

DAM CLASSIFICATION SCHEME (DCS)

Unique to the Luing Cattle Society and operating since 2002, this scheme gives buyers an assurance that at 18 months of age, the bull has attained a standard of soundness, growth and conformation and that their dam has also been scored as above average for feet, locomotion, teats and udder, in accordance with the Society's rules.

See our website for more information.

BACKGROUND TO THE DCS

The DCS was designed to fit in with breeding objectives for a profitable suckler cow, i.e. to calve regularly and easily, be long lasting in the herd, not create management problems (good udder and feet) and be of a size, fleshing ability and temperament to suit a range of environments.

DATES OF OFFICIAL SOCIETY SALES

- **Early February**
Premier Sale at Wallets Marts, Castle Douglas
- **Mid May**
Spring Sale at Dingwall Mart
- **Late October**
Autumn Sale at U.A. Stirling

Bulls are regularly available for private sale via the Society's website -

www.luingcattlesociety.co.uk

which will also carry full details of sale dates and catalogues.

Luing's



DAM CLASSIFICATION SCHEME

a user's guide

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SCORING SYSTEM EXPLAINED...

The Society's Fieldsman scores cows each autumn against a breed standard which equates to 5/10. For a bull to be stamped as 'Society Approved', he must measure at least 38cm for scrotal circumference, at least 52 inches at the shoulder and his dam MUST score at least 5 on each of the functional traits covered overleaf. Any dam scoring higher can be considered an improver in that trait.

Calving interval gives a good indication of how successful a cow the dam has been including how long she has lasted.

WITHIN HERD SCORING (out of 10)

Farmers looking to breed quieter, easier fleshing and larger or smaller cows will be interested in these figures.

DAM CLASSIFICATION SCHEME EXAMPLE

Bull's details are recorded at the top of the score sheet with his dam's details underneath

Name of Owner	J & S Mackey	Date of inspection	28/11/12
Herd Name	Drumlochy	Inspectors	F. McGowan
Herd Number	476		
Bull			
Name	Drumlochy Nero	D.o.b.	04/04/11
Management tag		Sire	Drumlochy Buzzard
Herd book no.	L/04280		
UK tag	UK542231/200223		
Dam			
Name	Drumlochy Helene	D.o.b.	Mar-06
Management tag	H112	Age at Assessment	6 years
Tattoo			
Herd book no.	P/28184		
UK tag	UK542231/600067		
Summary of calving record:			
		Age at 1st calving	30 mths
		Av. Calving interval	367 days
		no. of calvings	4
		no. of sets of twins	
Cow colour	Red		
Traits to score on scale 1 -10 where: 1 = poor 5 = standard 10 = excellent			
feet	<input type="text" value="9"/>		
locomotion	<input type="text" value="10"/>		
udder	<input type="text" value="9"/>		
teats	<input type="text" value="8"/>		
Please note: cows with 1st or 2nd calves at foot have their age and number of calves highlighted (It is felt that they have not yet proved themselves at that stage)			
General observations: (within their group on each individual farm)			
Temperament	score 1 - 10 where 1 = flighty and 10 = docile	<input type="text" value="9"/>	
Condition Score	score 1 - 10 where 1= lean and 10 = excessive fat	<input type="text" value="9"/>	
Skeletal size	score 1 - 10 where 1 = small and 10 = very large	<input type="text" value="8"/>	

ACROSS BREED SCORING (out of 10)

Dams are assessed across the whole breed for desirable characteristics within four functional traits - feet, locomotion, udder and teats.



Feet - short, hard feet with a good depth of heel



Locomotion - Luing cows need to be free moving in order to deal with a variety of terrain



Udder - suspension and attachment of the udder



Teats - length, circumference and placement of the teats