C.C. MacArthur & Co.	4	3350	3400	
D. & A. Barr	11	3209	4100	
Messrs W Graham & Son	8	2625	2900	
Mrs U. Hodge	5	2480	2600	
Mr L. Porritt	4	2200	2200	
Luing In-Calf Heifers	24	2708	3700	+475
Robert McNee Ltd.	8	3475	3700	
Mr S. Murray	16	2325	2700	



Milkieston

Contact: David 01721 730789 or Andrew 07809 886330
Milkieston, Eddleston, Peebles EH45 8QH

NUNNERIE

LUINGS



ALASTAIR MACARTHUR

07887 512648

DAVID MACARTHUR

07766 004028



LUING CATTLE SOCIETY STIRLING BULL SALE 2025

17th February - United Auctions, Stirling

The Luing Cattle Society held their 2nd bull sale at United Auctions, Stirling on Monday 17th February. Seven bulls were forward, and 100% were sold to an average of £9540 (9086 gns) and a top of £14,700 (14,000gns), and a further three 5 figure prices. Best of the bunch was Benhar Calypso, consigned by Robert McNee Ltd, Woodend, Armadale, realising £14,700 (14,000 gns). Benhar Calypso is a March 2023 born son of Lammermuir Tremendous out of a homebred dam, and is away to Islay Estates.



Benhar Calypso - £14,700 to Islay Estates.

Just behind was Craigdarroch Chip, a polled son of Harehead Yogi, and out of a homebred dam by Harehead Jake. T. Renwick, Blackhouse, Selkirk took Craigdarroch Chip home for £13,650 (13,000 gns), to their pedigree herd.



Craigdarroch Chip - £13,650 to T. Renwick & Sons, Selkirk.

Sale Statistics

	Av. (gns)	Top (gns)	No.
Bulls	9086	14000	7
Robert McNee Ltd	12500	14000	2
Messrs W Graham & Son	13000	13000	1
A.C. & A.L. McCall	10000	10000	1
Messrs R. & H. McNee	5200	5800	3

Robert McNee Ltd, Woodend, Armadale sold Benhar Cobra to Shawhead Farms, for £11,550 (11,000 gns) for commercial cows. Cobra is a Finlarg Viagra son out of a Benhar Pansy female, which goes back to Culmaily Seamus.



Whiteford.

AL & AC McCall were first in the ring with Culmaily Crusader, a homozygous polled Harehead Explorer son, who goes home with Messrs Helm, Haltree to some pedigree and commercial cows. R & H McNee, Finlarg had a trio of level bulls, the best of which was Finlarg Corporal, a polled son of Silwick Zembra, which sold to A. Waugh, Thomsons Walls, Mindrum, Northumberland for £6090 (5,800 gns). Next best was Finlarg Comando, also polled, and by Finlarg Zemen, who was snapped up by Messrs Jolly, West Mains of Turin, Forfar for £5,250 (5,000gns). Finlarg Charlie, by Benhar Yorkie, made up the last of the trio and was knocked down to Messrs Fox, St Johns Kirk, Symington for £5,040 (4,800 gns).



Culmaily Crusader - £10,500 to J. Helm, Haltree.

		Gns
Lot 548	Benhar Calypso SV#	14000
Lot 555	Craigdarroch Chip C20 SV#	13000
Lot 550	Benhar Cobra SV#	11000
Lot 546	Culmaily Crusader SV#	10000
Lot 554	Finlarg Corporal SV#	5800
Lot 553	Finlarg Comando SV#	5000
Lot 551	Finlarg Charlie SV#	4800

LUING CATTLE SOCIETY SPRING BREEDING SALE 2025

13th May – Dingwall and Highland Mart

The Luing Cattle Society, in conjunction with Dingwall & Highland Marts Ltd. (13th May) sold 73 pedigree and commercial Luing cattle at their 17th Annual Spring Breeding Sale. Breeding cattle were in demand for a similar number forward. Purchasers were geographically widely spread, with cattle going to the south of Scotland and north to Orkney. The clearance rate was 100% for females and 50% for bulls, while averages for all classes were up on the year.



Best pair of bulling heifers – AC & AL McCall - £4200.

Pedigree bulling heifers (58) averaged £3151, a lift of £1117 on the year, and sold to a top of £4200 for a pair consigned by AC & AL McCall. This pair of heifers were champion pair in the pre-sale show, judged by Colin Little of East Bracklinn, Callander, and were both polled Finlarg Ziggy daughters, purchased by EJ & AM Fox, St John's Kirk Biggar. The McCall family also had the next two highest prices, £4095 and £3990, all of which were Finlarg Ziggy daughters. The first pair at £3900 went home with J. Jardine, Dalbeattie and the second pair at £3800 were knocked down to S & L Dodd, Tundergarth Mains, Lockerbie. Local breeder Graeme MacRae had one pair on offer, which was snapped up by Messrs Brims of Caithness



*Bulling Heifer Cup Winner –
Ewan McCall with judge, Colin Little, East Bracklinn.*



*Reserve best pair of bulling heifers consigned by
T.E. Lyth, Heatherhouse, Orkney - £3885.*

for £3885. Tom Lyth brought 6 heifers all the way from Heatherhouse Farm in Orkney to average £3225, with a top of £3700 for his pre-sale reserve pair. Scott and Farquhar Renwick, also with a consignment of 6 averaged £3535, and sold to a top of £3885 for a pair that was purchased by Messrs Jardine, Dalbeattie. Rory Cameron, Monzie had a run of 6 heifers which averaged £3150, the best of which was a pair sold for £3465 to Messrs Brims of Caithness.

Similarly, a small consignment of Sim-Luing bulling heifers sold to a top of £1746, consigned by AC & AL McCall, a uplift of £621 on the year. Three In-Calf cows consigned by Gary Mackenzie of Fanblair, all in calf to Sutherland Brora and due in July, average £2345 and sold to a top of £2625.

Bulls (4) sold to a top of £4200 and averaged £3675, which was very similar to last year's trade. There were 4 forward, with two finding new homes. David McLaughlin, Lewis, sold his homozygous polled Nunnerie Young Gun son for £4200 to I & W Sutherland, Strathnaver. The last bull in the catalogue was Lochbroom Commando, a heterozygous polled Commonsides Scania son which sold for £3150 to Ardtornish Estate.



*Ben Claitair Claitair – Top priced breeding bull, consigned
by David McLaughlin - £4200 – purchaser I & W Sutherland.*

Sale Statistics

	Average (gns)	Average (£)	Top (gns)	Top (£)	Number
Female	2809	2950	4000	4200	71
Luig Bulling Heifers	3001	3151	4000	4200	58
Messrs A.S. & T.E. Lyth	3071	3225	3700	3885	7
Messrs P. & A. Bakker	2167	2275	2400	2520	3
Mr A.C. McCall	3633	3815	4000	4200	12
Mr David J. MacLaughlin	2867	3010	3000	3150	6
Mr F. Scott Renwick	3367	3535	3700	3885	6
Mr Fraser MacNeil	2550	2678	2600	2730	2
Mr Graeme MacRae	3700	3885	3700	3885	2
Mr Rory Cameron	3000	3150	3300	3465	6
Mr S.A. Nairn	2778	2917	3900	4095	9
Mrs C. Lamont	2400	2520	2400	2520	2
Mrs K.A. Tindall	1583	1663	1900	1995	3
Luig Cows	2233	2345	2500	2625	3
Mr G. MacKenzie	2233	2345	2500	2625	3
Luig In-Calf Heifers	2800	2940	2800	2940	1
Mr F. Scott Renwick	2800	2940	2800	2940	1
Sim-Luig Bulling Heifers	2600	2730	2600	2730	1
Mr A.C. McCall	2600	2730	2600	2730	1
Sim-Luig Yearling Heifers	1663	1746	1850	1943	8
Mr A.C. McCall	1663	1746	1850	1943	8
Male	3500	3675	4000	4200	2
Luig Bulls	3500	3675	4000	4200	2
Mr David J. MacLaughlin	4000	4200	4000	4200	1
Mr F. Scott Renwick	3000	3150	3000	3150	1
Grand Total	2828	2969	4000	4200	73



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LUING CATTLE SOCIETY 52nd AUTUMN BREEDING SALE 2025

25th October – United Auctions, Stirling

The Luing Cattle Society held its 52nd Autumn Breeding Sale at United Auctions, Stirling, on Saturday 25th October 2025, with a strong ringside trade and a well-supported catalogue. Sim-Luing breeding females were in keenest demand, while outfits with calves at foot enjoyed confident competition. Pedigree Luing bulling heifers met a selective but steady commercial enquiry.

In-Calf Heifers (46 catalogued: 33 Sim-Luing)

Pedigree Luing In-Calf Heifers (Lots 1-13)

A compact entry set a firm opening tone, topping at **3,400 gns** and averaging **2,808 gns** for **7 sold**.

The section leader was **Lot 5 from Portmore**, selling to **Mr C. Hamilton, Allanton Farm, Darvel** for **3,400 gns**.

Sim-Luing In-Calf Heifers (Lots 14-46)

Strong, even runs of Sim-Luing in-calf heifers drew brisk competition, topping at **4,200 gns** and averaging **3,818 gns** for **18 sold**.

Top price was achieved by **Lot 16 from McDiarmids of Balbeg**, heading to **The Brims, Caithness**, at **4,200 gns**.

Pedigree Luing Bulling Heifers (120 catalogued)

Presented in two main runs, the bulling heifers attracted steady commercial support, topping at **4,000 gns** and averaging **2,646 gns** for **39 sold**.

Leading the section were **Lots 72 & 73 from Milkieron**, purchased by **Mr Andrew Clarkson, D Clarkson & Sons, Mansefield Farm, Carmichael** for **4,000 gns**.

B-Register Bulling Heifers (14 catalogued)

The B-register heifers enjoyed a lively trade, topping at **3,500 gns** and averaging **2,695 gns** for **12 sold**.

Top price came from **Lot 89 from Dunalastair Estate**, sold to **Shona McCorkindale, H & NA McCorkindale, Scammadale, Kilninver, By Oban** for **3,500 gns**.

Sim-Luing Bulling Heifers (Lots 182-196)

A selective but competitive demand produced a top of **3,500 gns** and an average of **3,293 gns** for **8 sold**.

Females with Calves at Foot

Sim-Luing Heifers with Calves (Lots 197-202)

This section produced the day's strongest averages, topping at **5,200 gns** and averaging **4,967 gns** for **6 sold**.

The top price came from **Islay Estates Co**, purchased by **Thomson** for **5,200 gns**.

Sim-Luing Cow with Calf (Lot 203)

The single outfit sold at **3,800 gns**, from **Islay Estates Co** to **John and Ewan Gordon, Wellheads**.

Pedigree Luing Heifers with Calves (Lots 205-208)

Young, honest outfits sold freely, topping at **4,000 gns** and averaging **3,450 gns** for **4 sold** (including one catalogue-aligned additional lot).

Top seller was **Lot 207 from Islay Estates Co**, bought by **Laidlaw** for **4,000 gns**.

Pedigree Luing Cows with Calves (Lots 209-215)

Demand remained consistent for working cows with strong calves, topping at **3,000 gns** and averaging **2,825 gns** for **4 sold**.

Top price: **Lot 209 from Islay Estates Co**, purchased by **Singer** for **3,000 gns**.

Dispersal of the Rannoch Herd

Vendor: Mr N. H. Horsfall

The Rannoch dispersal drew wide interest, with genuine, hardy Luing cattle attracting strong commercial attention.

The dispersal topped at **4,800 gns** and averaged **2,674 gns** for **19 sold**. Young cows and heifers were notably sought-after, with buyers active from Angus, Perthshire and Lanarkshire.

Round-Up

Sim-Luing breeding females underpinned the day's leading averages, particularly in the heifer-and-calf outfits. Pedigree Luing bulling heifers maintained a measured commercial level, and trade for cows and outfits reflected continuing confidence in Luing and Sim-Luing genetics for hill and upland systems.

The Luing Cattle Society thanks all consignors, buyers and United Auctions for their support in staging another successful Autumn Breeding Sale.



Summary and Averages

	Average Price (gns)	Top (gns)	Number Sold
Pedigree Luing In-Calf Heifers (Lots 1-13)	2,808	3,400	7
Sim-Luing In-Calf Heifers (Lots 14-46)	3,818	4,200	18
Pedigree Luing Bulling Heifers	2,646	4,000	39
B-Register Bulling Heifers	2,695	3,500	12
Sim-Luing Bulling Heifers (Lots 182-196)	3,293	3,500	8
Sim-Luing Heifers + Calves (Lots 197-202)	4,967	5,200	6
Sim-Luing Cow + Calf (Lot 203)	3,800	3,800	1
Pedigree Luing Heifers + Calves (Lots 205-208)	3,450	4,000	4
Pedigree Luing Cows + Calves (Lots 209-215)	2,825	3,000	4
Unregistered Sim-Luing Heifer + Calf (Lot 216)	-	-	0
Rannoch Dispersal	2,674	4,800	19



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HOWDEN

CADZOW BROS 7th ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE 2025

8th November – United Auctions, Oban

Cadzow Bros, Isle of Luing held their 7th annual production sale at Oban Livestock Centre on Saturday 8th November, conducted by United Auctions. From 93 lots forward, 90 head found new homes to an overall average of **3,276gns**, a lift of **1,100gns on the year**. Trade was strong from the outset, with competitive bidding throughout reflecting continued confidence in the Cadzow Luing breeding programme.

