

SOUTH DEVON HERD BOOK SOCIETY

Westpoint, Clyst St Mary, Exeter, EX5 1DJ. Tel: 01392 447494 Fax: 01392 447495

www.sdhbs.org.uk

info@sdhbs.org.uk

PATRON: HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES



MARCH 2008 NEWSLETTER

Contents:		SDCBC Grand National Draw; "Britain's Best Dish"	11
Export to Poland	2	Carlisle Sale; Bluetongue update	12
Torr Down Hermes semen; Spring Show & Sale	3	Lobby against TB	13
Annual General Meeting	8	Events & show diaries	15
Stockman seeking employment; Midland Sale; DNA Analysis	10	Cattle for Sale	16

Dear Member

What a fantastic Sale! Another record price, this time 1,500 guineas higher than last year at 7,800 (£8,190) – at least 37 buyers, and a new record average bull price of £3,187. When Kivells conducted their first South Devon Society sale at Exeter in 2003, we saw bull prices top 4,300 guineas and average £2,430, and there has been a steady climb since then. We are making progress!

I would like to thank all those who helped make it such a success: the vendors, who brought forward a very smart group of cattle, and who also took trouble to arrive in good time (the M5 closure permitting); the purchasers; the Society stewards – John Irish, Raymond Perkins, Chris Savery, and team leader David Camp; Duncan Findlay MRCVS, our Society inspector; Richard Camp, assisted by Richard Smaridge, who measured frame scores; Liz and Debbie who have been so helpful (and patient!); and of course John Wakeham and his team, particularly Claire

and Gail. Those others not specifically mentioned are also warmly thanked.

The prices achieved should give all breeders confidence to look for respectable returns for good quality breeding cattle.

The AGM and Dinner the evening prior to the Sale was very well attended, and everyone was in good spirits. Thanks to Richard Camp for his very interesting and entertaining talk about his experiences at HRH The Prince of Wales's Summer School – such a hidden talent will not be allowed to hide away from now on!

After many months and more than one hiccup in the arrangements, I am delighted to confirm that our first Polish export has been safely delivered! See inside for more detail.

The next Sale on the calendar is the Midland Club Sale, at Stratford on Avon, on 3rd May. *Please note the closing date for entries – Friday 28th March.*

Not all the news recently has been good, however, and I am sorry to announce the deaths of three Society members. Roy Babey, former herd manager at Northwick gave up his very brave struggle against cancer. His funeral will be held on Tuesday 25th March, in Norfolk – please ask the office for details if you would like to attend. We have also lost Joe Lane, former owner of the Lanner herd, and a very colourful and popular member of the Truro Club; and Derek Bickle, of the Trebartha herd, retired member from Launceston.

Let's hope that the Spring which can't be too far away, brings hope, and continued prosperity to the breed. May I wish you all a very happy Easter.

Caroline

BULL EXPORT TO POLAND

On the day before the Sale, Brafferton Trooper 4, left his home and family in Tollerton, Yorkshire, to begin his long trip to Poland and a new set of

wives. This is (as far as we are aware) the first South Devon bull to be exported to eastern Europe, so it's another reason for celebration.

An order was placed at last year's Beef Expo, by Simon Gill of Agro Irlandia, Warsaw, for a South Devon bull, but the fulfilment of the order was complicated first by FMD, then by Bluetongue, and the original bull (Welland Valley Hanbury 5) was no longer eligible for export. Sheila Eggleston, a member of the Society who also runs an export company then selected a yearling bull from Paul Harrison's herd, on Simon Gill's behalf.

Following the long journey (which was delayed by a day and a half), Brafferton Trooper 4 has settled into his new home and has his name above his pen. He is being prepared to be shown, and will be demonstrated for "his charm, personality and good looks". A consignment of South Devon semen will also be sent to Agro Irlandia, to be used on dairy cows for the production of suckler replacements.

We watch developments with great interest! It is hoped that the Society will have a presence at Poland's main agricultural show again this year.

