

SOUTH DEVON HERD BOOK SOCIETY

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PATRON: HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES



MARCH 2009 NEWSLETTER

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Dear Member,

The Exeter Sale catalogue is enclosed for your information. Once again we have an excellent level of entries – 42 bulls and 21 heifers – so a good attraction for buyers. The catalogue has an amended format for health information, and I refer you to the front section for vendors' declarations relating to all health issues. All the vendors have completed the voluntary Herd Health Declaration, which will be displayed on the pens at the Livestock Centre.

Also enclosed is the AGM and Accounts booklet. The Society has made a very respectable surplus income over expenditure of £12,000 for 2008, although the value of the investment portfolio, not surprisingly, has fallen back in the current economic climate.

Please note that the order of proceedings for the evening prior to the Sale has been changed to the following:

AGM at 5.15 pm; Dinner at 7 pm; Auction of Promises immediately after Dinner.

We are very grateful to our retiring President, Peter Pratt, for sponsoring the beef for the Dinner, which will be South Devon and supplied by Phillip Warren.

We still have room for some more Promises for the Auction if you would like to donate something. A list is enclosed of offers received to date – we can accept postal bids if you are unable to come to the actual Auction.

Many congratulations go to Roger, Rose and Tom Elliott and family, from Kislingbury, Northants, who have won the East Midlands Region Countryside Alliance Retailer of the Year Competition. Quite some achievement! The family were featured in last year's South Devon Journal as a "profiled" herd.

Otherwise it is a fairly full newsletter, with too many items to refer to here. So please don't recycle it until you've delved further into it!

It is with sadness that I report the recent deaths of two Society members. Mr George Wills, whose herd was registered under the Newabbot prefix, died in December. Many members will also have known prominent South Devon breeder, Mr Keith Rundle, father of Roger and Richard (Kestle herd), who died suddenly in February. Our sincere condolences go to both families.

With best wishes

Caroline

IN MEMORY OF MR R K L RUNDLE

Keith Rundle was born at Kestle Farm, Kestle Mill, Newquay, Cornwall, where the family had been farming for over 200 years. In 1960 he and wife Jean moved into Trevean, the adjoining farm, and started his herd of South Devons.

Keith was a founder member of the Truro Club where he had much enjoyment, and was Chairman in 1970. He bought his first bull, Gansey Escort, at Truro Market in 1960, for 80 guineas. The bull went on to produce females that did well at summer shows and steers which won first prizes at the Royal Smithfield Shows, at a time when they would have been transported to London by railway truck.

A keen supporter of showing, Keith took his cattle to many shows –Royal Cornwall, Devon County, Three Counties, Bath & West, the Royal – and also to Society Sales and one day shows. During this time he made many strong friendships with other renowned South Devon breeders such as Charles Hinchliffe and Bernard Thomas.

Within the Society he served a term on Council in the early 1980s, and was Finance Chairman from 1981 to 1982. In 1992 he was elected Society President, an honour of which he was very proud.

Right up until his final days he retained a keen interest in the breed and in farming. He travelled with the Truro Club to Highgrove in 2007, and there is a picture of him in the Journal seated "Executive style travel arrangements".

He will be missed by many in the breed, not least for being "a quiet, unassuming Cornishman, with a wry smile and a dry sense of humour", as described by James Eustice in his Eulogy.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

5.15 pm, Tuesday 24th March
The Devon Hotel, Matford, Exeter

AGENDA

Apologies for absence
Minutes of 2008 AGM & matters arising
2008 Annual Report & Accounts
Election of new President
Appointment of Auditor
Presentation of Herd Competition & Society Awards
Members Suggestions

**THERE ARE STILL A FEW ROOMS AVAILABLE AT THE
DEVON HOTEL, WHICH MAY BE BOOKED THROUGH THE
SDHBS OFFICE – first come, first served!**

AGM DINNER

7 pm, Tuesday 24th March
The Devon Hotel, Matford, Exeter

MENU

Cream of Vegetable Soup or Melon

*Choice from the Carvery, including South Devon beef,
with fresh vegetables*

Chocolate Torte or Mango & Apricot Rousse

Tea or coffee

£20 plus VAT per person (£23)

Please book with the office, giving your choice of starter and sweet

AUCTION OF PROMISES 2009

8.45 pm, Tuesday 24th March
The Devon Hotel, Matford, Exeter

An initial list of offers is enclosed with this mailing. If you would like to add to it, your donation will be gratefully received.

If you are unable to come to the Auction but would like to make a postal bid, please complete the form and return it to the SDHBS office in an envelope marked "Auction of Promises".

We are very grateful to John Wakeham for conducting the Auction – the entertainment value is always considerable!