All told 50 in calf heifers rising 2 years old averaged 3830gns to a top of 4800, 5 in calf heifers rising 3 years old averaged 3760 to a top of 4800, 18 bulling heifers averaged 1906 to top at 3000 and 14 regular aged in calf cows averaged 3050 to a top of 3500. 3 rising 2 year old bulls averaged 2500gns.

The sale was led by a powerful offering of rising two- and three-year-old females, predominantly in-calf, which once again attracted the keenest interest. The **top price of the day was 4,800gns**, achieved on two occasions. First to reach this level was **Luing Ardluing D48 (lot 29)**, which sold to **Glenlyon Estate, Fortingall, Perthshire**. Matching this

was **Luing Achafolla C59 (lot 52)**, purchased by **J Jardine, Fairgirth Farm, Dalbeattie**.

A strong run of heifers sold between **3,500gns and 4,200gns**, with consistent competition for cattle across Ardluing, Achafolla, Leccamore, Ardlarach and Bardrishaig. Demand was broad-based, with repeat buyers and new customers alike competing freely, resulting in a near total clearance of females.

Younger and later-calving heifers provided an accessible entry point for a range of buyers, with plenty of interest in runs suitable for bulling or herd expansion. These lots sold steadily, generally between **1,600gns and 2,200gns**, helping to underpin the strong overall average and demonstrating depth to the trade.

All three bulls forward sold, each realising **2,500gns**. **Diego (lot 77)** sold to **B Atkinson, Scratchmere Scar, Plumpton, Penrith**; **Derek (lot 78)** went to **Brackenburgh Home Farm Ltd, Calthwaite, Penrith**; while **Django (lot 79)** was purchased by **R McClelland & Sons, Dranigower, New Luce**.

Overall, the sale represented a very successful day for Cadzow Bros, with significantly improved averages, a high clearance rate, and continued demand for well-bred Luing cattle across a wide range of systems.



Summary Statistics

	Total Animals	Average (gns)	Top (gns)
2 Year Old In-Calf Heifers	50	3830	4800
3 Year Old In-Calf Heifers	5	3760	4800
Bull	3	2500	2500
Bulling Heifers	18	1906	3000
Regular aged In-Calf Cows	14	3050	3500
Grand Total	90	3276	4800

Benhar



Benhar Domino

Son of Nunnerie Aaron



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Your Council met in the summer at a cow classification workshop at Incheoch, home of the Dirnanean herd, when the mothers of sale bulls were being assessed for structural traits.

The objective of the day was to ensure everyone involved had some experience of the classification system and look for potential improvements. Another aspect was that the Council, breed development officers and fieldsmen (both past and present), were well 'calibrated' before the main bull inspection and cow classification season started in the autumn.

Another agenda item for the day was black noses. Since the early days of the breed, black noses have been frowned upon. The two constituent breeds of the Luings can sometimes breed a black nose, and it is associated with a brindle colour (flecks of black through the coat). This brindle is usually deemed less desirable in the marketplace; hence a black nose considered an imperfection or blemish.

Black noses have been excluded from Luings Society sales since the start of the breed – both in bulls and females. The female ruling has been applied with a level of leniency particularly at the more commercial sales. The breed development committee considered that it would be a good idea to remove some of the subjectiveness around this issue.

A range of nose colours were considered in photographs and it became apparent that the 'grey' area between a black nose and a clean nose had as many names as it does opinions. The discussion rapidly became about blue, dusty, dirty and smutty noses. Agreement was quite easily reached, with two different standards for bulls and heifers.

Bulls:

Bulls will remain as only acceptable for Society Approval with a clean nose. There is always still the opportunity to register a bull that is not Society Approved, but non-approved bulls are not accepted at Society sales, and appear in catalogues without a '#' after their name.

Heifers:

Smutty noses are acceptable in females, but a darker or black nose would fail to meet breed standards. In terms of the sales implications of this, it was agreed that black nosed females could be sold at Society Sales, with a declaration given in the ring that that particular animal failed to meet breed standard in terms of nose colour.

It is hoped that these photographs will set a more objective standard in the future; that bull breeders will continue to be mindful of keeping clean noses, regardless of whether they can or do participate in the Society Approval process; and that the odd black-nosed heifer can properly participate in Society breeding sales.



Top Row: Clean nosed acceptable for Bulls

**Middle Row: Smutty nose acceptable for Heifers.
Bulls not society approved.**

**Bottom Row: Black nose Females can be sold with declaration given,
failing to meet breed standard on nose colour.**





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Neil and Sarah farm 1800 acres across two tenanted farms and another 100 acres on seasonal let alongside their son's David and Joseph and Joseph's partner Lauren. Across the two units they farm 60 Luing Cows, 800 Blackface ewes which are bred pure and a further 150 which are crossed.

Town Shields has been farmed by the Robson family for almost 80 years. Neil and Sarah took on the tenancy of Town Shields when Neil's dad Henry retired and have then gone on to take the tenancy of Goatstones 2 years ago.

Town Shields first Countryside Stewardship started after foot and mouth and didn't want cows, but it was evident toward the end of that 10 year agreement that cows were needed.

Town Shields then went into HLS which saw the start of the Luing herd. The first 8 heifers were purchased in 2008 from Cadzow at their sale in Oban. The cows were outwintered, the herd was gradually built-up buying heifers most of which were from Craigdarroch and the Lamperts by the end of the HLS had a herd of 26 cows.

Town Shields is now in CS Higher Teir with 30 Luing cows grazing the hill parcels from May to October. They calve inside mid-March onwards then after a few days go out onto pasture ground

before heading out onto the hill in May. They return to the pasture ground in October before being housed in December or earlier if weather conditions require it.





20 bullocks are summered on the hill parcels at TownShields for 5 months to fulfil the requirement of the CS HT which requires a livestock units split of 70/30 in favour of cattle. The bullocks are then sold in late October as forward stores, with 2024's batch averaging £1330 at Hexham Mart and 2025's averaging £1600 sold privately.

When Neil and Sarah took the tenancy of Goatstones they stocked it with home bred cows and bought a further 10 cows out of the Lake District. They took over an existing CSHT with 30 Luining cows which fitted straight in. David and Joseph take charge of the herd at Goatstones, it follows the same system as Town Shields with cows on the hill parcels May to October and inside and on pasture ground for the remaining months. All the heifers are also summered at Goatstones with 6-8 retained for breeding and the surplus sold privately at around 18 months.

In the early years the heifers were sold and replacements purchased to enable bulls to be kept longer. The Robson's purchased Attonburn Nutcracker privately and calved down to him for 14 years.

Now, with two separate herds, both run under the Bannocrag prefix, they aim to run a 2 bull system. They keep 3-4 heifers by each bull as replacements. The two current bulls are Harehead Zinzan purchased from Castle Douglas and Finlary Xclusive which was purchased privately from Lamperts.

Having had Luings for 17 years now Neil finds the breed suits the system they've got, with minimal handlings to Johnes test and dehorn the calves and then again when calves are speaned when they are all given a fluke and worm treatment and pneumonia vaccine. Calves grow well on silage and minimal concentrates through the winter, and cows keep reasonable fettle grazing hill vegetation.



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FROM THE HILLS OF PEEBLESSHIRE

Travel Report

To mark its 20th anniversary, the Swiss Luing Breed Club visited the homeland of Luing cattle last winter: Scotland.

As was the case seven years ago, during the last official trip, we were drawn to Scotland last February. The travel dates were well chosen; on the one hand, the Scots are a little quieter during the cooler months and therefore have more time for us, and on the other hand, the 8-day trip included two visits to auctions and shows. More on that later.

Grazing even in Winter

On a foggy winter's day, our plane took off from Zurich and flew via Amsterdam to Scotland. Our destination was Edinburgh. After finding our hire cars and our hotel not far from the old town, we were immediately drawn to the countryside. A good 18 miles south of the capital, we were able to visit Boreland Farm. For those visiting Scotland for the first time, the farm, nestled between green hills and forests, provided a first impression of Scotland's beauty and the hospitality of the Scottish people. In addition to around 1,500 meadows, the 1,200-hectare farm also has a herd of 70 Luing cows that graze all year round. As with virtually all farms, the most beautiful cows are bred purebred and their offspring are weaned and selected at 6 months: the best animals for their own offspring, then the animals for sale and finally the animals for fattening. The cows that do not meet the breed standards are bred with more intensive beef cattle bulls. The Luing x Simmental combination is very promising and popular. The fattening animals are kept in stables on deep litter or deep manure. They are fed a mixture of grass silage

and barley. At 15 to 18 months, the animals are slaughtered at a live weight of 600 to 650 kg. After a warming soup and a whisky, we said goodbye and headed for Edinburgh, where we toasted the coming days with a few pints and whiskies in the evening.

Visiting the Agricultural College

On the second day, we travelled further south. Our destination for the evening was Castle Douglas, a somewhat sleepy little town not far from the Irish Sea. Before this two-hour drive, we visited Scotland's agricultural college. At Easter Howgate Farm, cattle breeding research is carried out on over 1,000 hectares under real conditions, as found on farms. The farm has a total of around 400 suckler cows of three different breeds: Aberdeen Angus, Limousin and Luing. One focus is on reducing CO2 emissions and continuously improving this through skilful husbandry. To this end, the animals are weighed regularly to compare daily weight gains with feeding or different crossbreeds. The Luing herd comprises around 130 suckler cows. Calving takes place seasonally in the spring. The young animals are kept on pasture until weaning. The cows remained on pasture until Christmas. In the first six months, the calves had an average daily weight gain of 1,200 grams on pure pasture grazing. This is precisely why the population of Luing animals is increasing in Scotland, as they are very well suited to permanent grazing. We were quite astonished when we saw the best Luing beef in the barn. At 200 days old, it already had a live weight of 73% of its mother's.

After this exciting visit, peppered with figures, we got back to counting kilometres, or miles. Towards evening, we reached Castle Douglas.





An auction of Luings animals always takes place here at the beginning of February. On the evening before, the Scottish breed club meets for its annual meeting followed by dinner, with Swiss participation once again this year.

Highest Prices for Breeding Bulls

The auction began with a presentation of the bulls. Dressed up to the nines, matching the setting sun, the animals were presented in the courtyard of the auction grounds. We quickly decided on our personal favourites and eagerly awaited the auction and the prices that would be achieved. This year, the highest price was £24,000 for a bull that was not quite two years old. The average price for the 16 bulls was £9,371, or a good £10,000 per animal. These are prices we can (still) only dream of in Switzerland.

Isle of Luing – Home of the Luing Cattle

Around midday, we moved on. The north of Scotland awaited us. By evening, all 16 members of our tour group had reached our destination, the coastal town of Oban. Together, we enjoyed Scottish life in a pub in the evening, naturally with cool ale and fiery whisky.

The real highlight was on Saturday's agenda with a visit to the island of Luing – home of the Luing cattle. In the 1940s, the foundation stone for the Luing cattle philosophy was laid here: an animal that can withstand the harsh climate of the west coast and is also suitable for the best pastures in eastern Scotland. After 20 years of successful breeding, Luing cattle were recognised as a separate breed. Today, the Cadzow family still farms the island and several neighbouring islands with 1,700 Leyen sheep

and 325 Luing cattle. After a wonderful and atmospheric morning on the Cadzows' farm, it was time to say goodbye again.

The rest of the weekend was free time. We went our separate ways, with some playing golf, others shopping or visiting the Oban Distillery – although a visit to the Highland Cattle Show was a must for everyone.

Off to the East

The glacier-carved landscape of the Highlands, with its lakes and valleys, gave way with every kilometre to a green landscape with wide fields and scattered hills. Debbie and Neil McGowan's Incheoch Farm is located slightly elevated at the foot of the Highlands. We were expected for lunch. Of course, after a hearty soup, one or rather two or three whiskies were a must. In addition to breeding Luing and Angus cattle, the McGowans are also known for their Simmental cattle. In the evening, we took up quarters in the medieval town of Stirling, with its towering castle.

The last visit of our trip was to the well-known Benhar herd not far from Stirling. The full potential of the Luings was evident on the Mcnee family farm. The deep, almost black, fertile soil does not allow for grazing in winter. Here, in contrast to the barren west, the mother animals are kept in stables. Luings can also be successfully kept with intensive farming. After a tour of the animals, he concluded by showing us two magnificent young breeding bulls. As we learned a week later, back in Switzerland, the two bulls changed hands for over 10,000 Swiss francs.