POLL SEMEN – TORR DOWN HERMES 3

There have been some more enquiries for this Australian Poll Bull. Expressions of interest are invited, by contacting John Harvey at jsharvey@nex.net.au asap to enable a shipment for Spring mating. Anticipated cost £15-£20 ex UK AI centre. See the bull at www.southdevonbeefcattle.com.au

SPRING SHOW & SALE **Exeter, 5th March**

THE SHOW

Judge Robert Shinner, of Stretchford Farm, Buckfastleigh, Devon, grew up with South Devons, and has had plenty of judging experience at Society and Agricultural Shows. His comments, therefore, were particularly encouraging.

“An abundance of quality” was how he described one of the bull classes, and “a real privilege to be judging with such a line-up.” On the down side he expressed disappointment in the legs of a few entries. But overall he noted a “massive” improvement to the breed – bulls with good wide deep loins; wide hips; and strong tails.

The Society’s decision to bring forward the date of the sale by three weeks was vindicated, it falling within the Bluetongue Vector Free Period, and animals testing negative for the disease were eligible to move outside the Protection and Surveillance Zones. It was also a relief to see our powers of lobbying succeed in bringing Cornwall into the Surveillance Zone just a few days before the Sale.

BULLS

Class 1

1 st	M E & T E Broome	WELLAND VALLEY HANBURY 3
2 nd	J P Harrison	BRAFFERTON STARBUSTER 6
3 rd	D A Ashcroft	CHAVID MATRIX

Class 2

1 st	M E & T E Broome	WELLAND VALLEY HANBURY 5
2 nd	J Andrew	LINSCOTT CENTURION 2
3 rd	R J & C J Edwards	X COLCHARTON LAST CHANCE 1

Class 3

1 st	M R & R J Rowe	TREGONDALE BALTI 2
2 nd	R A Ford	GOFFE CAVE PERSIUS 6
3 rd	R R B & S J Harvey	Z SEXTON GENERAL 2

Class 4

1 st	M R & R J Rowe	TREGONDALE BALTI 3
2 nd	R A Ford	GOFFE CAVE STURDY 5
3 rd	B G & J Z A Dart	AI WOODHAYES HENRY 3

Class 5

1 st	P S Rowe	TREWINT JAFFA 10
2 nd	D A Ashcroft	CHAVID WARLOCK
3 rd	J & S Collings	WENFORK TRUSTY 4

Class 6

1 st	J & S Collings	AI WENFORK TROOPER
2 nd	R R B & S J Harvey	SEXTON EXCALIBUR 36
3 rd	B G & J Z A Dart	AI WOODHAYES ILLYA 10

Champion Male – Roskymer Cup

Winner	P S Rowe	TREWINT JAFFA 10
--------	----------	------------------

Reserve Champion Male – Rowe Cup

Winner	D A Ashcroft	CHAVID WARLOCK
--------	--------------	----------------

Best Male on Performance and Inspection – Thornton Cup

Winner	B G & J Z A Dart	AI WOODHAYES ILLYA 10
Reserve	P S Rowe	TREWINT JAFFA 10

Best Male Pair – Macfarlane Cup

Winner	J & S Collings	WENFORK TRUSTY 4 AI WENFORK TROOPER
Reserve	M E & T E Broome	WELLAND VALLEY HANBURY 3 WELLAND VALLEY HANBURY 5

Best Polled Male – Polled South Devon Cup

Winner	T H E Laity	Z POLKINGHORNE GIGANT
Reserve	R R B & S J Harvey	Z SEXTON GENERAL 2

FEMALES

Class 8

1 st	R Sadler	CARLYDNACK NEWHAM CAROLINE
-----------------	----------	----------------------------

Class 9

1 st	K V & M A Plain	FOXHOLE BRIDGET 2
2 nd	Mr & Mrs W P Harper	Z BEDFORD HILDA 61
3 rd	Mr & Mrs W P Harper	Z BEDFORD HILDA 60

Champion Female – Sexton Cup

Winner	R Sadler	CARLYDNACK NEWHAM CAROLINE
--------	----------	----------------------------