FORTHCOMING SALES

MIDLAND CLUB

Entries are invited for the Midland South Devon Cattle Breeders Club annual sale on Saturday 2nd May at Stratford Livestock Auctions, Clifford Chambers, Stratford upon Avon. Kivells will conduct the sale.

Forms are available from Mrs Pat Rickett, Secretary, Midland South Devon Cattle Breeders Club, Wood Farm, Daventry, Northants, NN11 3BH, tel 01327 361268, e-mail pat@rickett.co.uk.

Vendors will be invited to complete a Herd Health Declaration from which information will be taken to be published in the sale catalogue, and which Declaration will be displayed at the sale.

Entries close Friday 27th March.

TRURO CLUB'S "CORNISH SOUTH DEVON BREEDERS FAIR"

Entry forms will shortly be available from Mrs Suzanne Harper, tel 01409 271376, for the new "Cornish South Devon Breeders Fair", to be held at Hallworthy Market on Friday 15th May in conjunction with Kivells.

The Sale will be open to pedigree, non-pedigree and cross-bred South Devon cattle, under the following programme:

- Weekly sale of store cattle
- South Devon and South Devon cross steer and heifer store cattle

- South Devon cows & calves
- In-calf cows (beginning with pedigrees)
- South Devon heifers (beginning with pedigrees)
- Bulls

Prizes will be awarded for the highest priced animal in each class.

CARLISLE SPRING PEDIGREE SALE

The annual sale of pedigree South Devon cattle at Borderway Mart, Carlisle, will be held on Friday 22nd May, and will be conducted by Harrison & Hetherington.

Entry forms will shortly be available from H&H, tel 01228 640924, e-mail info@borderway.com. Contact Mrs Heather Pritchard.

Vendors will be invited to complete a Herd Health Declaration from which information will be taken to be published in the sale catalogue, and which Declaration will be displayed at the sale.

SOUTH DEVON CATTLE BREEDERS CLUB

The annual South Devon Cattle Breeders Club will see a new venue and a new auctioneer this year. After many years at Newton Abbot, the Club is moving to Exeter Livestock Centre, with Peter Farnsworth of Rendells conducting the sale, on Friday 29th May.

There will be classes for stores, pedigree and commercial South Devons, and it will be open to members and non-members of the Club. The Club is sponsoring prizes for class winners.

Entries close Thursday 9th April, and forms can be obtained from Peter Farnsworth, Messrs Rendells, tel 01392 276668.

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Last month's Council nominations were uncontested in the Regions where they were held, so I am pleased to announce the new representatives as follows:

Region 1 ***Mr John Rowe***, Great Lizen, Lansallos, Looe, Cornwall, PL13 2PT
proposed by S J Ward, seconded by J W Eustice
"Third generation farmer, 520 acres. Mixed (beef, sheep, grain). Bred South Devons for 30 years, closed herd, grading up, many pedigree now"

Region 2 ***Mr Graham Hocking***, Withymore Farm, Malborough, Kingsbridge, Devon, TQ7 3ED, proposed by A S Johns, seconded by R W Camp
"I farm in partnership with my wife Jo on 170 organic acres. We keep 50 cows and finish the resulting stock. Although I have been a member of the Society for only four years I was an active member of the Holstein Friesian Society in a previous life and Chairman of the Devon Club."

Mr Gordon Tully, East Farm, Waddeton, Brixham, Devon, TQ5 0EL,
proposed by Mrs M Northey, seconded by M R Rowe
"I farm 540 acres in partnership with Anne and Philip. We have 80 pedigree South Devon cows. I have served on 5 Councils and have twice been Breed Improvement Chairman. I have also had the honour of being Society Chairman and President. I remain enthusiastic to see the breed prosper."

Region 4 ***Mr Robert Whitcombe***, Berry Grove Farm, Hawkley Road, Liss, Petersfield, Hants, GU33 6JP, proposed by Froyle Mill, seconded by P F Collinson
"I farm 250 acres with my wife Sophie, where we started our South Devon herd in 1989. Both of us have contributed as regional secretary over that time, and I have served on the Breed Improvement and Breed Promotion Committees. We are active members and have 50 registered South Devon cows."

Region 6 ***Mr Gwyn James***, Bron-y-Glyn, Glynarthen, Llandysul, Ceredigion, Wales, SA44 6PS, proposed by R V Hartshorn, seconded by W H Sandford
"Acreage 110 (family farm). Keen interest in showing. We run 40 suckler cows and followers and two South Devon stock bulls. Most of

the herd is now pedigree South Devon. I have been a member since 2003.”

We are very grateful to those retiring Council members for their service to the Society during their time in office: James Eustice (1); Alan Johns and Ray Masters (2); David Ashcroft (4); and Gareth Davies (6).