After eight days, we set off on our journey home with unique experiences, sometimes amazed eyes, warm encounters and fond memories.

SwissLuing Breed Club



Cadzow Brothers

A Decade of Progress on Luing

Ten years of pedigree innovation, environmental regeneration and diversification on the Isle of Luing.

Heritage on the Edge of the Atlantic

Few names are as deeply rooted in Scottish cattle breeding as the Cadzow family of the Isle of Luing. From their rugged island home off the Argyll coast, the family's legacy stretches back to the mid-20th century, when their forebears helped pioneer the Luing breed, an animal designed to thrive where the Atlantic meets the hills. Hardy, fertile and efficient, the Luing became a symbol of resilience, reflecting the land and the people who shaped it.

A decade on from their last business update, the next generation, Archie and Jack Cadzow stand firmly at the helm of Cadzow Brothers, steering the enterprise into a new era. Supported by livestock manager Jo Marsden, the brothers have built upon a proud heritage, blending traditional stockmanship with modern management and a clear-eyed approach to environmental responsibility.

"We're caretakers of both the land and the breed," says Jack. "Our aim is to leave the island, the cattle and the environment stronger for the next generation."

A Pedigree Island Enterprise

The Isle of Luing, encompassing some 3,813 acres, remains the beating heart of the operation. Every acre is used to its potential, and every enterprise is connected by a sense of purpose.

The farm runs both pedigree Luing cattle and a self-sufficient sheep flock, supported by in-house silage production.

Today, the herd sits at around 320 breeding Luing females. All heifer calves are now retained and taken through their first winter, while 20 steer calves are also kept for finishing each year, supplying both local businesses and bespoke Cadzow beef boxes. This closed-herd model reinforces traceability and maximises the value of each animal reared on the island.

"The Luings know this ground better than anyone," Jo says. "They've been bred for these hills, and we trust their instincts. Good cows make good calves, it's as simple as that."

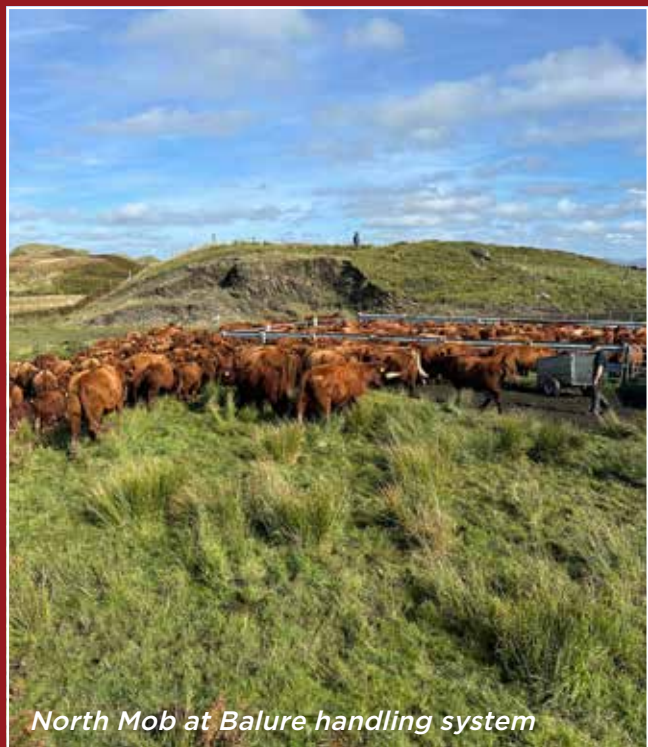
Mob Grazing and Mindful Management

Stock management on Luing combines traditional hill farming with modern rotational principles. Cows calve and bull on their birth hills—a system that encourages natural behaviour. Once bulls are removed, the herd is split into two large mobs: the north mob, consisting of cows with heifer calves, and the south mob, cows with bull calves.

Each mob, roughly 150 cow-calf pairs, rotates weekly from hill to hill, allowing each grazed area five to six weeks of rest. This system, developed through experience rather than formal prescription, has improved pasture quality, animal health and soil structure.



Jack, Shane and Archie with the cows at Blackmillbay



North Mob at Balure handling system

"Mob grazing or our version of it seems to work for us, it's simple and suits our land," says Jo. "It's old-fashioned stock sense with a modern name."

Sheep That Think for Themselves

Running alongside the cattle enterprise is a 1,000-strong flock of Lleyen x Texel ewes managed on an impressively low-input system. Jo describes the sheep enterprise as one that "looks after itself," built on genetics, management, and strict selection rather than expensive inputs.

The flock operates as two interlinked mobs. Ewe lambs sired by Lleyen tups in the north flock move south as breeding ewes to join the Texel tups; likewise, Texel-sired ewe lambs head north to the Lleyen Tups.. This clever system maintains hybrid vigour and ensures a steady flow of replacements.

Scanning at 183%, the flock is evidence that efficiency doesn't always mean intervention. Sheep receive no supplementary feeding or mineral blocks, and worming is only carried out when faecal egg counts (FECs) indicate a need. Pre-tupping treatments are limited to a fluke dose, bolus, and footvax, with clostridial vaccines given pre-lambing.

"We cull hard for feet," Jo notes. "That's changed everything. We rarely need to touch a foot now. It's selection, not medicine, that's improved the flock."

Triplets lamb in bye, twins out on the hill a 100 or so singles come inside to foster triplets onto. 2 and 3 crop triplets run with three lambs and are kept separate from the two main flocks until after clipping to ensure optimal management conditions.

Investment in Infrastructure

In 2020, Cadzow Brothers invested in a new bull and heifer calving shed. With a central feed passage and cubicles (three per pen), it has revolutionised winter management.

After bulls are removed from the cows, they are paired into "friendship pairs," spending summer together before being brought inside in early December. This pairing method, coupled with careful observation of behaviour, has transformed bull welfare.

"We've reduced bull losses from injury," Jo explains. "They settle faster, fight less, and handle better. It's made winter a much calmer time for both bulls and people."

Woodlands, Wetlands and Wildlife Corridors

Beyond livestock, the Cadzow Brothers have committed deeply to environmental stewardship. In the past decade, they've planted nearly 300,000 trees across a dozen designated areas covering roughly 250 acres of the island. The mix includes birch, alder, oak, Scots pine, rowan, willow, hazel, holly, aspen, and hawthorn. Other areas have also been left for natural regeneration promoting native biodiversity.

The family has also double-fenced field boundaries to create wildlife corridors, providing habitat continuity for birds and small mammals. A significant wetland creation project, including a 3Ha artificial loch and habitat zones for waders, was delivered with support from NatureScot's Nature Restoration Fund.

"We didn't do it for headlines," says Archie. "It's about balance. Shelter for the cattle, biodiversity for the island, and a more resilient landscape. Everything connects."

These projects demonstrate a practical, farm led approach to sustainability- designed not around buzz words, but around real, visible benefits to livestock and land alike.

Diversification: WildLuing

The family's entrepreneurial streak is evident in WildLuing, a diversification venture born in 2021 from the ideas of Jack, Archie, and Emily Cadzow. Together, they created eight luxury, self-catered "wild suites" hand-built on the island, designed by the brothers, and fitted out with interiors by Emily and Tooti Cadzow.

Each suite offers a private retreat immersed in the island's landscape. But for the brothers, WildLuing isn't about tourism alone, it's about creating a complementary income stream that sustains the farm and its people.



WildLuing site

"Diversification for us isn't just a sideline," Jack explains. "It's another way to support the core farming business. The WildLuing guests see what real island farming looks like, and that connection helps keep the whole system going."

WildLuing is quickly becoming a quiet success story attracting visitors who want an authentic experience while providing the business with valuable income diversity – all without detracting from the core values.

Sporting Opportunities

Some view gamebird shooting, deer stalking and agriculture as belonging to different camps but on Luing, and indeed Scarba, The Cadzow Family see the benefits of running them side-by-side. Regenerative farming has encouraged the viewing of profitability on a per acre basis, land not solely as a means to raising livestock but as an asset to be utilised as efficiently as we can.

Archie notes "Making the most of the sporting opportunities on Luing has not only allowed us to double our profit per acre but it links much of our other diversification and environmental efforts as well."

Wetlands for biodiversity and duck flighting, woodlands for carbon sequestration and gamebird drives, wildlife corridors for habitat creation, rough shooting and livestock shelter. And not least, the sporting guests are a great source of winter clientele for WildLuing.

Since establishing the shoot in 2019 they have, through trial and error, built nearly 20 drives and this season will host 25 teams, most of whom are repeat customers. Shooting is also classed as a social opportunity, not just for guests but also for

those that help run the days, either as beaters, pickers or in any other capacity. Something often overlooked in rural communities, particularly in the colder months.

Market Strength and Sales Success

The Cadzow name continues to command respect in the sale ring. In 2019 the previous manager Euan Ferguson launched the farm's own annual production sale at Oban Mart, this has grown from strength to strength.

The 2025 sale proved particularly strong, with demand for females of all classes exceeding expectations.

- In calf rising 2-year-old heifers topped at £5040 and averaged £4025
- In-calf rising 3-year-olds also sold to £5040 averaging £3948
- Bulling heifers reached £3150, averaging £2000.83
- Spring-calving cows topped at £3657 (four times) averaging £3202.50

Meanwhile the 2025 lamb crop averaged £120 per head and 103 bullock calves sold to £1440 and averaged £1338.74 for an average weight of 240.44kg. these results are testament to both the quality of breeding stock and the business' long-term approach

"The Oban sale days are more than just trade days" Jo adds "they are a showcase of years of breeding decisions, hardwork and resilience. Every animal that goes through that ring tells part of the story"



Jo in the Sale Ring at the 2025 Annual Production Sale

The People Behind the Progress

Behind every successful farming enterprise is a team that makes it work day to day. Alongside Archie and Jack, Jo Marsden oversees the livestock and day-to-day stockmanship, heavily supported by Bob Campbell (stockman) and Chris MacEachern (tractor operator). During busy times, Ellie May Bovill joins as a self-employed assistant.

Together, they form a cohesive, multi-skilled team, one that blends deep experience with fresh ideas. Jo credits the teamwork as the glue that keeps the whole system running.

"We've got a crew that understands the rhythm of the place," she says. "Everyone has their role, but we're all invested in the same goal, healthy stock and a healthy island."

Tradition, Innovation and the Future

Ten years after the last formal update, Cadzow Brothers stands as a model of what thoughtful, progressive farming can look like. The herd is stronger, the land more resilient, and the enterprise more diverse. Yet at its heart, the operation still beats to the rhythm of Luing's hills, tides, and traditions.

Archie and Jack's generation has embraced innovation without losing sight of their roots. From cattle management, to low input sheep systems and environmentally conscious diversification, the Luing spirit of adaptability remains alive and well.

"We're not trying to reinvent farming," Archie reflects. "We're just doing it better, more aware of what the land needs, what the animals need, and what the future might demand."

The next decade promises its own challenges- climate volatility, shifting markets and changing policy landscapes- but if history is any guide, the Cadzows will continue to meet them head-on, with the same determination that built the breed and the business in the first place.

A Living Legacy

From the windswept fields of Luing, where red coated cattle graze against the backdrop of the Atlantic, the story of the Cadzow brothers continues to unfold. It is a story of persistence and progress- of family, breed and landscape bound together by time and effort

What began generations ago as a bold breeding experiment has evolved into a model of sustainable island farming, carried forward by people who still believe in doing things properly

"this island teaches you patience and humility, the hills tell you what they can give, and the cattle tell you what works. Our job is just to listen - and to keep building on what the family and former employees before us started"

We hope you will join us in August 2026 as we host the Luing society open day and open up our doors once again to all to come and see and experience Luing for yourselves.



Cadzow

Isle of Luing, Oban



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Commonside Farm, Hawick



Commonside Farm has long been noted for producing top quality livestock. Nestled alongside the River Teviot, just south of the Border town of Hawick, the farm covers 2500 acres with a further 400 acres tenanted next door. The family have been on this Buccleuch Estate farm since 1938, trading as W W Dunlop & Sons with Graham & Fiona Cakebread, the third generation at the helm now. They farm around 1800 Hill North Country Cheviot ewes

on Commonside, 1300 are run pure and the flock enjoys a fine reputation within the breed, selling tups up to £9000 to the Whitehope flock at the Lockerbie tup sales this autumn, as well as selling further afield such as Dingwall and Oban. A further 450 ewes are crossed with the Bluefaced Leicester to breed the Cheviot mule, which is growing in popularity. The resulting gimmers are sold on at Longtown, where demand for these sheep is growing, with this autumns run averaging £310. They also run a flock of 50 Texel ewes, selling shearling tups at Kelso and Longtown.

Alongside the sheep side of the business, they have a herd of Luining cattle. These hardy cattle are wintered outside on the heather hills, with plenty of shelter offered wherever the weather may be coming from. They have run Luings for many years, with Fiona's parents introduced them to the farm in the 1990s. The herd now stands at 120 cows plus followers, 50 of which run with the Simmental bull to produce Sim-Luing calves. The crossbred heifers are sold at 11 months old to a regular customer, who takes them direct off the farm. The Sim-Luing bullocks are sold as stores straight off their mothers, with the pure Luing bullocks wintered on slats and sold as stores at around 11/12 months old.