Reserve Champion Female – Alger Cup

Winner	K V & M A Plain	FOXHOLE BRIDGET 2
--------	-----------------	-------------------

Best Female Pair – Greenslade Perpetual Cup

Winner	Mr & Mrs W P Harper	Z BEDFORD HILDA 61 Z BEDFORD HILDA 60
--------	---------------------	--

Best Polled Female – Colcharton Cup

Winner	Mr & Mrs W P Harper	Z BEDFORD HILDA 61
--------	---------------------	--------------------

THE SALE

Very often the buyers take a little warming up, with the first few lots often struggling to find a home – this was not the case this time. The ringside was busy, and it quickly became clear that many of those enquiries in the run-up to the Sale had materialised into serious bidders.

None more serious than those bidding for Z Polkinghorne Nimrod, whose polled genetics on top of his other excellent South Devon characteristics aroused a lot of interest. There was a deep hush as the bids rose beyond the 6000 guinea mark, and eventually fell to John Wakeham's stick at 7800 guineas to Richard Wright, at which point there was some spontaneous applause!

Richard, as Chairman of the Poll Group, is keen to take the Polkinghorne genetics further in his own herd, where he already has Z Knightcote Landmark 2 who is throwing only polled calves. We watch developments with interest!

The Sale saw all but one bull sold, and several buyers going home with empty trailers. We hope they will be back at Stratford in May.