Nominations and elections are now being made for Executive and Sub-Committee vacancies, and the duly elected members will be announced in the next newsletter.

WORLD CONGRESS 2011

The next World Congress is scheduled to be in Australia in (our) autumn of 2011.

Initial plans are to start on Monday 10th October and finish on Thursday 10th November. Delegates can join in at any stage, although the attraction of 31 days touring Australia is quite something!

The Australian co-ordinator is Daphne Lines.

The tour begins in Western Australia (4 days), moves to Adelaide and other special areas of South Australia. Then there will be 4 days in Victoria, and the Conference will take place at Ballarat probably on 24th/25th October. This will be followed by 3 days in the northern areas of Tasmania, a week in southern Queensland and northern New South Wales, with the final night on a harbour cruise in Sydney.

More details will be published as they become available, but please put the dates in your diary!

WEBSITE

The website is currently having a “makeover” and an updated version will be on-line within the next few days. It has a number of new features, as well as a new look, and includes a link to the short promotional film which was made last year (in between the downpours) with the help of Hugh Lello, John Rowe, and Patrick Coaker, as well as exhibitors at the Royal Cornwall Show.

Advertising on the Society’s website is a cheap and effective way of reaching the worldwide audience. For only £50 per year, an advertisement can be put together for you and displayed on our Members Page. Also, if you already have your own website, just let us know and we will provide a link to it at no charge.

For those who have still to explore the extensive database using Breedplan's very powerful search engine, please take a look. You don't need a password to get started – just go to www.sdhbs.org.uk, and click on the database button, and then "Animal Enquiries". You will see a screen like this:

Name:	<input type="text"/> <i>Enter the start of an animal's name(including prefix)</i>
Identity No(s):	<input type="text"/> <i>Enter one or more Identity Nos. separated by commas. Use wildcard (%) if required.</i>
Calving Year(s):	<input type="text"/> <i>Enter one or more calving years separated by commas or Enter Range as eg. 1999-2002</i>
Age Selection:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Under 1yo <input type="checkbox"/> Under 2yo <input type="checkbox"/> Under 3yo <input type="checkbox"/> Under 4yo
Registration Status:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Registered <input type="checkbox"/> Not Registered <input type="checkbox"/> Any
Select if:	<input type="text"/> ▼
Select if:	<input type="text"/> ▼
Select if:	<input type="text"/> ▼
Sire Name:	<input type="text"/> <i>Enter sire name to view his progeny</i>
Dam Name:	<input type="text"/> <i>Enter dam name to view her progeny</i>
Where Located in Region:	<input type="text" value="Anyw here"/> ▼
Sort By:	Animal Name ▼ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ascending <input type="checkbox"/> Descending

If you are looking for more information about a specific animal, just put in its ID or name and click "Search". If you wish to look for a selection of, say, bulls by a particular sire just use the "Select if" boxes to narrow the search down to "male" and "active" (ie alive), then enter the sire's name, and click "Search". It is a good idea to make sure the Registration Status button is "Any", otherwise you will not pick up animals notified but not yet registered.

Using those selection criteria for Cilgwrrwg Illya, for example, this is the first page of a list of the bull's male offspring. You can obviously refine the search further, by date of birth, registration status, etc.

Name	Sex	Identity No.	Birth Date	Reg. Status
<u>BATTLE ENVOY</u>	Male	UK262026 200012	09/04/2001	Registered
<u>BILLINGTON ILLYA</u>	Male	UK280954 400077	12/03/2001	Notified
<u>BILLINGTON ILLYA 2</u>	Male	UK280954 300468	09/03/2005	Registered
<u>BILLINGTON ILLYA 3</u>	Male	UK280954 400469	10/03/2005	Notified
<u>CILGWRRWG</u>	Male	UK303135 500025	02/04/2002	Notified
<u>CILGWRRWG</u>	Male	UK303135 600019	07/05/2001	Notified
<u>CILGWRRWG</u>	Male	UK304620 700057	10/03/2003	Notified
<u>CILGWRRWG KURYAKIN</u>	Male	UKFV0180-00045	18/05/1999	Registered
<u>CILGWRRWG LLYWELYN</u>	Male	UKFV0180-00049	23/01/2000	Notified
<u>CILGWRRWG SAS NAPOLEON</u>	Male	UK303135 600026	04/04/2002	Registered
<u>CLANNON</u>	Male	UK366588 100003	07/09/2000	Notified
<u>CLANNON</u>	Male	UK366588 300005	13/09/2000	Notified
<u>CUBBON ILLYA</u>	Male	UK162257 400011	09/05/2001	Registered
<u>DASHERS</u>	Male	UK165330 500005	16/04/2001	Notified
<u>DASHERS ILLYA</u>	Male	UK165330 700007	24/05/2001	Registered

You can go back many generations, and look up related stock very simply, just by clicking on names which are underlined.

