

## OFFICE BEARERS AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL 2009

### **Chairman**

Matthew Mauchlen, Woodburn, Crieff, Perthshire , PH7 3RG  
Tel: 01764 654364

### **Vice Chairman**

Steven Murray, West Preston, Kirkbean, Dumfriesshire, DG2 8AU  
Tel: 01387 880630

### **Immediate Past Chairman**

Charles Symons, Attonburn, Yetholm, Kelso, Roxburghshire, TD5 8PX  
Tel: 01573 420242

### **Council Members - To retire 2010**

Charlie Bell, 1 Garryside, Blair Atholl, Pitlochry Tel: 01796 481459  
Bruce Gilchrist, Rawburn Farm, Longformacus, Duns Tel: 01361 890253  
Andrew McNee, No. 1 Woodend Cottage, Armadale Tel: 01501 731946

### **To retire 2011**

David Barr, Milkieston, Peebles Tel: 01721 730213  
Wilbert Girvan, Buckholm Farm, Galashiels Tel: 01896 752185  
James Newell, 6 Park Lane, Ballymoney, Co. Antrim Tel: 02827 665695

### **To retire 2012**

James Colston, Arisaig Farms, Glen House, Arisaig, PH39 4NU  
Tel: 01687 450609  
Giles Henry, Oakwood Mill, Selkirk, TD7 5EZ Tel: 01750 23202  
Leslie Robson, Kilchatton, Toberonochy, Isle of Luing, By Oban, Argyll  
Tel: 01852 314210

### **Fieldsman**

Finlay McGowan, Incheoch Farm, Alyth, Blairgowrie Tel: 01575 560236

### **Breed Development Officers**

Neil McGowan, Shealwalls, Alyth, Blairgowrie Tel: 01828 633652  
Robert McNee, Woodend Farm, Armadale, Tel: 01501 731980

### **Secretary**

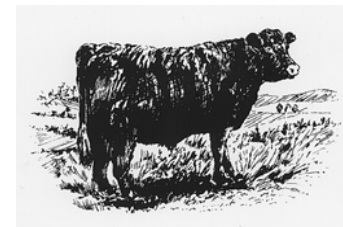
Johnny Mackey, Wester Drumloch, Lornty, Blairgowrie, PH10 6TD  
Tel: 01250 873882 e-mail: secretary@luing-cattle.ndo.co.uk

# *The Silent 'U'*

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Luing Newsletter  
April 2009

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## DATES FOR THE DIARY – 2009

- 24<sup>th</sup> April** Deadline for Dingwall Sale entries  
**1<sup>st</sup> May** Breeding Sale – Perth. Special Luing and Sim-Luing sections. Entries close 29<sup>th</sup> April
- 13-15<sup>th</sup> May** Royal Ulster Show – Balmoral  
**20<sup>th</sup> May** Inaugural Dingwall Luing Sale – Dingwall mart  
**25–28<sup>th</sup> June** Royal Highland Show - Ingliston  
**1<sup>st</sup> July** Scottish Beef Fayre, Pitlochrie, Fife  
**22<sup>nd</sup> July** Dam Classification Workshop (Incheoch Farms, nr Alyth) and Council Meeting
- 29<sup>th</sup> August** Open Day – Attonburn, Yetholm, nr Kelso  
**31<sup>st</sup> August** Applications close for inspection of bulls for Premier Sale 2010
- 25<sup>th</sup> September** Entries close for October Luing Sale - Stirling  
Closing date for Journal advertisements
- 24<sup>th</sup> October** Luing Sale – United Auctions, Stirling  
**18<sup>th</sup> December** Closing date for Premier Luing Sale Entries
- 2010  
**31<sup>st</sup> January** 2009 born calves to be registered by this date  
**4-5<sup>th</sup> February** AGM, Annual Dinner and Premier Sale, Castle Douglas

## **BULL INSPECTION**

Applications for bull inspections must be submitted to the office by 31<sup>st</sup> August. Breeders are reminded that the minimum scrotal circumference measurement for bulls to be accepted for the Premier Sale is 38cms. This is a very heritable trait and sons of bulls which did not make the grade in this respect in the past are now coming forward with the same problem. Dams of bulls headed for Castle Douglas must be forward for classification at the time of inspection if still on the holding.