BULLS

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Bull</u>	<u>Purchaser</u>	<u>Gns</u>
ME&TE Broome	Welland Valley Hanbury 3	P Cowling, Trebelsue Farm, Newquay, Cornwall	2000
DA Ashcroft	Chavid Matrix	JG Bosustow & Son, Treise, Ruan Minor, Helston, Cornwall	1500
ME&TE Broome	Welland Valley Explorer 5 (T)	CJ Savery, Stokenbridge, Modbury, Ivybridge, Devon	2000
DA Ashcroft	Chavid Pharo	Burden Bros, Old Rides Farm, Eastchurch, Isle of Sheppey	1800
JP Harrison	Brafferton Starbuster 6	Bonner & Son, Tyrellcote Farm, Thornton, Milton Keynes, Beds	3500
RRB&SJ Harvey	Sexton Exchequer	Mr Parr, Matford Home Farm, Matford, Exeter, Devon	1400
RJ&CJ Edwards	X Colcharton Last Chance 1	JP Gill, Trederow Park, Newbridge, Callington, Cornwall	3000
J Andrew	Linscott Centurion 2	MJ Kitt, Cumbletor Farm, Trematon, Saltash, Cornwall	1900
J Andrew	Linscott Centurion 3	MS&C Gray, Ashfield Fm, Dog Kennel La, Bishop Burton, Yrks	1500
Sir Simon Day	Keaton Lancelot 14	G Kerslake, Moor Farm, Shobrooke, Crediton, Devon	2700
Mrs DR Rusher	Burrow SWIG Hadeo 1	Mr Viggers, Stowford Grange, Lewdown, Okehampton, Devon	1500
ME&TE Broome	Welland Valley Hanbury 5	J&S Collings, Wenfork, Treburley, Launceston, Cornwall	3000
Mr&MrsRCBurrough	Godworthy Gallant 19 (T)	RL Toop, Gnatham Farm, Yelverton, Devon	2500
MR&RJ Rowe	Tregondale Balti 2	Flete Farm Prtnrshp, Haye Farm, Holbeton, Plymouth, Devon	3900
THE Laity	Z Polkinghorne Nimrod	WJ Wright&Son, Oxey Farm, Tilton on the Hill, Leicestershire	7800
RRB&SJ Harvey	Z Sexton General 2	RJ&S Whitcombe, Berry Grove Fm, Liss, Petersfield, Hants	2500
RJ&CJ Edwards	Z Colcharton Demetrius 13	PA Cleave, Mill Leat, Holne, Newton Abbot, Devon	4000
RA Ford	Goffe Cave Persius 6	H Lello, Ashill Farm, Kehelland, Camborne, Cornwall	2500
MR&RJ Rowe	Tregondale Balti 3	DA Ashcroft, Oaktree Fm, Honey La, Selborne, Alton, Hants	4800
Mr&MrsMRushbrooke	Brettles SAS Red Gallant	D Mayhew, Mill Farm, Isington, Alton, Hants	3800
RK Rundle	Kestle Brut 1	DJ Northey, Smallacombe Farm, Lifton, Devon	1600
RK Rundle	Kestle Landmark 2	RT Scambler, Bosigran Farm, Pendeen, Penzance, Cornwall	1400
RA Ford	Goffe Cave Sturdy 5	SR Whitwell & Co, The Queach House, Great Barton, Suffolk	1800
BJ&JZA Dart	Al Woodhayes Henry 3	I Forrest, Collacombe Farm, Lamerton, Tavistock, Devon	2100
PS Rowe	Trewint Jaffa 10	FH Williams, Lower Woodlands, St Clements, Truro, Cornwall	5500
Mr&MrsWPHarper	Z Bedford Hadrian 12	HS Huxley Farms, New House Farm, Brineton, Shifnal, Salop	3200
DA Ashcroft	Chavid Warlock	C Bowden & Son, Welstar, Ashburton, Newton Abbot, Devon	3000
RJ&CJ Edwards	X Colcharton Last Chance 3	GL Stidston, Court Park Fm, Thurlestone, Kingsbridge, Devon	3000
RA Ford	Goffe Cave Navigator	WHD Scott, Grove Farms, Wells Folly, Moreton in Marsh, Glos	3700
DJThomas&Son	Z Treguddick Poll Progression 3	Clarendon Park Estate, Clarendon Park, Salisbury, Wilts	3500
J&S Collings	Wenfork Trusty 4	James Eustice Farms, Treglinnick, Wadebridge, Cornwall	2800
J&S Collings	Al Wenfork Trooper	CM Sutton-Scott-Tucker, Great Combe, Dartmouth, Devon	4600
THE Laity	Z Polkinghorne Gigant	J&B Fentem & Sons, Manor Farm, Alsop-en-le-Dale, Derbys	3000
BG&JZA Dart	Al Woodhayes Ilyia 10	TRF Smyth, Sunderlandwick Farm, Driffield, Yorks	4000
RK Rundle	Kestle Hannibal 10	EJ Adams, Tor Court Farm, Torbryan, Ipplepen, Devon	1600
PS Rowe	Trewint Jaffa 11	C Davis, Hallwood House, Hallaton, Market Harborough, Leics	5400
RRB&SJ Harvey	Sexton Excalibur 36	GK&M Garrett & Son, Waytown Farm, Inwardleigh, Devon	4500

37 bulls sold, avg 3035 gns = £3,187

FEMALES

2-YR OLD HALTER BROKEN

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Heifer</u>	<u>Purchaser</u>	<u>Gns</u>
R Sadler	Carlydnack Newham Caroline	Mells Park Trust, Mells Park, Frome, Somerset	1300

1 2-yr old halter broken heifer sold at 1300 gns = £1,365

YEARLING HALTER BROKEN

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Heifer</u>	<u>Purchaser</u>	<u>Gns</u>
KV&MA Plain	Foxhole Bridget 2	JD Musgrave, Fursedown Farm, Yealmpton, Devon	1200
AH&EM Bartley	Mutterton Cherry 5	JD Stone, Little Leigh Farm, Doddiscombsleigh, Devon	1000
Mr&MrsWP Harper	Z Bedford Hilda 60	PJ Risdon, Basil Farm, St Clether, Launceston, Cornwall	950
Mr&MrsWP Harper	Z Bedford Daisy 51	PJ Risdon, Basil Farm, St Clether, Launceston, Cornwall	750
Mr&MrsWP Harper	Z Bedford Hilda 61	JD Musgrave, Fursedown Farm, Yealmpton, Devon	1025