Graham is a big believer in the Luing breed and feels that the cow can fill any number of roles within the beef industry, whether it be a low ground suckler cow for crossing or a hill cow bred pure.





"Our main priority at Commonsides is to breed hill cows with strong maternal values, they must live on the hill with minimal inputs. We try to make sure the calves still have a good carcass and therefore a competitive commercial value"

"They are milky, hardy and good natured, combined with their ability to rear a strong calf in any weather they are well suited to the ground here and they are ideal to manage our type of hill grazing" he adds.

The cattle are out wintered on the hill, which rises to around 1300 feet, no hard feed is given to the in-calf cows over winter until 4-6 weeks before calving in March, underlining the ability of the cattle to thrive in the harsh environment they face. They are calved inside during March and April, this is purely for ease of management. Very little, if any intervention is ever needed. *"They are quick to their feet and suckled and we soon turn them out"* he notes.





Each year a selection of bulls are sold at the breeds Premier sale at Castle Douglas. Graham is very selective when it comes to keeping bulls, with care taken to make sure that only the most suitable are kept, with the initial shortlist of selected bull calves being whittled down all the time. "We like to breed our bulls to be medium sized and easy fleshing with a bit of character. Selling bulls is not a priority for us and only what we feel is good enough will be sold " he says. Bulls have sold to a top of 10,000gns at Castle Douglas, with a top this year of 7000gns and 8000gns in 2024. Commonsides bulls have a reputation of going on and doing well, as they are genuine hill cattle, full of natural thrift and

top bloodlines. The last few years have seen them increase cow numbers within the herd, with the aim of starting to sell a few heifers at breed sales soon.

Graham and Fiona believe that the Luings is well placed to form an integral part of the future of the national beef herd. They feel that with input costs going up and less Government support available, there aren't many other breeds which are as versatile as the Luings, especially on marginal land in the hills. Cattle which go on and thrive in tough conditions without having a lot of feed thrown at them, just to maintain them, can be the difference between making a profit and not, which is getting more important each year.



Commonside Luings & Sim-Luings

LUING BULLS, LUING AND SIM-LUING HEIFERS
MEMBER OF SAC PREMIUM HEALTH SCHEME
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TROUTBECK LUINGS Pip Simpson 07713122828



Poole Bank Farm, Troutbeck, Windermere, LA23 1PN



In the ten years since James Raper and his partner Jo moved from Nidderdale to the 650 acre unit near Otterburn in the heart of the Northumberland National Park, they have established a strong herd of Luings cattle alongside their closed flock of 400 head of Swaledale and mule ewes. Moving from Kirkby Malzeard, where they ran 1200 sheep across several parcels of land, which were all on yearly grass lets, was quite a change for them. By buying East Todholes, which was a run-down unit without much infrastructure, they were able to get some long-term security on their land. As James says, “We landed without a tractor, just a quad bike and a Sheepdog, ready to face a new challenge.” Since then they have built up the business, including erecting a couple of modern sheds, installing cattle handling facilities, converting an old barn into a small holiday let and moving from the original flock of Blackface ewes to Swaledale ewes, which he prefers working with, and establishing a 60 strong herd of Luings cattle.

Not long after they moved to the farm, they felt some of the rougher pastures and hill, which run up to 1000 feet, needed some cattle on to help eat off the roughage which had built up over the years. They looked closely at several native

breeds but eventually settled on the Luings as they felt these cattle were more versatile than other breeds and better suited to the wet, steep ground at East Todholes. “We can see the difference that the cattle have made to the farm already, with cows opening up the ground and grazing on the rough, old grown pastures. The sheep have benefitted from this too, as it makes the grazing better for them” he notes.

They purchased their foundation cows out of Stirling from the Finlarg herd, adding others over the years, and initially used AI to get their cows in calf. This helped them get some of the best genetics into their herd without having to spend money on a bull. They were using semen from Finlarg, Harehead, Commonsides and Incheoch bulls. This helped establish good sound breeding within the herd and now they run three bulls to bullcows and heifers for sale. They like to use a bull which “is good and square with good mobility and not overly big either, as the ground is very heavy here, we don’t want big cattle cutting up the ground too much” James says. Initially they were calving in Autumn, mainly as they needed calves on the ground as soon as they could to get cash flowing, but they have now moved to spring calving as it suits the farm and their system better.



All the bull calves, save a couple of the better ones, are castrated and the steers sold at 13/14 months old with a good frame to a finishing unit, who is happy with how the Luings do, coming back year after year for them. They have started retaining one or two of their better bull calves and have been selling them privately. The best heifers are retained for use in the herd, with others sold privately, as well as selling at Stirling and other markets as bulling heifers. They have sold a few in calf heifers through Stirling too this last couple of years. One thing that makes James feel that the decision to go with the Luing was correct is the demand for both the females and males, making them easy to sell at a good price, something that is vitally important to have in any business, a saleable commodity. The heifers they retain calve at 36 months as James feels this gives them time to mature and grow out on the farm. "We just found that if we calved them too young it took a bit too much out of them, on our farm" he noted. All the heifers are out wintered in their second winter on rented dry hill ground being fed a high energy 16% protein nut with a snacker to compliment poor grazing, the cows are housed in late November in new sheds they have erected since moving on. "The winters here are very wet and the land very peaty, so with a combination of that and grazing restrictions for environmental schemes and SSSI land it is better to have the cattle housed, where they are easier to manage".

Starting out with the Luings has been a learning curve for the couple both getting to know their cattle and the farm, and how the cattle manage each hill, but it has been a rewarding one, seeing how the ground has improved with the cattle grazing, which has lead to better performance from the sheep flock and also seeing the extra

bio-diversity, with more birds, wildlife and flora visible on the farm, an improvement from when it had been allowed to fall backwards. The fieldsman, Charles Symons, and other members of the Society have been a great source of help and have offered useful advice to them as well, making them feel welcome into the fold of this hospitable breed, encouraging James and Jo along the way, with their ultimate ambition to have cattle of suitable quality to sell at the Castle Douglas sale. "The Luing cow is a great maternal cow and produces a good, strong and more importantly, sellable calf off some very marginal land and inclement weather conditions, and on a farm like East Todholes, that makes the Luing the perfect breed for us" he concludes.



WOOPLAW

Functional, Hardy, Outwintered, Polled Luining Cattle



Wooplaw Arran P with Z cows



Bob, Janene and Ben Moffat Wooplaw Farm, Galashiels

Bulls for Sale
Polled
(Myostatin free)

Tel: 01896860262
Mobile (Ben): 07860456508
(Bob): 07746550531
moffat@wooplawfarm.co.uk

Members of
SAC Premium
Health Scheme

Luing Photographic Competition 2026

You are invited to submit up to 3 photos between 5th January and 21st January 2026.

Photos of Luing cattle during different seasons, humorous images are also welcome. Images should be at least 3000 pixels along their longest dimension (mobile phones easily achieve this) and preferably landscape format. Entries as JPG files (up to 5MB size).

Entries should be sent by email to **stephenlittleboreland@gmail.com** Please be aware that many phones will automatically

compress file sizes, so be careful to send at full resolution (high-quality photo).

The Society recognises that copyright remains with the originator. However, we reserve the right to display any entry on our web pages and social media, and to print any image in Society publications, including the Calendar. The Society will always credit the photographer in these cases. By submitting an entry, you are agreeing to the above.



1st Prize - Leisa Combe with 39 votes



2nd Prize - Marjory McDiarmid with 28 votes



3rd Prize - Hazel Lean with 16 votes

In 1965 I was a 12-year-old school boy and couldn't grasp the fact that an act of Parliament had been passed to create a new breed of cattle. A farming family called Cadzow had invented a new breed of cows and I was fascinated by this achievement. Several years later the breed was on show at the Royal Highland Show Ingleston, I can't remember the dates but they had Luing cattle classes and as I understand it these events were phased out eventually, there were I can say were some shows in Argyll that took a long time before they finally stopped having the classes, the Lorn Show was the last entry form and catalogue that I saw with classes available for breeding cattle where Luings were mentioned.

The first time I was physically involved with Luings was at a farm in Lanarkshire, near the border to Ayrshire, I arrived on site to do a lambing, that would be in 1984, I was contracted to lamb the Blackfaces which were producing the mule ewe

lamb, I did this task for the farming Family for 6 years, whereupon I left Lanarkshire to manage a farm in Argyll, South Kintyre.

I remember arriving on farm to do this task, I had been there before, working at shearing and dipping in 1983, so I knew the farm and knew they had a herd of cattle, all Luings, but in 84 was my first look at Luings close up and actually working with their cattle. My first impression wasn't tremendous, they were firstly not consistent in colour, ranging from yellow to that colour yellow/red half way between the 2 colours, reds and roans both yellow and red roans, there were over 80 cows, the policy of the farm was to buy replacements as bulling heifers and everything including the bullers were put to 2 Charolais bulls, which were bought from the same breeder in Northumberland, this was to produce a strong easily sold suckled calf.





Again my first impression wasn't terribly favourable, the cows were not of consistent size and girth and to be frank the bulls compared to the cows were massive, I was busy enough with my lambing stint, I was only there for 3 weeks at a time, just to do the first turn and part of the second turn, the son who was the sheep man would be finished his cross ewe lambing and then was ready to finish off the mule producing ewes before going to the hill lambing the blackfaces, bred pure, another son did the cattle job, so our paths didn't cross much, we were all busy with our own jobs of work, but I kept a weathered eye on the Luings, being born and bred on a dairy farm, cattle were always of great interest.

As I said the cows to be frank were more a hairy hill cow type, all incalf to the Charolais, I really was interested in how they would perform, coming from a dairy farm back-ground, you do have to calve a fairly high percentage of the cows, Friesian cows steamed up before calving can present problems, so I expected similar problems with those hill cows, especially with what they were in-calf too, but I was wrong, out of the 84/5 cows, 2 cows came in to the shed to allow the calf to be suckled, 1 cow came in to be calved, another got a tug / pull out on the hill and that was it! The cows got silage fed out of the feed wagon, on a dry bit of the hill, checked a couple of times during the day and really the biggest task was counting the calves in the morning to see how many had been born in the last 24 hours, I was impressed, I had just witnessed the calving of the first easy-care cattle, original eh!

The other thing I noticed was that weather did not play a great part in the task, while on those cold, snell, wet days I was run ragged carrying

bottles of milk to lambs and housing ewes and lambs that had given up the will to live and the cows just grazed into the wind with a calf at their heels and just got on with the job. Yes I was impressed and even more so when later in that year I took a day off work, I was working for the Strathclyde Regional Council, water board, and went with the family to Hawick Market and saw the suckled calves sold, 75 I think, the smaller ones were kept until the spring to be sold, it is quite a sight to see pens of Charolais calves sold in pens of 6 and 7 at a time, all like peas in a pod, yes very impressive.

I witnessed the calvings on the farm for the 6 years of doing the lambing, and really it was the same story year after year, quite consistent and left a lasting impression with me, the simple policy and this hill cow which seemed relatively easy-care and the other fact about the cow was temperament, I helped many times with the cows on testing and veterinary days, without any particular troubles, certainly beef cattle were perhaps not just as quiet as dairy cows, but still they were easy enough to work with, considering they were really only handled and penned 3 or 4 times a year.

In 1989 I moved away to South Kintyre to manage a hill farm, sheep only, but still kept in touch with the Lanarkshire farming family, I had lambed for and retained a great respect for the Luing cow and breed and 8 years later in 1997 got the opportunity to work and manage the isle of Luing herd of cattle for the Cadzow brothers, a long way on from 1965, I was now looking after the breed that was invented by the Cadzow Brothers, I still keep Luing cattle and perhaps that will be another story I can tell at a later date.