The opportunity is still open for any breeder to have any cows that are 10 years old or over to be classified, free of charge. All you need to do is:

1. Advise the office of the identity of the cows you wish inspected
2. You will be contacted with suggested dates for inspection
3. Have your cows gathered together on a hard standing for inspection.

## **GENESIS FARADAY – WE NEED YOUR HELP**

Have you ever found yourself wandering amongst your stock and getting lost in thought about Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs)? No thought not.....that must only happen to our Breed Development Officers then! As you may have read in the 2009 Journal, the Society was fortunate to compete for, and win, £5,000 from the Genesis Faraday partnership to work with SAC in investigating potential development of EBVs for the breed. There will be four outcomes from this project; an appraisal of current information held by the Society, investigating potential improvement to the Dam Classification System, looking into maternal EBVs to find out if any could be useful for Luings and finally addressing any Frequently Asked Questions from breeders. It is the last part which we need your help with. Any questions to do with EBVs or breeding policies in general would be relevant to this project. No matter how daft, far fetched, controversial or downright simple you may think they are.....we want to hear about them. Contact myself, Neil McGowan or Robert McNee.

## **DAM CLASSIFICATION WORKSHOP**

On the back of the above project, we intend to hold a workshop for members to hear the latest and greatest on this subject from the project's lead geneticist, Dr Tim Roughsedge of SAC. The workshop will also provide a unique opportunity for any interested members to get together for a 'training' session on the Dam Classification System and be right in the heart of any new changes which may come about from the project. The McGowan family at Incheoch Farms have kindly agreed to host this workshop on **22<sup>nd</sup> July from 2pm** – to book a place email [secretary@luing-cattle.ndo.co.uk](mailto:secretary@luing-cattle.ndo.co.uk) or call 01250 873882.

## **ANNUAL DINNER AND RAFFLE**

Another memorable night was had by over 100 Luing breeders, members and friends. Malcolm Rodman, an Argentinean beef farmer, was a special guest at the Annual Dinner and gave a very informative, if not alarming (and we think we have problems with our government!), talk on the state of their beef industry. The main speaker, Alastair Lindsay of Prendergust, nr Eyemouth, then followed with a very entertaining after dinner speech which drew many hearty laughs. This loosened everyone up nicely to be prayed upon by our two wannabe bailiffs, Ted Fox and Neil Anderson, whose sterling efforts raised an amazing £977 for this year's chosen charity Macmillan Cancer Support. But it didn't stop there. Stephen Little, of Upper Chatto Luings, Kelso, had produced a superb hand-crafted shepherds crook with the word 'Luings' displayed on one side to be joined by the word 'Attonburn' on the other. This resulted from an impromptu raffle run by Robin Anderson of Wallets Marts, Castle Douglas who managed to persuade Charles Symons to part with over £200 for the crook. Together with the raffle funds, we were proud to be able to donate £1,200 to the local Macmillan representatives the following morning immediately before the sale. Numbers for both the AGM and Annual Dinner were down slightly on last year for which I'm blaming the inclement winter weather and Robert Peston (BBC Economics correspondent who has frightened everyone into not spending any money!).

## **WCF COUNTRY CENTRES PHOTO COMPETITION**

A very strong entry for this competition was judged by official Society photographer, Wilbert Girvan, ably assisted by his sister Molly Hodges who also happens to be a very accomplished snapper in her own right. Prizes were once again generously provided by WCF Country Centres and were won by Tooti Cadzow, Debbie McGowan, Stephen Little, Gordon Steel and Wendy Mackey.