5 yearling halter broken heifers sold, avg 4925 gns = £1,034

NON HALTER BROKEN HEIFERS

Vendor	Heifer	Purchaser	Gns
KV&MA Plain	Foxhole Doris 4	JD Stone, Little Leigh Farm, Doddiscombsleigh, Devon	1025
J Shinner & Sons	Stretchford Valerie 162	PJ Risdon, Basil Farm, St Clether, Launceston, Cornwall	1000
J Shinner & Sons	Stretchford Baroness 311	P Marjason, Crowbeare Farm, Torrington, Devon	1025
J Shinner & Sons	Stretchford Butterbox 126	JACumings&Son, Great Wooston, Moretonhampstead, Devon	850
J Shinner & Sons	Stretchford Butterbox 127	JACumings&Son, Great Wooston, Moretonhampstead, Devon	800
J Shinner & Sons	Stretchford Maygirl 56	J White, 1 Debdale, Harborough Rd, Stoke Albany, Leics	1025
J Shinner & Sons	Stretchford Baroness 312	P Marjason, Crowbeare Farm, Torrington, Devon	1100
J Shinner & Sons	Stretchford Pat 55	P Marjason, Crowbeare Farm, Torrington, Devon	950
J Shinner & Sons	Stretchford Baroness 313	JACumings&Son, Great Wooston, Moretonhampstead, Devon	825
Sir Simon Day	Keaton Buttercup 34	Mells Park Trust, Mells Park, Frome, Somerset	775
Sir Simon Day	Keaton Cowslip 83	Mells Park Trust, Mells Park, Frome, Somerset	825

11 non halter broken heifers sold, avg 927 gns = £974

FRAME SCORE MEASUREMENTS**SCROTAL CIRCUMFERENCE (cm)**

Age (mths)	No	Range	Avg	Pass size
15-20	3	36-37	36	33
21-30	34	35-44	39	35
31-33	1	41	41	36

HEIGHT AT WITHERS (cm)

Age (mths)	No	Range	Avg
15-20	3	134-140	137
21-30	34	132-150	141
31-33	1	141	141

HEIGHT AT RUMP (cm)

Age (mths)	No	Range	Avg
15-20	3	143-146	145
21-30	34	139-153	147
31-33	1	148	148

LENGTH (cm)

Age (mths)	No	Withers to pins		Hooks to pins	
		Range	Avg	Range	Avg
15-20	3	141-147	145	61-67	63
21-30	34	139-156	147	59-71	64
31-33	1	152	152	67	67

RUMP WIDTH (cm)

Age (mths)	No	Range	Avg
15-20	3	63-70	67
21-30	34	60-70	65
31-33	1	67	67

WEIGHT (kg)

Age (mths)	No	Range	Avg
15-20	3	670-868	797
21-30	34	758-1040	892
31-33	1	1012	1012

JAW (inspection)

Bulls

All 27 bulls passed at inspection with teeth on the pad.

Females

All 17 females passed at inspection with teeth on the pad.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The meeting was held at the Devon Hotel, and was well supported by over 70 members and their guests.

It was Douglas Scott's last AGM as Society Chairman, and he added to the Report you will have seen in your AGM/accounts booklets, by highlighting to the meeting a number of issues, namely:

- Our exposure to Bluetongue disease which should not be underestimated
- The devastation to herds being caused by TB, and he thanked the NFU and NBA for their efforts in identifying and organising areas of wildlife control
- The enormous opportunity being lent to the breed through DNA analysis of parentage and myostatin
- The possible realignment of regional boundaries to accommodate changes in membership since the original structure was established in the early 1990s, which Council would consider in the coming months.

He ended his welcome speech by wishing James Eustice well in his term as Society chairman, and by thanking staff, officers and Society members "for being an extraordinarily friendly and supportive bunch of people to work with."

Peter Pratt was duly elected as our new President. Peter owns the Woodgreen herd of South Devons, on the outskirts of Stourport-on-Severn in Worcestershire, and has been a very loyal supporter of the breed for over 20 years. He said he looked forward to the coming year, and was very prepared to travel around the country and promote the breed to the full.