There is a similar screen for member enquiries, and one where you can select for particular EBVs.

In a further step, by using an ID and password obtainable from the office, you can look up animals in your own herd. We are here to help!

NBA MEMBERSHIP

Enclosed with this newsletter is an invitation to join the NBA at a 50% discount for the first year – just £25.

The NBA's newsletter, published each week, is a very full account of widespread issues affecting the beef industry and is often a far more valuable read than the national agricultural press. The newsletter alone gives members of the NBA value for money.

The stronger the membership, the stronger the lobbying voice of the organisation. The NBA has representation on decision-making groups (such as the TB Eradication Group) and unites with other industry bodies such as the NFU over contentious issues affecting the whole industry.

The Society has strong links with the NBA and an opportunity to influence (Mark Thomas is chairman of the NBA in the Southwest, Douglas Scott and I sit on the Pedigree Breeders Committee, and I represent the pedigree sector on the NBA's Policy Management Committee reporting directly to the board).

Please give this offer your due consideration. Thank you.

BEEF AUSTRALIA 2009

One of the world's major beef cattle events – Beef Australia – is being held in the “beef capital” Rockhampton, Queensland from 4th to 9th May this year. The event is only held every three years (I represented the Society there in 2006, and Mark Thomas did in 2003), **and there is funding available this year!**

A grant of £1800 is available to bid for, by companies or individuals, and the deadline for receipt of applications is 9th March. The cost to exhibit is approximately £1800 per stand, to include a contribution towards travel and accommodation, depending on the number of participants.

Beef Australia 2006 attracted over 60,000 visitors – mainly cattle breeders and beef producers. This year will see one of the world's largest gatherings of beef cattle genetics buyers, sellers and service providers – including displays of bos indicus and bos taurus cattle, AI companies, government representatives, etc.

It's a great show to go to, and if you can combine it with a wider tour it's a great opportunity to visit Australia!

For further information don't delay in contacting me, or Lorraine Cattle at Hull & Humber Chamber of Commerce, tel 01482 324976.

OLD HERD BOOKS

We have recently been offered a set of old Herd Books which belonged to Mr Wills, retired member. They date from 1944 to 1998, and there is an odd one dated 1941.

Please telephone 01548 830548 if you are interested.

COMPENSATION FOR BOVINE TB

Payable during February 2009 (March figures not available at time of going to print)

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NON PEDIGREE AND PEDIGREE IS HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT – IT IS IN YOUR FINANCIAL INTERESTS TO CHECK THAT YOUR REGISTRATIONS ARE UP TO DATE!

NON PEDIGREE BOVINE

Male		Female	
Age	Compensation due	Age	Compensation due
Up to 3 months	187	Up to 3 months	148
Over 3 months up to 6 months	321	Over 3 months up to 6 months	275
Over 6 months Up to 9 months	531	Over 6 months Up to 9 months	455
Over 9 months Up to 12 months	641	Over 9 months Up to 12 months	530
Over 12 months Up to 16 months	776	Over 12 months Up to 16 months	647
Over 16 months Up to 20 months	845	Over 16 months Up to 20 months	731
20 months and over	944	20 months and over	827
Breeding bulls 20 months and over	*	Calved	993

PEDIGREE BOVINE

Male		Female	
Age	Compensation due	Age	Compensation due
6 months up to 12 months	*	6 months up to 12 months	*
Over 12 months up to 24 months	3,616	Over 12 months up to 24 months	1,460
24 months and over	2,146	24 months and over (not calved)	*
		Calved under 36 months	1,350
		Calved 36 months and over	1,375

*Compensation to be determined using individual valuation

2009 SHOW SEASON

MAJOR SHOWS

Devon County	21-23 May
Suffolk	27-28 May
Royal Bath & West	27-30 May
Royal Cornwall	4-6 June
Three Counties	19-21 June
East of England	19-21 June
Shropshire & West Mids	27-28 June
Royal Norfolk	1-2 July
Royal	7-10 July
Great Yorkshire	14-16 July
Royal Welsh	20-23 July

ONE-DAY & MINOR SHOWS

Herts County	23-24 May
Rutland County	7 June
Liskeard	11 July
Stithians	13 July
Launceston	16 July
Camborne	18 July
Mid-Devon	25 July
Yealmpton	29 July
Totnes	30 July
Blakesley	1 August (tbc)
Honiton	6 August
Minsterley	8 August
Camelford	12 August
Okehampton	13 August
Bucks County	27 August
Aylsham	31 August (tbc)
Kingsbridge	5 September
Moreton-in-Marsh	5 September
Thame	17 September

SUBJECT TO WEATHER AND ANY OTHER UNCONTROLLABLE FACTORS!