## **HEALTH SCHEMES - YOU'VE GOT TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT**

From 2010, any cattle entered for the Society's Premier Sale in Castle Douglas must come from herds which are members of a CHeCS (Cattle Health Certification Standards) health scheme. There are three main options open to breeders – HI Health scheme (01896 878293), the SAC's Premium Cattle Health Scheme (01835 822456) or Biobest's Herdcare health scheme (0131 440 2628). In addition to this decision from Council, all stock must be tested free of BVD or come from accredited free herds. The requirement to vaccinate all stock remains. This is the next logical step for the Society which has received a lot of credit for holding the first ever BVD-safe sale in 2007. The new policy will keep us on the front foot in our efforts to produce healthy, efficient, productive cattle for today's commercial buyer.

## **PERTH BREEDING SALE**

There will again be a special section for pedigree Luings, registered Sim-Luings and Luing cross females at the United Auctions well established breeding sale to be held at Perth Agricultural Centre on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> May. Although not an official Society Sale, there have already been a number of enquiries and Council recommend it as a Society Approved Sale and have offered £20 for the best pair of Pedigree Luing heifers and £20 for the best pair of registered Sim-Luing heifers. Judge: Charlie Bell, Blair Atholl. Entries should be made direct with UA Perth - ([perth@uagroup.co.uk](mailto:perth@uagroup.co.uk) or 01738 626183). Pedigree Luings and Registered Sim-Luings should be notified no later than Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April so that catalogues can be prepared and advertising can be placed. Purely commercial entries will be accepted until Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April.

### **ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW 25-28<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2009**

Once again our stand at the Highland Show will be on 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue - which runs between the North Car Park and the Grandstand - and we hope that all of you visiting the show will take time to pay us a visit. Cattle will again be on display, promotional material available, and plenty of room to have a seat, a coffee and a chat. As well as promoting the breed, this has become very much established as **the** place for members to meet and base themselves during Show time. Interested visitors – maybe prospective members – calling at the stand find it much more meaningful if there are breeders on hand to discuss the merits of the Luing or Sim-Luing with them.

***Please get in touch if you think you could spare an hour or two to spend on the stand during your time at the Show. A quick phone call to the office will enable a rota to be drawn up so that cover can be provided over as much of the time as possible – your help will be very much appreciated.***

### **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS**

If you haven't already done so, please send a cheque in for your annual subscription (£34.50 incl. VAT). Reminders are costly to send out so I'll be phoning late payers directly to save time and money. For those members paying by Standing Order, please note that due to the change in VAT rate from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2008 (down to 15% from 17.5%) most of these subscriptions have come in at the old VAT rate and hence are 75p too high. Council discussed this at our March meeting and agreed that the extra 75p should be banked as a donation. We are presuming that everyone is happy with this arrangement and please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would prefer to have your account credited.

### **ANNUAL OPEN DAY 29<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2009**

All roads lead to Attonburn, on the last Saturday in August. Home to Charles & Mary Symons' herd of Luing cattle as well as North Country Cheviots, Suffolks and Texels, this promises to be a great day for promoting the breed in a lovely setting.

The event itself, to be opened by NFUS President Jim McLaren, will run from 1.30pm and will feature a farm tour as well as several live demonstrations on sheep breeding, direct marketing, the Luing Society's own unique Dam Classification System and of course the regular stock judging feature. Luing Society open days have become a popular fixture in the calendar of summer farming events due to the unique mix of good people, excellent stock, sound technical messages being conveyed and all presented in the setting of a respected commercially run unit. Attendances at these open days have averaged over 300 in recent years and we are confident of a similar turn-out this year. So we look forward to welcoming many members and friends to Attonburn (Yetholm, near Kelso) on 29<sup>th</sup> August. More details to follow in the August newsletter.

### **ROYAL ULSTER SHOW 13-15<sup>th</sup> MAY 2009**

Luing cattle will be exhibited for the first time at this year's Royal Ulster Show. Northern Irish Council member James Newell is organising a display of two pedigree Luing heifers and some promotional materials to satisfy a growing demand in the province for Luings and Sim-Luings. Members are of course encouraged to attend the event and call by the Luing stand (located in either of the two livestock halls – exact location unavailable at the time of writing).