Awards to the winners of the Herd Competition classes were made, and for the Society awards in recognition of successes at 2007 Shows – full details will be in the new Journal.

The annual award unique to Breed Promotion, a sketch commissioned by the Society in memory of Linda Rounsevell, was introduced by Ian Rounsevell. Three candidates were excellent deservers of the award in the last year – Pat Rickett, Mike Kettlewell, and Mervyn Rowe – and it had been a difficult decision. The judges had finally chosen Pat as the recipient, for her enduring work to promote the breed and to encourage members and potential members, as well as to continue at the helm of the Midland Club.

The meeting ended with members' suggestions, all of which will be discussed by Council.

Gordon Tully then spoke of the Society's gratitude to Douglas Scott, in particular for: the enormous impact which the Grove herd has made over the years at shows and sales, leading to a raising of the breed's profile; and his personal contribution to the functioning of the Society, probably more than any other member, in terms of time and expertise. Gordon noted firmly that all members had benefited from Douglas's decision to come into the breed.

After the meeting closed, we were treated to an inspiring and informative talk by Richard Camp about some of his experiences at the Highgrove Summer School, and about his fellow "students".

Dinner was followed by a Club draw, the winner this time being Margaret Plain, who receives a cheque for £220. The "blind" raffle, organised by Liz and Debbie, was well received (winners were asked to pick a numbered box containing their prize), and raised over £200.

The final award of the day was made to the member who introduced the most new members to the Society in 2007, and was given to Malcolm Broome with thanks.

STOCKMAN

Looking for full time position in the pedigree beef sector

Experienced in all aspects of herd management, including AI, foot trimming and showing

Qualified to National Diploma level

South West area preferred

Accommodation required

Contact **DARREN PEARSON** on 01395 567157/07905 035704

MIDLAND SOUTH DEVON CATTLE BREEDERS CLUB

Annual Sale

**Stratford Auctions, Willicote, Stratford-upon-Avon
Saturday 3rd May**

Entry forms available from Mrs Pat Rickett, Secretary, Midland Club
Wood Farm, Everdon, Daventry, Northants, NN11 3BH
Tel: 01327 361268

ENTRIES CLOSE FRIDAY 28TH MARCH

DNA ANALYSIS

If you have not already done so, please would you request hair sample kits from the office, and take hairs from all your breeding bulls. If already registered prior to the end of 2007 you will not be charged for the analysis

for sire and myostatin – *but you need to get your samples to us before the middle of June to save the Society being charged!*

If you hold private stocks of semen it is an opportunity to have the bulls DNA tested now, at the cost to you of just one straw. Please send to Liz, along with any hair samples.

Please be aware that it is now compulsory for all bulls registered after 1st January 2008 to be DNA tested for sire verification, so you will need to send a hair sample with the request to register. The cost of analysis is included in the pedigree registration charge (£45 + VAT up to 18 months, and £72 + VAT over 18 months).

SOUTH DEVON CATTLE BREEDERS CLUB

GRAND NATIONAL DRAW

The Rising Sun, Woodland, Denbury, TQ13 7JT
Tuesday 1st April, 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm

Roast South Devon Beef
(Supplied by Rodney Cleeve, Ashburton)

Three choices of dessert

£12.50 pp

Contact Margaret Northey, 01548 830612, by 24th March

“BRITAIN’S BEST DISH 2008”

“Britain’s Best Dish 2008” is a national contest to find Britain’s very own best starter, main course and dessert. We are looking for ordinary people (ie people who aren’t head chefs with years of experience behind them) to cook their signature dishes and enter them into the mix. The

overall winner receives the ultimate accolade of “Britain’s Best Dish” and receives a £10,000 cash prize.

We are looking for people to attend auditions across the country over the next couple of months, where contestants will be asked to pitch their dish to our expert panel of judges. If successful at this stage participants will enter a series of studio based ‘cook off’ heats in a knock out competition.