MERCHANDISE CLEARANCE SALE

Lots of bargains offered!

South Devon Aprons (green or cream) were £8.50, now £3.00 each, or two for £5.00

Baseball Caps (green with logo) were £3.50, now £2.50 each or two for £4.00

Keyrings with logo (gold/silver) were £3.25/£3.50, now £1.00 each

Lapel pins with logo were £1.25, now £1.00

Lorry stickers with logo only were £3.00, now £1.00

Letter openers (silver with logo) were £4.75, now £2.00

Silver Regency Rollerball pens with logo were £4.95, now £2.00

Postcards in packs of 5 or 10 were £1.35/£2.70, now £50p/£1.00 (just 10p per card)

Print of South Devons at water were £9.50, now £6.50

Dartington Crystal Tankard were £15.00, now £5.00 each or two for £8.00

Dartington Crystal Tumblers, set of two, were £13.00, now £10.00 or two sets for £15.00

South Devon umbrellas with plastic or elm handle were £16.00/£18.00, now £8.00/£10.00

THERE IS ALSO A SELECTION OF SWEATSHIRTS, T-SHIRTS, AND POLO SHIRTS - please ask Debbie for more information

WANTED - ENTHUSIASTIC STOCK PERSON

on 300 acre grassland farm Devon/Cornwall border for the
'Bedford' herd of pedigree South Devons and the
'Tamarvalley' herd of pedigree Black Limousins.

Person required to help with day-to-day management and
show/sale preparation.

Tractor work and other maintenance duties.

Please telephone Bill or Suzanne Harper on 01409 271376 in
the first instance

POSTAGE & E-MAIL

The changes to postal rates which are now determined by SIZE of envelope/package as well as WEIGHT can give more opportunity for error. (It can depend how tightly you squeeze an envelope's contents as to whether it will fit through Royal Mail's "letterbox slot guide"!)

Trivial though it is, please could you ensure that you use the correct postage, as we are experiencing delivery delays in some instances where the PO decides they want the full payment and refuse to deliver!

If your postcode changes please let us know, otherwise you will drop off our mailing radar.

As regards e-mailing the newsletter, thank you to those who have replied requesting electronic mailing. A reply slip is attached at the end of this newsletter again for others who wish to take this option (not used this time because of other enclosures!)

DNA SERVICES – REDUCED CHARGES

Please would you be aware that the ONLY test included in the cost of pedigree male registration (£45 plus VAT up to 18 months) is **sire verification**. The registration fee does not include a test for myostatin or the beef profile.

The cost of testing for myostatin and the Igenity beef profile (incorporating scores for a range of traits such as tenderness, marbling, fat thickness, etc) **is now combined to give an overall reduced cost of £22.50 plus VAT** (previously it would have cost £39.50 plus VAT).

To make things more straightforward Merial's myostatin profiling will now be reported in a more understandable way, which leaves aside +'s and mh's!

- 0 no myostatin copy**
- 1 one myostatin copy**
- 2 two myostatin copies**

Vendors at Society sales are permitted to have the myostatin status of their animals published (on a voluntary basis), and an explanation of myostatin is given in the catalogue, as follows:

“Since 2007 South Devon breeders have had the opportunity to test their animals for the presence of the myostatin gene deletion.

Myostatin has been identified as a muscle-growth controller. When it is “switched off” or “deleted”, muscle can continue to grow unchecked. Hence the loose term “double muscling”. This can be seen in both a positive and a negative light, depending on individual breeding programmes.

Vendors are invited to note the myostatin status of their animals in the catalogue lotting footnotes, as per DNA analysis from Merial. The status may be expressed in three different ways:

- 0 (+/+)** Meaning no copy of the deleted myostatin gene
- 1 (+/mh)** Meaning one copy of the deleted myostatin gene (inherited from one or other parent)
- 2 (mh/mh)** Meaning two copies of the deleted myostatin gene (inherited from both parents)

Because genes are inherited (one copy from each parent to make a pair), it follows that the bull will pass on 50% of his genetics to his progeny: so if a bull has one gene copy (+/mh) there is a chance that the deletion (mh) will be passed on; if he has two copies (mh/mh) he

will definitely pass on the deletion; and likewise if there is no deletion (+/+) then the progeny will have at least one “+” in his typing. The other 50% of the progeny’s make-up will come from the dam.

The implications for an animal having one or two copies of the deletion have been investigated by the Roslin Institute. Their findings were that the deletion (mh) tends to improve muscle conformation, reduce fat, and increase hot weight at slaughter. But it also tends to increase birthweight, decrease calving ease, reduce weight gain, reduce internal organ and bone size, and reduce eating quality. These effects are most obvious when the animal is mh/mh (two copies).”