### **DINGWALL SALE 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2009**

The inaugural official Luing Society Sale will take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May at Dingwall Auction Mart (15 minutes north of Inverness). Entry forms are out and due back by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April – at the latest to allow ample time to produce and distribute the catalogue. This is only the third official Society sale in the calendar (joining the Premier Sale in Castle Douglas and the Autumn Sale in Stirling) so plenty of support from consignors and buyers will be appreciated.

### **SEND ME YOUR EMAIL ADDRESSES**

We already hold a lot of email addresses for members but we could always do with more. Enquiries can be dealt with quicker by email than post and it is cheaper for the Society to email documents than spend a lot of money on postage (2<sup>nd</sup> class mail goes up to 30p soon). Already several members are requesting entry forms for official sales via email as opposed to relying on the post. Any member who has an email address and has not had any contact with the office via email, please email me, [secretary@luing-cattle.ndo.co.uk](mailto:secretary@luing-cattle.ndo.co.uk).

### **NEW TOP TEAM FOR LUINGS**

Matthew Mauchlen of Woodburn Crieff took over from Charles Symons of Attonburn, Yetholm as Chairman of the Luing Cattle Society at the 43<sup>rd</sup> AGM in Castle Douglas on 5<sup>th</sup> February. Married to Helena with three grown up children, Matthew manages Ben Challum Ltd. which comprises 35 Luing and 115 Sim-Luing cows with a further 20 heifers bulled each year. Matthew is ably supported by the Society's new Vice Chairman, Steven Murray of Rockcliffe Luings, West Preston, Kirkbean who was also appointed at the recent AGM. Married to Elaine with two daughters, Steven runs 120 Luing cows in an outwintering system and also finishes the male calves.

### **PREMIER SALE 2009**

A strong demand for bulling heifers from new buyers looking to set up commercial herds based on Luing females saw out a good trade for the Luing breed at the 44<sup>th</sup> Premier Luing Sale. Such was the demand that yet again there was a 100% clearance of the 131 females forward. Milkieston Luings took the title of best pair of bulling heifers as judged by Iain Mathers (NBA Scotland Chairman who farms in Aberdeenshire). This was a tremendous achievement for the Barr family who lifted the trophy, once again kindly supported by prize money from Bank of Scotland, for the third time in a row. If they were a football team they'd get to keep it.....maybe if they manage four-in-a-row? The in-calf competition was won by Benhar Luings from Robert McNee Ltd. who did well to take the title from a very strong entry. Coverage of the highlights from the sale has been widespread but to recap briefly:

- 22 in-calf heifers sold to average £1,451 with Benhar topping at 2,400gns
- 109 bullers sold to average £1,391 with Milkieston topping at 2,500gns
- 15 bulls sold to average £3,969 with Benhar Jaguar topping at 7,500gns

### **AGM**

As well as appointing the new office bearer team for the Society, three new directors were appointed at the AGM. James Colston, Giles Henry and Leslie Robson stepped up to replace Shane Cadzow, Malcolm Fawcett, Ted Fox and Bill Miller. Neil McCorkindale stood down as immediate past Chairman to be replaced by Charles Symons. Following the official business, Neil McGowan, one of our two dedicated Breed Development Officers, gave an excellent presentation on the progress with the Genesis Faraday project – more details further on.

### **JOURNAL ARTICLES WANTED**

Thank you for all the positive feedback on the recent journal, with particular acknowledgement to Andrew McNee who took the front cover picture which everyone has been hugely impressed with.

We are always looking for stories, big and small, about Luing cattle, people or the industry in general so please get in touch if you have something to share which you think the rest of the Society would benefit from and which of course meets the aim of helping promote the breed – the no.1 purpose of the Journal.

### **ANYONE FANCY A TRIP TO THE ARGENTINE?**

Malcolm Rodman (the Argentinean beef farmer who spoke at the Annual Dinner) has kindly offered to help organise a visit to his homeland for any interested Luing breeders. Wilbert Girvan of Buckholm, Galashiels is very keen help corral any prospective travellers and keep in touch with Malcolm. So any member who is interested in checking out what by all accounts is a wonderful country then please call Wilbert on 01896-752185.

### **AND FINALLY Luing~uistics No. 35**

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