This show is a fantastic showcase for British products, last year claiming 3.5 million viewers each weekday for a run of six weeks. We firmly believe that our nation has some of the finest ingredients in the world which is why we specifically target regional farmers and producers across the country.”

This flyer came from ITV Granada – if anyone is interested in promoting South Devon beef in this way, please let the office know, and we will pass on the contact details. It’s maybe a great opportunity to promote the breed, and show off your cooking skills!!

CARLISLE PEDIGREE SALE

Borderway Mart, Carlisle
Friday 23rd May

For schedules contact:

Heather Pritchard
Harrison & Hetherington, 01228 640924

*Please support this sale if you can – it is an important event
in an area of growing significance for South Devons*

BLUETONGUE UPDATE

The Vector Free Period came to an end on 16th March, and movement restrictions have reverted to those in place before 20th December 2007. The requirement to pre-movement test all susceptible stock (ie being

moved from an SZ or PZ to a clear zone) has been lifted, but movement restrictions now prevent animals to be moved from the PZ to the SZ, or the SZ to the clear zone, unless the animals are:

- Licensed to move direct to slaughter
 - Must be to a dedicated abattoir
 - Must be moved after dawn and slaughtered before dusk
 - No stops (apart from required rest periods or welfare reasons) permitted
- Are naturally immune and tested negative (very unlikely)
- Have been housed under approved conditions that protect from vector attack (laboratory-type conditions)

Markets may operate as usual within the bluetongue zones, but animals must stay within the zones after sale unless going to slaughter at approved abattoirs.

Movements to grass may take place, but if moving into a zone with a higher disease status, animals will not be allowed to move back until they can be tested in another vector free period.

We now await the vaccine, and the rolling out of the Protection Zone. The cost of vaccine should be between 55p and 98p a dose, (depending on the size of the bottle) according to DEFRA, but individual veterinary practices will determine the exact price to charge their clients. Cattle should be vaccinated twice, 28 days apart, and will then need to be tested negative (which takes 14 days) before they can be moved from the restricted zones (ie 6 weeks from the date of the first dose of vaccine).

Vaccination remains the only way to protect your livestock from this disease.

LOBBYING FOR ACTION AGAINST THE SPREAD OF BOVINE TB

Following the EFRA Select Committee report assessing the ISG's recommendations to Government on how best to tackle the worsening problem of bovine TB, the NFU have drafted a letter for members to complete and send to their MPs and local newspaper editors.

The Select Committee are in favour of a multi-faceted approach to bringing bovine TB under control, which include licensed badger culling subject to strict conditions. Its overall assessment is that the Government's TB policy is not working effectively, as evidenced by the fact that the number of cattle slaughtered because of TB is "doubling every four to five years".

The Committee is also calling for a review of the present system of tabular valuations, which it deems unfair. A date has been set (9th June) for a judicial review which is the NFU's challenge to the valuation system, but it is hoped that this might not be necessary.

The wording of the letter is suggested by the NFU as follows. You may like to use this as a model, to amend or add to, or to use entirely your own words. The more lobbying letters sent, the more pressure will be brought to bear. Please support if you have time to spare.

"Dear Editor/local MP,

As a local livestock farmer I am writing to tell you about the serious impact that bovine TB is having on my family and my business.

I have xx cattle and (*insert personal circumstances relating to TB, number of animals slaughtered*). Unfortunately this is not a problem that is going to be resolved only by the slaughter of affected cattle – my remaining stock, or any that I buy in, are likely to become infected by the sick badgers who continue to live on my farm. My situation is being repeated in a growing number of farms across the country, in 2007, new outbreaks of the disease exceeded 4,000 for the first time in the modern era, resulting in the slaughter of over 28,000 cattle.

The Government's EFRA Committee recently recommended a coordinated approach to tackling the disease in TB hotspots. This would include more cattle testing, vaccination when it becomes available and a licensed badger cull under well managed and humane conditions.