CHeCS HEALTH SCHEMES

For members joining a CHeCS standard Health Scheme (such as Biobest Herdcare or SAC Premium Cattle Health Scheme), the Society has been funding an incentive to help with the initial costs of screening. This gives a credit of £5 per pedigree registration.

Council have decided to continue this Scheme for the near future, but there will be a limited period when the incentive applies.

For those herds newly joining a CHeCS scheme the period of crediting the £5 per pedigree registration will be **two years**. For those already in scheme the incentive will end at 31st December 2009, or at the end of two years’ membership (whichever is the later).

More herds are choosing to take up this offer in the light of increased industry awareness of the potential economic benefits of addressing the four diseases – BVD, Lepto, IBR and Johnes.

Other herds are ‘going it alone’ and working with their vet to screen for particular diseases, and then pursuing a policy of control or eradication.

For more information please contact Caroline.

COST BENEFIT OF JOHNE'S DISEASE CONTROL IN THE BEEF HERD

(an article by George Caldow, SAC, published in the Scottish Farmer 14/02/09)

“Disease control programmes are often justified simply from the premise that to do something is better than doing nothing, disease control alone being the endpoint.

But disease control must produce a positive cost benefit for the producer too. This can be difficult to demonstrate in many situations as often disease drags on productivity in ways that can be difficult to measure and attribute.

If we do not know how much a disease costs how can we demonstrate a positive cost benefit when control is implemented? And without that how can an industry be convinced that a disease programme will be for the benefit of all? Yet for herds where there is a moderate to severe Johne's disease problem showing a positive cost benefit is a fairly straight forward issue.

In such herds Johne's disease will result in an annual loss of adult animals through scour and wasting of 2 to 5%.

As the disease develops the animals spread infection in their faeces to young animals round about. As the animals show signs of disease they may incur veterinary costs. They will require to be culled and the carcass disposed of. These actions all carry a cost.

Clearly the identification of infected animals before they develop clinical signs can be justified on welfare grounds and on the reduction of infectivity in the herd.

Of equal importance is that these animals can be culled in good body condition without the losses that accompany an animal that develops the disease.

The testing of a herd is difficult. Although animals are mostly infected early in their life they do not test positive by the blood test until 12 months or so before they develop signs of the disease. An animal therefore has to be tested for several years before it tests positive.

This means that a Johne's disease control programme requires at least annual testing of all adult animals in the herd. Animals that test positive are drawn from the herd; treated preferentially and culled in good body condition.

For a 100 cow herd, the testing costs for vet and lab fees will be £750 to £800. The programme results in the identification of most infected animals before they develop

clinical signs. One cull animal pays for this part of the programme with cash to spare.

To further improve the control of this disease, a hygiene programme focussed on calving cows and the young calves is required. If your herd has Johne's disease do the sums; test and cull programmes provide a strong positive cost benefit.

But where's the benefit for herds selling breeding stock that do not have the disease?

Here market assurance is the objective. The vet and lab cost of the programme is as for the infected herd. The added value of the disease-free stock needs to be reflected in the market price to cover the costs and add profit.

Assume that such herds will have from 20 to 30 breeding animals to sell each year and that vet and lab costs plus labour and management costs will come to £2000 for the programme.

Are we looking at a premium of £100 per head for stock accredited free of Johne's disease?"

COMMON CAUSES OF STILLBIRTHS

(by David Gibson, SAC Vet)

- BVD** Infection of cows during pregnancy can result in the birth of calves with under-developed brains. These calves may not have the capacity to survive and can die during calving or shortly afterwards
- LEPTOSPIROSIS** This organism can cause abortion at any point during pregnancy. If this abortion occurs towards the end of pregnancy then a full-term stillborn calf is the result
- NEOSPORA** This organism can cause abortion from around five months gestation onwards. If the abortion occurs towards the end of pregnancy then a full-term stillborn calf is the result
- IODINE DEFICIENCY** Iodine is essential for the production of thyroid hormones, which in turn are essential for successful calf development
- SELENIUM/VIT E DEFICIENCY** Calves born deficient in these trace elements are often weak and may not survive calving. If they do, they are often unable to rise and have a poor suck reflex. They deteriorate rapidly and often die within a few hours of birth.
- SLOW CALVING** Cows that are over-fat prior to calving can have problems utilising

- SYNDROME** calcium during calving. This delays the calving process resulting in calf distress and death. Cows affected with SCS are sometimes described as having “given up” during calving.
- DYSTOCIA** Big calves or wrongly presented calves can suffer from stress and lack of oxygen during calving resulting in stillbirth

TORR DOWN HERMES 3 POLL SEMEN

Expressions of interest are invited in the purchase of semen from the Australian poll bull, Torr Down Hermes 3

Arriving UK late March

Semen is to be held at UK Sire Services, Devon.