A “Good Cow” is a Green Cow

Luings

EnviroBeef:

A new tool to breed more efficient cows

Luings

By Harriet Bunning

Lead Animal Genetics Expert for Beef at AHDB

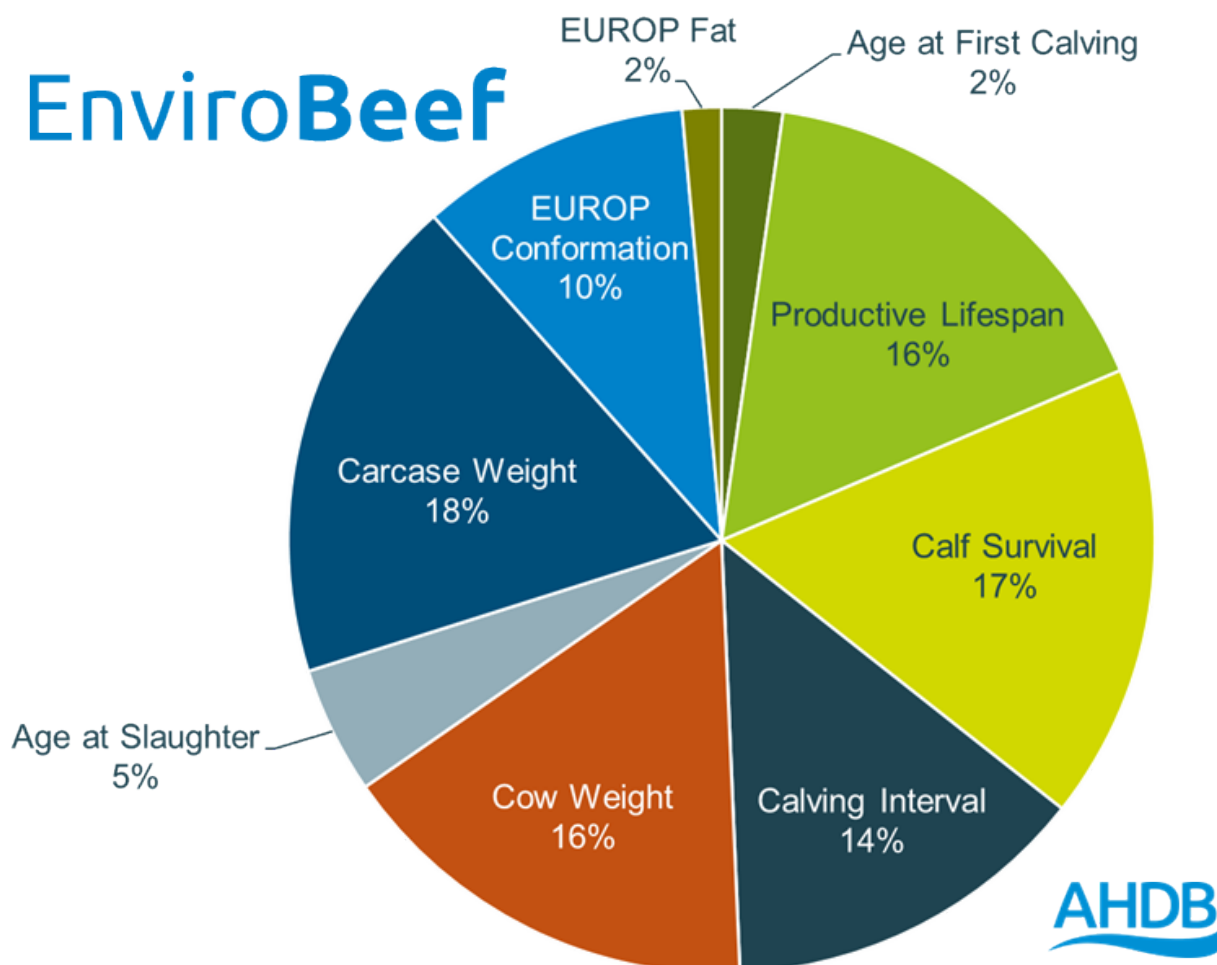
Most farmers know what we mean by a “good cow” – she’s a cow that gets in calf easily, rears a good calf every year that finishes well and lives a good long life. If you’re looking to breed more of these good cows, AHDB have launched a new tool which can help.

EnviroBeef is a selection index which uses data from the National Beef Evaluations, including births, calving and deaths data from BCMS,

as well as carcass data from the major beef processors, to measure the genetic potential of cattle. The main aim of EnviroBeef is to allow suckler farmers to breed cattle which will reduce the carbon footprint of beef. The good news for farmers is that because of the strong link between carbon footprint and whole herd efficiency, genetics that score well on EnviroBeef also have a positive impact on the farm’s bottom line. In short, a “good cow” is also a green cow.

What is included in EnviroBeef?

EnviroBeef



The traits included in EnviroBeef and their relative importance in the index are shown in the pie chart. These include traits which reduce emissions:

- **Age at Slaughter**

Animals which finish more quickly produce less methane across their lives

- **Cow Weight**

Smaller cows tend to produce less methane

- **Age at First Calving and Calving Interval**

A heifer who calves earlier has a shorter period of producing methane before she begins producing calves. Cows with smaller gaps between calvings, again produce less methane for each calf.

But it also includes traits which increase productivity, both through increased beef production, but also through increased maternal productivity:

- **Carcase weight and EUROP grade**

Although stores which reach greater carcase weights and grades do tend to produce slightly more methane, this can be offset by the increased beef yield

- **Productive Lifespan**

More productive cows produce more calves, leading to greater beef production. This improves efficiency overall, reducing the beef carbon footprint

- **Calf survival**

Leading on from productive lifespan, genetics for improved calf survival ensures that all the calves born make it through to finishing or breeding, maintaining high maternal productivity.

Using EnviroBeef will allow breeders to identify animals that have good genetics across all these important traits.

How do I access EnviroBeef?

EnviroBeef scores can be found alongside National Beef Evaluation results on the AHDB website. You can search using ear tag numbers, just make sure you remove all spaces and punctuation, e.g. UK11111200002.

What does an EnviroBeef score mean?

A score of -10% indicates that the animal has the genetic potential to reduce the carbon footprint by 10% compared with the GB average.

The level of certainty of the EnviroBeef score is measured by its accuracy; this is displayed next to the score. The level of accuracy is shown as

a value between 0% and 100%. As we get more data for an animal or its relatives, the accuracy will increase.

How can I use EnviroBeef?

Alongside other criteria, such as health and temperament, choose animals with the most negative EnviroBeef score. This could include:

- Choosing which bulls to use
- Choosing which cows to remove from the herd
- Choosing which heifers to keep as replacements

Currently, EnviroBeef does not use genomics or DNA test results; instead, we use animals' family trees. This means that the results for younger animals are less accurate than those for older animals for which we have more data.

As a result, you may find EnviroBeef scores most useful when selecting which cows to keep or which cows to keep calves from, rather than when you are selecting a new young bull.

Why don't my animals have EnviroBeef scores?

It may be that we do not have enough data to make an accurate assessment. We get new data regularly and publish updated results in April, August and December – your animal may appear in future results.

We rely on farmers including the sire details when registering calves on BCMS. If you do not include sire information, this will likely mean we do not have enough data to produce an EnviroBeef score.

For small herds, it is more difficult to measure genetic potential because we need to compare how an animal performs against the performance of the group it is in. For small herds, there are not always enough animals in a group to do this. We hope that when we implement genomics, we will be better able to evaluate animals in small herds.

What is AHDB doing to improve EnviroBeef?

We know that the tool has some limitations, particularly the speed of results and search options – we are developing a new website that will address these issues.

We also know that EnviroBeef would be much more useful if it included more accurate results for younger animals. We are, therefore, developing the tool so that DNA test results (genotypes) can be included. So watch this space!

PLENDERLEITH

At home in the Cheviot Hills

LUINGS, SIM-LUINGS & SIMMENTALS

RORY BELL : 07740697600 | FINLAY BELL: 07554554553



Ruston Farm is a 700 acre mainly arable farm with 150 acres of permanent pasture to utilise. The farm is part of a large country estate, on the edge of the North Yorkshire Moors and around 7 miles inland from the Yorkshire Coast. I'm the third-generation tenant to farm here, alongside my son Tom, who is 22 and my father, also David, 73, who still puts a full shift in everyday.

Growing up, we always had sheep on the farm.

From 2008 we moved into cattle. We started with a small herd of pedigree Highland cattle, growing to a herd of 25 cows. However, the slow speed at which they took to finish (around 36 months) and the loss of the farm subsidies in England meant we needed to be finishing animals much faster, to be able to keep the cash flow stable.

Our first Luings arrived in December 2020, when I purchased a herd of 9 in-calf cows with some Hereford cross calves at foot. The six heifer

calves were far too good for meat, so we kept them to add to the herd. These are still part of the breeding herd today, plus several more purchases takes us up to 42 cows to put to the bulls this summer to calve in spring 2026.

My original plan after the first 9 arrived was to replace them slowly as we culled the highlands out, but this didn't work out as the Luings didn't mix with their horned friends too well. I sold the Highlands after they had calved with a calf at foot to other breeders and with the help of Charles Symons we bought more Luings to get us up to the numbers we have today.

One of the benefits of hardy breeds such as Highlands and Luings, is they can outwinter. We don't have the space for them to be inside all winter. This last year we introduced them to a field of stubble turnips/fodder rape. We set them a fresh strip across the width of the field each day. I don't think they'd ever seen stubble turnips before as they just stood and looked at them suspiciously for the first day. That soon



changed and before long they were waiting at the net for their fresh ones each day. This also ensured that the grass was able to be rested over the winter too.

We keep the cows outside until the middle of February then bring them indoors in order to get them settled for calving starting in the middle of March. We run them in 2 groups one to a Shorthorn bull and the other was to a Luings. Unfortunately, a week into his work in summer 24 he slipped and hurt his back leg which left me a bull down with 17 cows needing bulling. As luck would have it I spotted a Simmental bull for sale not far from us. We went to have a look at him, he was a little younger than I would have liked, but I didn't want the tight calving pattern to slip so he arrived the next day. We now have 12 fine Sim-Luings calves including one set of twins!



It must be a year for them as we had a further 2 sets!!

We take all the calves right through to fat. We put creeps out with them at about a month old which we feed them whole oats in. We keep them on the creeps until we wean them around November time and bring the calves into the sheds. We keep them on about a kilo of oats daily plus as much good quality red clover/rye grass silage as they want, putting it out along the feed barriers fresh twice a day to improve intake. They go back out to grass for a second summer then we bring them in for the final push. We usually finish them between 20-24 months of age, averaging about 330kg dead weight. We sell them to Dovecote Park on their native breed scheme.

We've invested heavily in infrastructure over the last couple of years, putting a new purpose built shed up for them to calve in with a feed passage way so you can close them in and direct them into the handling system or safely bed the shed up while their busy eating. Possibly the best thing we have bought was the Hustler bale unroller which we feed the silage with. It literally does what it says and lets you unroll as much silage as they will eat without putting whole bales out and it going off.

We're getting on very well with the Luings, we get the odd hormonal one at calving but just leave them too it for a day and they usually settle back down. We'll see how we get on with the



Simmental for another year keeping him away from any heifers, as he has thrown much thicker set calves than the Shorthorn bull.

We're about at maximum capacity with our herd (unless I build another shed!). This year, we've started to retain our own heifers with 5 pure Luings staying with us, we shall have to decide do we get another Luing bull or keep some simluings in the future only time will tell.



Culmaily
LUINGS
AL & AC McCall



All enquiries contact
Ewan McCall
07917764390

Culmaily Farm
Golspie
Sutherland
KW10 6TA

Visitors Welcome

 
@culmailyfarm

McCALL, Ewan

(Chairman)

(Appointed 2022)

Ewan and wife Claire and their 2 children Isla (8) and Alan (5) farm at Culmaily Farm Golspie with Ewan's parents Angus and Evelyn. Culmaily extends to 600 acres with an additional 170 acres of rented grazing is home to 110 Luings and Sim Luings cows with 200 acres of barley grown for the malting market and some retained for feed. Sheep are wintered and summered on Culmaily for a local estate. A holiday cottage diversification compliments the farming operation.

After finishing a BSC honours degree at SRUC Craibstone Ewan travelled to New Zealand and Australia for almost 2 years working on farms and for contractors, returning home in 2007 to farm with his parents.

The Luings herd was started in the 1968 when Ewan's grandfather Alan farmed at Kildonan Helmsdale and then moved to Culmaily in 1971. The first bull was Luings Agent who was crossed with shorthorn crossed highland cows and progeny was then graded up to form the foundation cows.

The Luings cow suits the system at Culmaily with cows being out wintered on stubbles and then moved up onto the permanent pasture during the summer months.

All cattle are spring calvers and heifers calve down at 2 years old. In recent years male Luings calves have been left entire and finished at 13/14 months. There is a closed herd policy with surplus heifers being sold at the Dingwall society sale, a few bulls are kept being sold at Castle Douglas and Dingwall sales.

Sim Luings calves are sold store in March through Dingwall mart and any suitable yearling Sim Luings heifers sold at the Spring Society sale at Dingwall Mart.

PRINGLE, Janet

(Vice Chairman)

(Appointed 2023)

Janet Pringle - I have a croft in the south end of the Isle of Skye, that is home to my own herd of cows while I currently Contact Farm at Glen Finglas, Callander for The Woodland Trust Scotland. Glen Finglas is 12,000 acres. I have been here since 2013. It is significantly important for ancient wood pasture and newer regenerative woodlands. We carry 80 spring calving Luings cows and retain all heifer calves. These calves are

grown on before being sold privately and at The Society sale in Stirling during October. All cows and most young stock are outwintered. Male calves are weaned and sold store. Glen Finglas is an extensive grazing system. The cattle are here to keep the wood pastures in shape and to lessen the fire risk across the hill glens while contributing to the overall biodiversity of the place. I have help delivering the farm contacting from my partner of 25 years Ian and niece Catherine. We also have a family farm in Kinross where we also keep cattle.