No-one wants to cull badgers but in a worsening situation there appears to be little choice. The alternative is for more cattle to be unnecessarily slaughtered, more badgers to become sick and more farming businesses to be ruined.

In the letter for MPs:

I very much hope that I can count on your support on this important issue, which poses an impossible situation for livestock farmers. I would also like to take this opportunity to invite you to visit my farm to witness first hand the impact of these measures.

In the letter to the newspapers:

In writing to you I am hoping to persuade your readers to give livestock farmers who find themselves in this awful situation some consideration and support in an impossible

situation. (Suggest you add name and address, but ask the Editor to withhold details from publication)

Yours sincerely,"

EVENTS DIARY

March	28 th	Midland Club Sale entries close
April	2 nd	Breed Promotion Committee meeting, Westpoint
	16 th	Executive Committee meeting, Westpoint
	22 nd	Council meeting, Bristol
May	3 rd	Midland Club Sale
	21 st	Beef Expo
	23 rd	Carlisle Sale
Sept	8 th	Judges Seminar
	9 th	Council meeting, Stoneleigh
	13 th	Poll Group meet at Polkinghorne
	17 th	Beef & Growing Cattle South West
Oct	7 th	Autumn Show & Sale

SHOW DIARY

Major Shows

Devon County	15 th -17 th May	Shrops & W Mids	21 st -22 nd June
Suffolk	28 th -29 th May	Norfolk	25 th -26 th June
Bath & West	28 th -31 st May	Royal	3 rd - 6 th July
Cornwall	5 th - 7 th June	Great Yorks	8 th -10 th July
Three Counties	13 th -15 th June	Royal Welsh	21 st -24 th July

One Day Shows

North Somerset	5 th May	Blakesley	2 nd Aug
Herts	24 th May	Honiton	7 th Aug
Rutland County	1 st June	Minsterley	9 th Aug
Liskeard	12 th July	Camelford	13 th Aug
Stithians	14 th July	Okehampton	14 th Aug
Launceston	17 th July	Aylsham	25 th Aug
Camborne	19 th July	Bucks County	28 th Aug
Mid Devon	26 th July	Kingsbridge	6 th Sept
Yealmpton	30 th July	Moreton In Marsh	6 th Sept
Totnes	31 st July	Thame	18 th Sept

CATTLE FOR SALE LIST

Please note: unless the office is advised that animals are still for sale at month end, their names are automatically removed from the list (please don't rely on us contacting you to ask!)

BULLS

Z Billington Pastiche 24 UKHW0449-00130 Born 02/04/1996	G K & M A Garrett & Son Devon – Region 2	01837 54348
Kestle Horatio 11 UK381722 700114 Born 28/02/2002	R Sadler Cornwall – Region 1	01326 250392
Z Waddeton Poll Sunshine 2 UK364027 200363 Born 23/08/03	W Kayley Oxon – Region 5	01608 677085
Aldbourn Chase Temeraire UK327674 500313 Born 18/02/2006	D Armstrong Wiltshire – Region3	07786 543381
Z Billington Crusader 22 UK371751 600051 Born 10/04/2006	G K & M A Garrett & Son Devon – Region 2	01837 54348
Linscott Centurion 4 UK361009 400174 Born 02/03/2006	J Andrew Devon – Region 2	01271 858213
2 x 2 year old bulls	R R B & S J Harvey Devon – Region 2	01548 830307

FEMALES

Cows & calves, bulling, & in-calf heifers	R R B & S J Harvey Devon – Region 2	01548 830307
3 x 3 year old pedigree heifers	S Frederick Kent – Region 4	01892 870926
2 bulling heifers	G M & S Taylor Cornwall – Region 1	07834 967921
10 bulling heifers & 20 yearlings	D A Ashcroft Hants – Region 4	01420 511011
5 yearling pedigree & grading-up heifers	J Virgin Dorset – Region 3	01258 817171

STOP PRESS!!!! Delighted to announce the arrival of Lucy Anne Tully – congratulations to Janice and Phillip – what a lovely Easter present!