Price £20 per straw

Freight from UKSS to breeder's chosen location at their cost

Hermes 3 has been myostatin tested and carries ONE copy
For update on progeny data and photo of Hermes go to Google
and type in Torr Down

Replies by e-mail please to jsharvey@nex.net.au
or to Breed Secretary Caroline Poultney asap

NEW MEMBERS

DECEASED

Region 1 Mr J H Maslen, Pluvana-Penearth, Trewint Rd, Menheniot, Liskeard, PL14 3RJ Prefix: PENEARTH

Region 2 Mr G Wills, Lower Burraton, Burraton, Ivybridge, PL21 9LA
Prefix: NEWABBOT

CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP

Region 1 Mr D M Thomas, East Cottage, Treguddick, Launceston, PL15 7JN to
D J Thomas & Son, Treguddick Manor, South Petherwin, Launceston

NEW FULL MEMBERS

Region 1 P & J Badcock, Rospeath Farm, Crowlas, Ludgvan, TR20 9BL
Prefix: ROSPEATH (was Introductory)

Mr J Moon, Bolitho Farm, Island Shop, Liskeard, PL14 3GR
Prefix: BOLITHO (was Introductory)

Mr Y Peled & Ms J Harris, Trenderway Farm, Pelynt, Looe, PL13 2LY
Prefix: TRENDERWAY (was Introductory)

Region 2 R J R & S A Ashford, Bowden Farm, Buckfastleigh, Devon, TQ11 0JG
Prefix: PUPERS HILL (was Introductory)

J & C Stone, Little Leigh Farm, Doddiscombsleigh, Devon, EX6 7RF
Prefix: MISTLEIGH (was Introductory)

J D Musgrave, Fursdon Farm Bungalow, Dunstone, Yealmpton,
Devon, PL8 2EW Prefix: FURSDON (was Introductory)

J D Northway & Sons, Broadhalls Farm, Chagford, Devon, TQ13 8EH
Prefix: BROADHALLS (was Introductory)

C Stone, Ruddyckleave Partners, Ruddyckleave Farm, Buckland-in-the
Moor, Ashburton, Devon, TQ13 7HP

Prefix: RUDDYCLEAVE (was Introductory)

R & H Baker, Higher Torr Farm, East Allington, Totnes, Devon,
TQ9 7QH Prefix: HIGHER TORR

I G Lethbridge, Eastdown Barn, Blackawton, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 7AW
Prefix: EASTDOWN (was Introductory)

D Minchington, 20 Clifford St, Kingsteignton, Devon, TQ12 3HD
Prefix: EAST MOORE (was Introductory)

Mr D S & Mrs K Smith, Ashcombe Farm, Wrigwell, Ipplepen, Newton
Abbot, Devon, TQ12 5UB Prefix: ASHWELL (was Introductory)

Mr E Stidston, Court Park Farm, Thurlestone, Kingsbridge, Devon,
TQ7 3LT Prefix: COURT PARK

Region 3 R J Dimond, Higher Farm, Shepton Montague, Wincanton, Somerset,
BA90 8JJ Prefix: SHEPTON (was Introductory)

C & H Stanley-Smith, Grove View, Hodshill, Southstoke, Bath,
BA2 7ED (was Introductory)

Mrs P Holloway, Home Farm, 61 High St, West Lavington, Devizes,
Wiltshire, SN10 4JB Prefix: LAVINGTON

Region 4 W Baines, Southlands Farm, Monks Gate, Horsham, West Sussex,
RH13 6JD Prefix: SOUTHLANDS

Mr A Crosby-Jones, Churchlands Farm, Hailsham, East Sussex,
BN27 1SD Prefix: CHURCHLANDS (was Introductory)

Region 5 E Dow, West End Farm, 93 High St, Earith, Huntingdon, Cambs,
PE28 3PN Prefix: EARITH (was Introductory)

- Mr L & Mrs S Manning, Stoke Hall Farm, Stoke Ash, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 7RT Prefix: STOKE HALL (was Introductory)
- Region 7** G & K Stephenson, Londesborough Wold Farm, Market Weighton, York, YO43 3LS Prefix: LONDSWOLD (was Introductory)
- J P Broadwith, Well House Farm, Cote Hill, High Birstwith, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG3 2LN (was Introductory)
- Mr J P Pye, Hatters Farm, Stalmine, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire, FY6 0JN Prefix: AMOUNDERNESS (was Introductory)
- Mr R J Turner, High Grounds Farm, Boylestone, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 5AE (was Introductory)
- R & P Allsop, Marehay Hall Farm, Street Lane, Donby, Ripley, Derbyshire, DE5 8NF Prefix: MAREHAY