Glen Finglas has a small stock of sheep. There are 200 blackface and 200 cheviot cross ewes run in hill parks and on the low ground around Loch Venachar. These are lambed outside from late April onwards to coincide with the tail end of calving. The sheep form part of one of the longest hill grazing trials in Europe. This research is carried out by the James Hutton Institute, who I also do contract work for.

Cattle have been ever present in my life. Growing up on west coast hill farms I feel it is a real privilege to be continuing as many of my family have done before me. Its great to be working with the Luings and involved with the society helping to promote and ensure a future for the breed.

WOOD, Stewart

(Immediate Past Chairman)

Stewart is married to Wilma and has two grown up sons, Gareth who now work fulltime on the farm and Chris and family have moved back to Orkney and works in the construction industry.

We farm 620 acres (95 rented) on Orkney and run a herd of 170 suckler cows, and just over 300 breeding ewes and grow 65 acres barley and 10 acres oats, all for home use. We bought our first Luings in 2007 and now have 60 cows and heifers at the bull this year with most of them bred pure to increase the numbers, there are 90 Sim-Luings crossed with the Charolais, we also have a few Angus x Luings heifers coming into the herd and seem to be performing as well, along with our small herd of Charolais cows.

Most of the cows are calved in the Spring (30 Autumn) and most of the progeny sold in the Spring. All the Luings and Sim-Luings heifers suitable for breeding are retained.

All males out of the Luings cows are left entire and finished at 13-14 months and sold dead weight. We are pleased with the weights and confirmation they are achieving, showing how versatile the Luings cow is.

Our flock of sheep consist of around 100 Cheviots crossed with the Blueface Leicester, to produce the Cheviot Mule. The remainder of the flock is now mostly Cheviot Mules, with Texel tups being the main sire for them, all lambs are finished on the farm. There are also small flocks of Texel and North Country Cheviot.

In 2011 we took the decision to diversify our business and being in Orkney with a strong tourism market we built three new self-catering cottages and opened for business in 2012.

McNEE, Robert **(Appointed 2023)**

Robert and his wife Hazel and their children Kate and Alan farm at Over Finlarg Farm, Tealing, which extends to 740 acres with some grazing ground rented. Both the sheep flock and the suckler herd are now completely closed, with only home bred replacements used for breeding tups and bulls bought at auction.

Hazel and Robert lamb 900 ewes along with 200 ewe hoggs, comprising of 600 hill type north country cheviot ewes of which 200 are bred pure and the remaining crossed to the Bluefaced Leicester for producing cheviot mules. 200 Blackie ewes are crossed with home bred crossing Bluefaced Leicester to produce scotch mules, with the result being tupped with the Texel and sold as hoggs with lambs at foot. There are also 100 pure Texels, and pedigree Bluefaced Leicesters which are used for breeding tups for home use and shearlings for the commercial market.

Over Finlarg accommodates 180 pedigree cows of which 100 are Luings and the remainder being pedigree Limousins and a few Simmentals. The Luing is ideal for our farm and we enjoy producing both pedigree Luings and Sim-Luings, selling both bulls and heifers at Stirling and Castle Douglas.

McINTYRE, Finlay **(Appointed 2023)**

Formerly an auctioneer, Finlay is Farm Manager at Dunalastair Estate, Kinloch Rannoch, running approximately 150 Luing cows and followers. All progeny are finished on farm. Dunalastair also runs 3500 hill sheep.

NEILSON, Billy **(Appointed 2023)**

Farm Manager for Dr Huntington, Bonawe Farm, Crofter and owner of Cruachan Herd. Former commissioner of the Crofting Commission. A lifetime's experience with cattle from the family dairy farm through to management of various Argyll farming units.

MacARTHUR, Alastair **(Appointed 2024)**

I was born and brought up at Nunnerie Farm in the Southern Uplands where I have been working for over 50 years. I am married to Ann with 2 grown up children, David who is a partner in the farm business and Fiona. We run around 1200 pure Blackface ewes at Nunnerie on around 3500 acres in the Daer valley. The farm lies between 1000 to 2000 feet, mainly molinia grass on peat ground with little inbye.

We also run 1200 Blackface ewes at Muirhouse Farm near Biggar on 500 acres which has been extensively quarried for sand and gravel. Half the ewes are crossed with Bluefaced Leicester tups and we also have 200 mule ewes and small flocks of Texel and Leicester.

Luing cows were introduced to Nunnerie over 30 years ago with the purchase of 2 in-calf Benhar heifers at Oban, gradually replacing a blue grey herd. The 60 pure cows are on the hill all year, only coming inbye for calving in bad weather. The emphasis in both sheep and cattle is the production of quality and healthy females, with the sale of rams and bulls a secondary concern.

We grow around 40 acres of barley and 40 acres of rape and kale with 100 ac of baled silage or hay. All stock not sold for breeding are fattened at Muirhouse. Young bulls are finished around 15 months in July with a few younger bullocks grazed over the summer. Heifers are sold mainly at Stirling in October, with a few kept for the February sale. Bulls are sold in Castle Douglas and Dingwall.

LITTLE, Stephen **(Appointed 2024)**

Stephen has resided at Boreland farm for seven years, where he lives with his partner Suzanne. Boreland Farm is around 3400 acres and is owned by the Reid family, which is nestled, by Portmore loch, in the Moorfoot Hills above Peebles in the Scottish Borders. The land rises to over 2000 feet above sea level, with a mix of woodland, rough heather hill to good grazing land, which is frequently limed and reseeded.

The stock numbers are currently around 1420 Hill North Country Cheviot ewes and 110 Cheviot Mule ewes. Cheviot mule ewe lambs are sold for breeding and wether lambs fattened at home on rape. The cows are now a closed herd, currently running at 73 pure Luing cows with half of them bred pure and the rest going to the Simmental Bull. The Sim Luing heifers all go to the U.A Society Autumn sale. We are still building the herd up, so all Luing females are being kept at the moment. The Luing males are mostly fattened at home, with a few Sim Luings going store. Going forward, the Luings fit very well into our system, improving much of the grazing ground for sheep and leaving a good profit margin with very little input.

THOMSON, Rebecca

(Appointed 2024)

Rebecca currently works at home full time at Tillyrie, following just over three years working for Tayforth Machinery Ring. Before that I graduated with an HND in Agriculture from SRUC Oatridge in 2016. I currently enjoy some extracurricular activities including livestock secretary for Kinross-shire Agricultural Society, committee member for Kinross JAC and an active member of the local hockey club.

Tillyrie runs 80 Luing cows and a small herd of Simmental cows and they are split between Luing and Simmental bulls. We sell Sim-Luing heifers at the Autumn Breeding Sale, Stirling and occasionally a few pedigree bulls at Castle Douglas. Other enterprises at Tillyrie include 400-450 strong flock of sheep, which includes a small flock of purebred Texels.

Luings are the foundation of our family farming business, and are demonstrating what the Luing cow can produce; be that bred pure females and males; or crossed with the Simmental to produce the sought after Sim-Luing females, for breeding.

MARSDEN, Jo

(Appointed 2025)

Jo is entering her sixth year as stock manager for Cadzow Brothers on the isle of Luing, this involves the day to day management of the Luing herd, Currently consisting of 320 breeding females plus followers and bulls, all stock predominantly reared on forage. Alongside the cows the farm also runs 1000 cross bred ewes on a near zero input system.

After completing an animal science based degree at Bishop Burton college Jo took on a herdsman position on a dairy farm in Suffolk only leaving when the herd was dispersed. After the dispersal Jo moved into the arable sector working her way up the chain on various large estates from tractor trailer driver to sprayer driver, combine driver, Vegetable quality control, Grainstore management and Agronomy. Jo spent a large proportion of her 10 years in arable as a sprayer operator and was a Farm sprayer operator of the year finalist back in 2016.

Jo says *"the Luings are by far the quietest cattle I have ever worked with and I am proud to be a part of the breed going forwards"*.

CAKEBREAD, Graham

(Appointed 2025)

Along with my wife Fiona and our three children Caitlyn, Amy and Lucy we run a family partnership at Commonsides, Hawick. Commonsides is a traditional tenanted hill farm that extends to 2500 acres, along with 400 acres rented nearby. The cattle herd consists of 120 Luing cows, part of which are bulled pure to produce replacement heifers and a small number of bulls to be sold, mainly at Castle Douglas. These cows are out

wintered and only come in briefly at calving. We strive to uphold the traditional maternal values of the Luing cow while also producing a marketable commercial calf. The remaining Luings are bred to the Simmental bull producing Sim-Luing bulling heifers for a regular buyer. We have also recently established a small herd of pure Simmentals. The mainstay of the sheep enterprise is a flock of 1800 Lairg type north country cheviots, predominantly bred pure to produce saleable two shear tups and breeding stock. 400 ewes are crossed with the Blueface Leicester to breed the increasingly popular cheviot mule. A small flock of 50 pure texels produce tups for the commercial market.

BAKKER, Pieter

(Appointed 2025)

Pieter is married to Antonette and has two children, Christina and Scott, and a new grandson Angus.

He is the Estate and Farm Manager at the 36600-acre Altnaharra Estate for over 25 years.

And started their own farming enterprise on a rented part of the estate in 2014 and have since also purchased Colaboll farm at Shinness, Lairg. The farm is run in a family partnership with Scott, and currently covers about 2000 acres of mainly hill and some inbye at Colaboll, current cow numbers are about 75 and we aim to soon be at 100 pure Luings going to the bull.

Bull calves are kept entire and sold through Stirling, Bulling heifers and an occasional bull are sold at Dingwall. Hopefully soon we can take the odd bull to the Castle Douglas sale.

The herd is enclosed and outwintered, PCHS and DNA tested. We aim to have a fully polled herd as soon as possible, and we aim to breed a medium sized cow that thrives on an exposed hill and calf on the hill unassisted during April.

We also run a small flock of 50 NCC at Colaboll and 100 NCC at Altnaharra Estate.

SYMONS, Charles

(Fieldsman)

Now retired from farming for eight years and having done the fieldsman's job for twelve years Charles finds the job to be still expanding at a tremendous rate with new members coming on board regularly. With this increase in active membership, he dedicates much more of his time to dealing with Luing matters. Meeting potential new members and visiting new herds takes up an increasing amount of Charles's time. Along with his wife Mary he spends most of the rest of his available time maintaining their 20 acre property and a large three-acre garden. Regular new building projects are undertaken to enhance the property and to make things easier as they grow older. Anyone wishing to discuss anything Luing please don't hesitate to get in touch with your fieldsman.

My report this year is tinged with great sadness following the loss of Natalie following a long battle against illness. Natalie fought her illness like the champion she was but sadly eventually lost the battle. Natalie was respected throughout the beef industry where her knowledge and ability was second to none, she will be greatly missed by everyone in the industry. Natalie and I worked very closely together, travelled thousands of miles together to attend various events on behalf of The Luing Cattle Society and there was never a dull moment. Natalie was not only a work colleague but ended up a confidant and a very close friend, I miss her greatly.

The society continues to move forward at pace with more new members joining at a steady pace reflecting the continuing interest in Luing cattle. The Society continues to promote Luing cattle at various shows and events and to this end we attended the following events.

BeefTech25 in Aberdeen

This was a superbly run event hosted by The Gall family at Home Farm, Mintlaw. The society was represented by a number of directors and our stand cattle were a pair of superb Sim-Luing yearling heifers supplied by Robert and Hazel McNee of Over Finlarg.

RWAS 2025 - Hill Farming Event

Held at Hafod y Llan on 12th June this event was run by Caernarvonshire as the feature county for The 2025 ROYAL Welsh Show. Jo Marsden and I travelled down complete with trailer and our new marquee. We were ably assisted by Edwin Jones in what could only be described as indifferent weather. On the actual day the weather deteriorated badly but never the less we had a steady stream of members and potential members through the stand and we thought it was well worth the long trip.



Royal Highland Show

The stand this year was probably the busiest that I can remember both for members calling in for a chat and some refreshment as well as potential new customers. As always this takes a lot of effort by a number of people, setting the stand up, staffing the stand and then taking it all down. Thanks to all those that helped, too numerous to name. As always a special thanks to The Thomson family for supplying some excellent cattle and to Rebbecca in particular for looking after the cattle at the show.



Royal Welsh Show

A separate report on this show has been compiled by Gareth Lawton and can be seen elsewhere in the journal. Thanks to him for taking the time to write a report.

My work apart from attending events on behalf of members continues in ever increasing amounts. As we have more active herds with larger numbers of animals there is more servicing required whether it be bull inspections, dam classification supplying people with cattle or giving simple advice on a vast range of subjects. Running the brokerage service is an extremely interesting part of what I do. My first thoughts are always if you want to either buy or sell cattle you go to one of The Society sales. There are a number of people who don't wish to do that for a variety of reasons and it is those people that I normally help. The brokerage scheme plays a huge part in setting up new herds. Once the discussion has been had and the new member has decided that they would like to purchase some Luing cattle they invariably want them now and more often than not they wish to buy them farm to farm. This is where the scheme comes into play, if we can help people get established it is amazing how quickly they can grow their herd. Finding bulls for people is the other major job for the scheme, whether the purchaser didn't manage to buy a bull at one of the sales or more

often when they have a bull broken down for one reason or another. Health status is paramount in the placement of animals and the other thing that has become more prominent is polling. There is a rush to have polled cattle which I can fully understand but there is little doubt that there are bulls been kept for breeding that would not have been had they not been homozygous polled. This year alone I was asked to rehome three homozygous polled bulls simply because the owners were not happy with the calves they had produced after just one crop. Selecting for one trait alone, no matter the trait, can be dangerous. I am sure market forces, which I am a great believer in, will sort this out in the long run.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of the people that have helped put stands up. This really does take a lot of hard work and the more people that help the easier it is. If you have some spare time please do volunteer, your help will be greatly appreciated. I would also thank all of you that have extended hospitality to me as I travel the country, again it really is appreciated. Finally I have to thank my long suffering wife who is convinced that our phone actually belongs to The Luing Cattle Society, there is rarely a day goes by that it doesn't ring and she does a wonderful job of passing messages on when necessary.



Fieldsman Profile

Now retired from farming for eight years and having done the fieldsman's job for twelve years Charles finds the job to be still expanding at a tremendous rate with new members coming on board regularly. With this increase in active membership, he dedicates much more of his time to dealing with Luing matters. Meeting potential new members and visiting new herds takes up an increasing amount of Charles's time

Along with his wife Mary he spends most of the rest of his available time maintaining their 20 acre property and a large three-acre garden. Regular new building projects are undertaken to enhance the property and to make things easier as they grow older.

Anyone wishing to discuss anything Luing please don't hesitate to get in touch with your fieldsman.

Registrations, Charges and Useful Information

THE YEAR LETTER FOR CALVES BORN IN 2025 is E and 2026 is F

This is an extract only, a full copy of Society rules, regulations and byelaws is available at
www.luingcattlesociety.co.uk/society-rules

Luing Male and Female Registrations

- Each Herd Book Year will end on 31st December.
- Breeders are required to update their herdbook list (herd census) as at 31st December either online by lodging deaths, sales and transfers (online preferred) or via a paper annual return upon request to the office.
- On-line registration and herd census options are now available using the link on the website at www.luingcattlesociety.co.uk/login . This will re-direct you to our online database provided by Grassroots.** A username and password can be obtained by contacting the Breed Secretary on secretary@luingcattlesociety.co.uk or by using the password request facility in Grassroots. **Use of the online system for all herdbook based transactions is encouraged.** Alternatively, a birthing summary form can be used to register via a paper-based system and all calves born in that year should be entered. This must be **fully completed** for all calves to be registered: i.e. UK tag, date of birth, name and/or management tag, colour, horned/polled and sire. Breeders are encouraged to notify all other calves born (date of birth, UK tag and sire) so that full records can be kept for every breeding female on the database.
- Registrations (both online and paper based) must be done / returned to the Breed Secretary by **28th February** of the year following the year of birth. Early registrations are encouraged. **Please note that all registrations received after 28th February will be charged double fees.**
- Any animals which are first presented for registration over 2 years of age can only be considered for Appendix B, and will attract double registration fees.
- Pedigree certificates will be issued for all calves fully registered, and will be forwarded electronically. Registration certificates are not issued for birth notifications.

Sim-Luing Female Calf Registrations

- Entries will only be accepted from members of the Luing Cattle Society Ltd.
- To be eligible for acceptance into the register for Sim-Luing females, heifer calves must be:
 - out of Pedigree or Appendix A Luing females registered in the Herd Book of the Luing Cattle Society and,
 - sired by a Simmental bull registered in the Herd Book of the British Simmental Cattle Society Ltd.
- All calves should be registered by the 28th February following their year of birth.
- Following verification of the registration of both the dam and the sire by the Luing Cattle Society, the Sim-Luing heifer will be accepted for entry into the register and a certificate issued.

Charges

An Annual Subscription is due annually on 1st January and members will receive a renewal notice around early January. The Annual Subscription is £50.00 incl. VAT (£41.67 + £8.33 VAT). Any member not settling membership fees within two months of issue of invoice may, at the discretion of Council, lose his/her rights of membership. Payment of Annual Subscriptions by standing order is encouraged, and the bank details are available on our website at <https://luingcattlesociety.co.uk/publications> .

Registration Fees

1. Pedigree Luing

Registration fees (Pedigree, Appendix or Sim-Luing) are charged on a sliding scale based on the number of breeding cows (i.e. females over 2 years of age) held on Society records for each herd at 31st December of the year of birth, of the calves being registered. This includes full Pedigree and Appendix A and B cows and Sim-Luing females.

Breeding Females (>2 yrs)	Registrations completed online	Registrations completed on paper
1-25	£8.50	£9.00
26-50	£8.00	£8.50
51-100	£7.50	£8.00
101-250	£7.00	£7.50
251+	£6.50	£7.00

2. Sim-Luings

If only Sim-Luing heifer calves are to be registered, the registration fees will be as follows:

Number of Calves registered	Registrations completed online (per head)	Registrations completed on paper (per head)
1-15	£9.50	£10.00
16 or over	£8.00	£8.50

- Individuals who feel that they have a special case will have the opportunity to appeal and the merit of the case will be considered by the Council.
- Breeders will be invoiced when registrations are processed, at the end of each respective registration period.

Transfer Fees

All animals purchased at Society Sales (males and females) will be transferred free of charge.

Transfer fees are incurred by the purchaser (unless previously agreed with the vendor) upon the transfer between herds, of any full Pedigree or appendix female animal purchased outwith a Society Sale (purchased privately) at £10.00 + VAT per female.

Transfer fees are incurred by the purchaser (unless previously agreed with the vendor) upon the transfer into the purchaser's herd, for bulls purchased outwith Society Sales (privately) on a two tier basis, as follows:

- 1-30 breeding females (as listed on each herd's list on Grassroots) - £2 /eligible breeding female, with a minimum fee payable of £25 +VAT
- 30+ females - £100 + VAT

Bull Inspection

1. No bull can be sold at a Pedigree Luing Sale until it has been inspected by an appointed representative of the Society and has been accepted as conforming to the standards as laid down by the Society, including a minimum height and scrotal circumference. Breeders must apply to the Society for this inspection by 31st August each year.
2. The bulls will be inspected as soon as is reasonably possible and the dam of each bull will be classification scored at the time of the bull inspection. Dams must be presented for inspection if they are still on the farm – regardless of whether they have been scored in previous years. The age of the dam at the time of assessment and the number of calves she has had will be taken into consideration to ensure potential buyers know the scores relate to a young cow yet to fully prove herself.
3. Bulls passed for entry into a Society sale will have their pedigree record updated on grassroots. Bulls not to be entered for a Society Sale but otherwise deemed suitable for pedigree breeding will also have their pedigree record updated on grassroots.
4. Breeders are encouraged to have bulls inspected for Society approval prior to private sale – to avoid the potential problem of a bull being turned down after being sold. Only bulls with Dam Classification Scheme scores for feet, locomotion, udder and teats of 5 or above (out of 10) will be approved for use.

Society Sales

- The Society holds 4 Official sales:
 - **The 61st Premier Sale will take place in Wallets Mart, Castle Douglas on Friday 6th February 2026.**
 - **Stirling Bull Sales – United Auctions, Stirling Agricultural Centre – Monday 16th February 2026.**
 - **Spring Breeding Sale – Dingwall and Highland Mart, Dingwall – Tuesday 12th May 2026.**
 - **Autumn Breeding Sale – United Auctions, Stirling – Saturday 24th October 2026.**
- Premier Sale – all bulls must be in the market by Wednesday night and heifers must be penned by 12 noon on Thursday before the sale.
- The minimum age for bulls sold at Society Sales is 18 months on the day of the sale and each bull must have been approved for pedigree use (by inspection) by the Society, in association with the rules on bull inspection set out in the Society's rule and byelaws. In addition, bulls will be weighed at the sale, and must meet the minimum height measurement of 52" at the shoulder and have a scrotal circumference of at least 38cm. Bulls will be sold in age order with oldest bulls sold first. Measurements will be taken in the market and displayed on the pen card.
- All cattle presented at Society Sales must come from herds which are members of a CHeCS accredited health scheme and must be vaccinated against BVD (both males and females). Any cattle coming from a herd which is not accredited free of BVD must be individually tested negative for the virus.
- A health declaration form must be submitted with an entry form, the information from which will be displayed in the sale catalogue.
- **NO minimum age** is required for pedigree Luing females presented for sale. Any animal with a black nose or displaying unruly temperament will be rejected by the inspection panel.
- Vendors are responsible for ensuring that all animals forward are correctly identified in relation to current identification regulation.
- All cattle will be sold under the terms and conditions of the National Beef Association Breeding warranty. A copy of the relevant breeding warranty can be found at www.luingcattlesociety.co.uk/sales. Both vendors and purchasers are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the terms, especially timescales for notification, ahead of sale/purchase.
- The upset price for bulls is **2,000gns**.

Luing Website/Facebook (www.luingcattlesociety.co.uk)

The Society website and social media pages continues to prove a useful source of information on the breed from commercial beef producers wanting to find out more about Luing cattle and for breeders needing to download sales entry forms, application forms, or sale catalogues. Another very useful feature is the 'stock for sale' pages, which is available to all members. Adverts are free of charge if using the Society's brokerage service, and £100 if not.

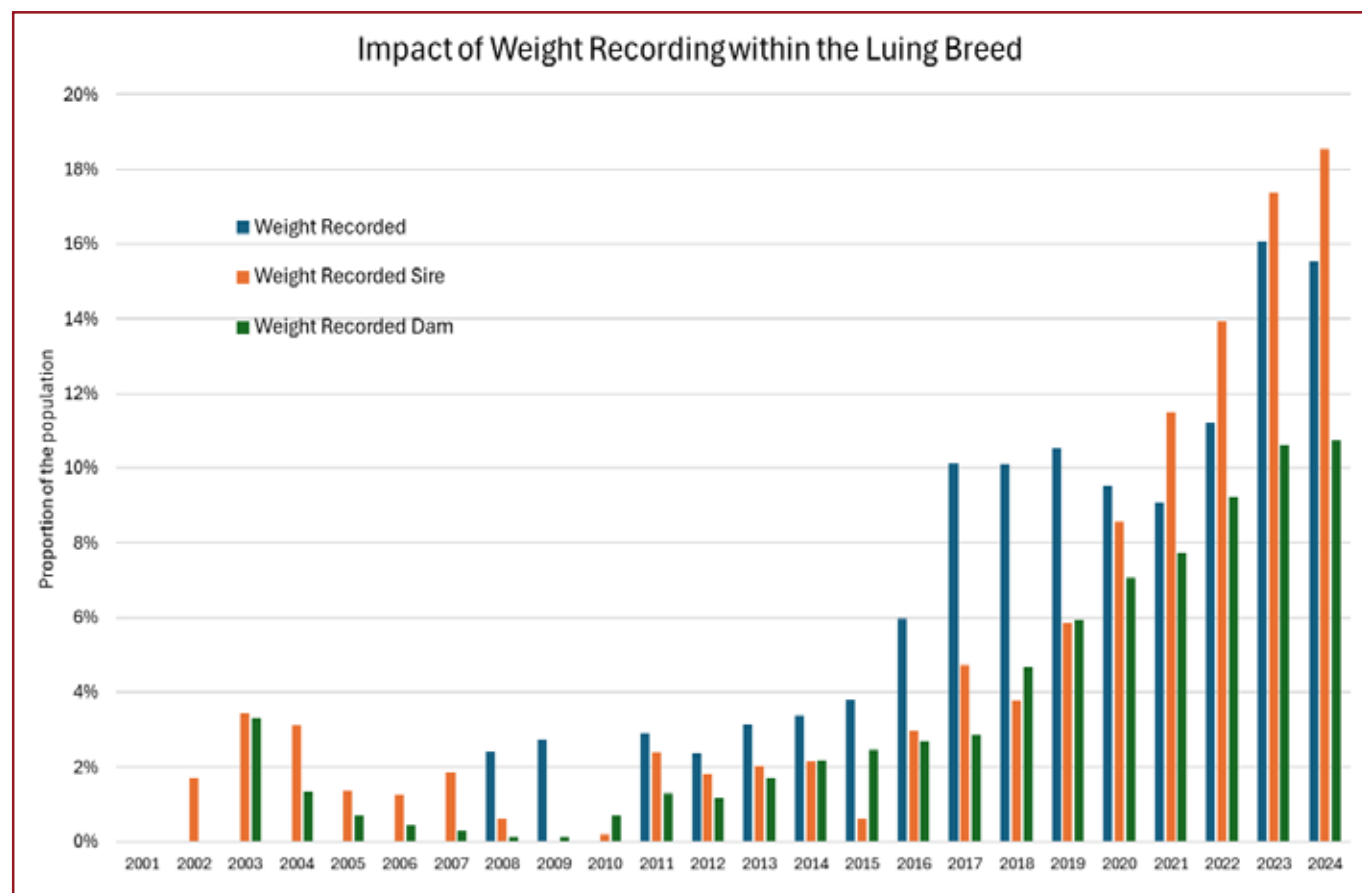
Cattle Health Policy

Since 2011, all official Society sales (Premier Sale in Castle Douglas, Spring Sale in Dingwall and Autumn Sale in U.A. Stirling) have had the same entry conditions in terms of cattle health; entry is only permitted from herds which are members of a CHeCS (Cattle Health Certification Standards) accredited health scheme such as Biobest Laboratories' *HiHealth Herdcare* or SAC's *Premium Cattle Health Scheme*. In addition to being a member of such a scheme, herds must be specifically managing BVD and Johnes's disease. All stock forward for Society sales are expected to have been vaccinated for BVD (see above), originate from a BVD accredited herd, or have individually tested negative ahead of departure from the holding in accordance with the ScotGov initiative.

The Luing Cattle Society provides its members with full access to Signet's weight recording and breed improvement programme. Calving records arrive from the Society and breeders supply weights directly to Signet for analysis.

The chart below shows the impact the weight recording programme is having on the Luing breed, providing breeders and bull buyers with easy access to Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) to aid selection decisions.

Figure 1. Proportion of Luing cattle influenced by weight recording programme



Nearly 1 in 5 calves registered with the Luing Society are now sired by a weight recorded bull. This highlights both the increased uptake in weight recording by Luing breeders and the use of this information to aid those all-important bull purchasing decisions.

In recent years, this process has become easier with many buyers doing their homework before attending a sale, with catalogues now provided online with the breeding values for recorded stock included.

The importance of use EBVs when buying bulls and selecting heifer replacements

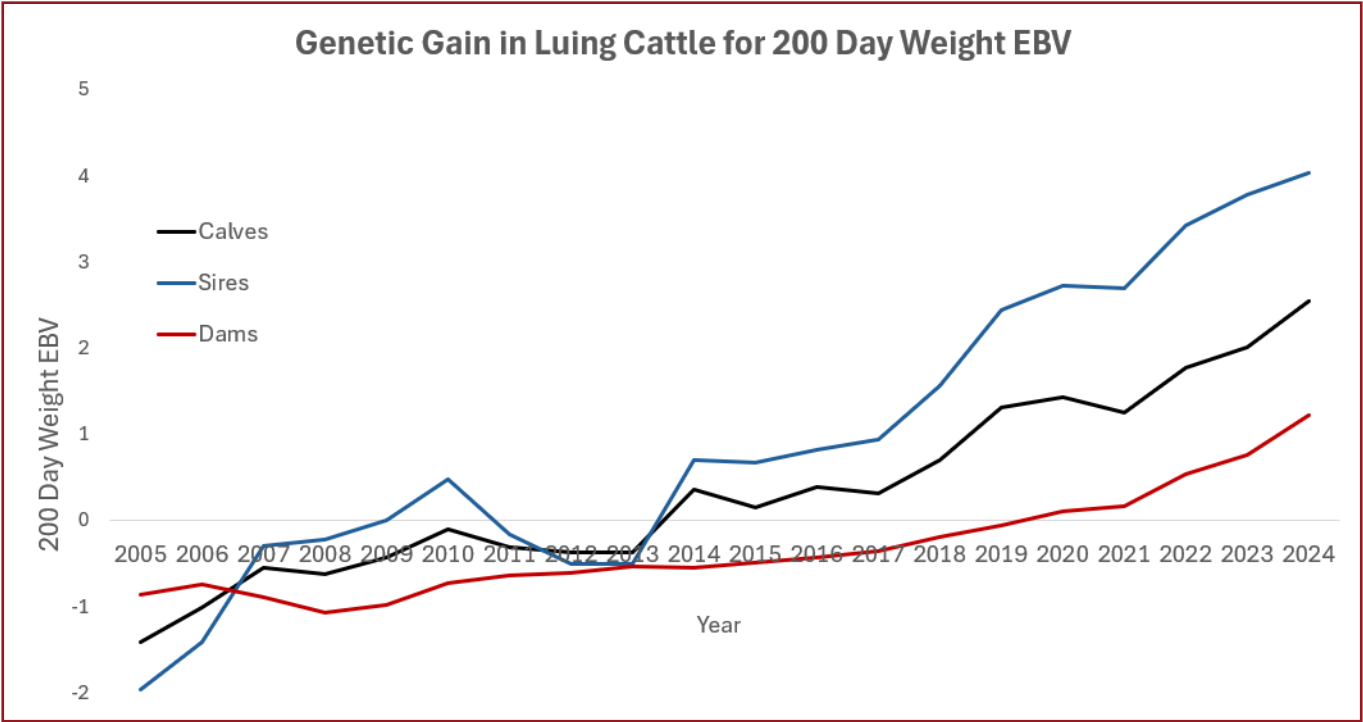
Genetic change arises from both the selection of superior sires and dams. Through sire selection genetic gain can be fast. Elite bulls can be

purchased whose performance far exceeds the rest of the population; the entire bull team can be changed in a single season if the need arises.

With dams it takes longer. Breeders will need to wait for the older cows in the herd to be replaced by superior heifers, gradually lifting the genetic merit of the breeding herd.

These two pathways to improvement can be observed in the genetic trends for the Luing breed. In this example we see sire selection driving genetic improvement across the breed, with improvements in genetic potential for 200-day growth rate apparent in both the calves they produce and the daughters they are leaving in the herd.

Figure 2. Genetic gain in Luining for 200 Day Weight EBV



For more information

Signet weight recording is available to all members of the Luining Cattle Society, this initiative provides access to free weight recording for participating herds. Signet provides a range of tools and services for breeders to meet the

needs of the commercial producer. If you would like to find out more please contact Laura Eyles laura.eyles@ahdb.org.uk or 07902 493551.

Laura Eyles, Signet

200 Day Weight Genetic Trend for LUING Breed

Year	Number of Calves	Calves	Sires	Sires	Number of Dams	Dams
2005	842	-1	123	-2	826	-1
2006	1348	-1	150	-1	1306	-1
2007	1956	-1	148	-0	1900	-1
2008	2329	-1	174	-0	2260	-1
2009	2663	-0	177	0	2607	-1
2010	3000	-0	191	0	2938	-1
2011	3352	-0	204	-0	3271	-1
2012	3665	-0	223	-1	3568	-1
2013	3640	-0	211	-1	3546	-1
2014	3632	0	233	1	3542	-1
2015	4009	0	223	1	3916	-0
2016	4204	0	236	1	4073	-0
2017	4434	0	246	1	4323	-0
2018	4482	1	259	2	4382	-0
2019	4781	1	284	2	4666	-0
2020	5181	1	282	3	5046	0
2021	5388	1	318	3	5272	0
2022	5239	2	304	3	5109	1
2023	5065	2	303	4	4940	1
2024	5268	3	290	4	5144	1
2025	649	5	45	8	629	3



2025 marked the tenth anniversary of the Luing Cattle Society travelling down the Royal Welsh Show, having first attended in 2015. Although it was only the eighth actual show done, because of the two years cancelled due to the pandemic.

With the ever present Charles Symons unable to travel down this year, the vice chair Janet Pringle stepped up and made not only her first visit to the Royal Welsh Show, but to Wales itself! She must have enjoyed it as she says she's returning next year.

Mark Thomson, as usual brought the show trailer down, and we met just after midday on the Sunday to get the stand set up ready. In a change to the usual set up, Janet suggested we set up the gazebo out the back of the stand to use as the kitchen/storage area, and what a difference that idea made to the stand, It opened up a lot more room to get more people in and see what we had to offer.

Iwan Davies arrived with two in calf heifers, which considering they were spending their first days of their lives inside, having only been brought in off a 180 acre field at midday, settled in really quickly and demonstrated just how docile the breed is.





The weather was kind for the show this year, not too hot, and no rain. Talk prior to the show was the attendance wouldn't be at its usual level due to the English and Scottish livestock not being able to attend because of the Blue Tongue Virus restrictions, but this wasn't obviously evident, from the Monday morning through to mid afternoon on the Thursday, just before we started packing away, there was a steady stream of visitors, and an awful lot of what we all thought genuine enquiries. It was pleasing to see at least one of the visitors made the trip north to the Rockcliffe dispersal sale.

Every year we see a lot of repeat visitors, and it is nice to see that chipping away at them for all these years seems to have finally started paying off, with a lot now having gone from maybe having a few to try, to having a herd of them in their own right. When we first started back in 2015, the main question was 'What are they?' as many hadn't heard of the breed down in Wales, now the question is 'where can I get some from?' we must be doing something right!

Thanks have to go to Mark and Janet for travelling down with the trailer, Iwan Davies for supplying the heifers and Craig Brook and Edwin Jones who helped man the stand during the course of the show.



Altnaharra Luings



We welcome all visitors

Hill Reared Outwintered & Tick Acclimatised
PCHS, R1 & BVD Accredited.
Bulling Heifers & Young Bulls For Sale



P&A Bakker, Altnaharra, By lairg, Sutherland, IV27 4UE
Contact: Pieter Bakker 07764161607
Scott Bakker 07907436230

Obituary

NATALIE CORMACK MSc, FRAGS (1970 – 2025)



The Luing community joins the wider Scottish livestock sector in mourning Natalie Cormack – a calm, capable and deeply respected professional whose blend of practical stockmanship and scientific understanding enriched every organisation she served. For many Luing breeders, Natalie was the trusted voice at the end of the phone: steady under pressure, meticulous with detail, and wholly committed to getting things right.

Born in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, Natalie grew up on her family's beef farm and excelled from an early age in the show ring. After moving to Scotland at nineteen, she built a reputation around leading pedigree herds and major sales, demonstrating the instinct and composure that became her hallmark. She went on to complete an MSc in Animal Breeding at the University of Edinburgh, focusing on genetic parameters in British beef cattle – an achievement that reflected both her academic ability and her love of stock.

With her late husband, George Cormack, Natalie established a respected cattle livery business, first near Haddington and later at Nabdean, Paxton. Their quiet professionalism and care for animals earned the trust of many breeders. Natalie became widely known for her patience with newborn calves, her skill in halter-breaking, and her eye for presentation. After George's passing in 2012, she continued her work with the same unwavering standards, supporting show teams, offering guidance to young stock-people, and helping many breeders achieve success in the ring.

Natalie made a lasting contribution to the Luing Cattle Society as Breed Secretary, offering clarity, efficiency and sound judgement during busy and sometimes challenging periods for the breed. Members valued her practical approach, her accuracy in the details that underpin pedigree work, and her ability to bring calm order to

demanding schedules. She understood breeder priorities and the realities of running herds, and her advice was always shaped by fairness, experience and a deep respect for good cattle.

Her wider professional life was remarkable in its breadth. At the time of her death, Natalie was serving AHDB (managing the Beef Feed Efficiency Project), the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society (Breed Development Manager), Border Union Agricultural Society (including Kelso Tup Sales), Berwickshire Agricultural Society (Secretary), Border Angus Club (Secretary), alongside administrative support for several farms and faithful service to St Andrew's Church, Kelso as Gift Aid & Vestry Secretary. Across all these roles, the hallmarks were the same: precision, loyalty and a strong sense of responsibility.

In 2025, Natalie was awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Agricultural Societies (FRAGS) for her service to the farming industry. Despite serious illness, she attended the presentation at the Royal Highland Show, where she was also part of the winning Beef Interbreed Team with the bull Sherlock. Those who were there will remember both her pride and her characteristic modesty.

In recent years, Natalie shared her life with her partner, Keith Martin, a long-time friend with whom romance blossomed. For the last few years, they made their home together, enjoying walks Natalie's much-loved dog Bruce always at her side. Though Keith's background was more arable than livestock, he readily turned his hand to helping with cattle when needed, and their companionship brought great happiness to both. In the final months of Natalie's illness, Keith was a constant source of quiet strength and solace, supporting her with kindness and steadfast care.

Above all, Natalie was a stockwoman at heart. Whether coaxing a newborn calf to suckle in the early hours or preparing cattle for the show yard, she brought patience, skill and a quiet confidence that reassured both animals and people. Many learned from her without ever feeling they were being taught – a true hallmark of her character.

For the Luing breed, her legacy is both practical and personal: smoother administration, thoughtful guidance, and the steady hand she lent to breeders and committees alike. She strengthened our community not through noise, but through consistent, dependable work and an unwavering commitment to the cattle she loved.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Keith, her family, and her many friends and colleagues. Natalie Cormack will be remembered with great affection and gratitude across the Luing community she served so well. Her example – of integrity, craftsmanship and kindness – will endure.

FINLARG HERD



VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME



Over Finlarg Farm
Tealing Dundee
DD4 0QE

Contact Details
Robert & Hazel
01382 380627

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