NEW INTRODUCTORY

- Region 1** Mr & Mrs G Baigent, 74 Trethannas Gardens, Praze, Cornwall, TR14 9PH Introduced by Stephen Penrose
- Mr J A Hosking, Trembothick Farm, St Buryan, Penzance, Cornwall, TR19 6EA Introduced by T H E Laity
- Region 2** Mr M Mitchell, West Worthele Farm, Westlake, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 9JT Introduced by Sir Simon Day
- Mr A Wotton, Muckwell Farm, North Hallsands, Kingsbridge, Devon, TQ7 2EW Prefix: MUCKWELL Introduced by Richard Camp
- Messrs Harvey Bros, Hela Barton, Bickleigh, Plymouth, Devon, PL6 7AQ Introduced by Ken Garrett
- Region 3** P T Pobjoy & Son, Chatley Farm, Norton St Philip, Bath, BA3 6NJ Prefix: CHATLEY Introduced by David Snook
- Region 5** Mrs S Martin, Ragnell Farmhouse, Carswell, Faringdon, Oxon, SN7 8JP Introduced by Robert Whitcombe

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- Region 7** Ms R Muir, 2 Dundas Crescent, Kirkwall, Orkney Isle, Scotland, KW15 1JQ

NEW RETIRING

- Region 1 Mr & Mrs D Thomas, Coombe Orchard, Polyphant, Launceston, Cornwall, PL15 7PS
- Region 6 Mr & Mrs C Pryce, The Green, Trefeglwys, Caersws, Powys, Wales, SY17 5PH Prefix: BRYNTIRION

NEW RESIGNING

- Region 1 J J Goodenough, Tregenna Farm, Lerryn, Lostwithiel, Cornwall, PL22 0NU Prefix: TREGENNA
- P G Mewton, Nancarrow, Marazanovse, Truro, Cornwall, TR4 9DQ Prefix: NANCARROW
- N A Pearce, Lower Rosecraddoc Farm, Liskeard, Cornwall, PL14 5AE

- Region 2 Curtis Partners, Badworthy, Shebbear, Beaworthy, Devon, EX21 5RF
Prefix: BADWORTHY
M Brooking, Island Farm, Stokenham, Kingsbridge, Devon, TQ7 2SP
Prefix: ISLAND
Swaddledown Farms Ltd, Swaddledown Cottage, Bratton Clovelly,
Okehampton, Devon, EX20 4LA
- Region 3 C H Champion & Partners, Knoll Farm, Jarvis Lane, East Brent,
Highbridge, Somerset, TA9 4HS Prefix: BRENT MARSE
- Region 5 T Bryce, 37 People's Place, Warwick Rd, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 0FJ
Hendred Farm Partnership, Hill Farm, St Marys Rd, East Hendred,
Wantage, Oxon, OX12 8LF Prefix: HENDRED
- Region 7 Mr J Parish, Proslift Cottage, Overton, York, YP30 1YL
Prefix: PROSLIFT
R Templeton, Glenroan, Knockvennie, Castle Douglas, Scotland,
DG7 3NU Prefix: GLENROAN
J Drury, Fineseason Ltd, The Lodge, Sutton Basset, Market
Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 8HL Prefix: BASSETT

DIARY

- March** 24th **Annual General Meeting; Dinner; Auction of Promises**
25th **Spring Show & Sale Exeter**
- April** 21st **Council meeting, Bristol**
- May** 2nd **Midland Club Sale, Stratford upon Avon**
15th **Truro Club Sale, Hallworthy**
21st **Beef Expo 2009, Malvern**
22nd **Carlisle Sale**
29th **South Devon Cattle Breeders Club Sale, Exeter**

AND FINALLY

These are taken from a recent e-mail offering, named "Darwin Awards" (someone might enlighten me as to how the name was derived ...)

When his 38-caliber revolver failed to fire at his intended victim during a hold-up in Long Beach, California, would-be robber James Elliot did something that can only inspire wonder. He peered down the barrel and tried the trigger again. This time it worked.

The chef at a hotel in Switzerland lost a finger in a meat-cutting machine and submitted a claim to his insurance company. The insurer, expecting negligence, sent out one of its men to have a look for himself. He tried the machine and he also lost a finger. The chef's claim was approved.

An American teenager was in the hospital recovering from serious head wounds received from an oncoming train. When asked how he received the injuries, the lad told police that he was simply trying to see how close he could get his head to a moving train before he was hit.

As a female shopper exited a New York convenience store, a man grabbed her purse and ran. The clerk called 911 immediately, and the woman was able to give them a detailed description of the snatcher. Within minutes, the police apprehended him. They put him in the car and drove back to the store. The thief was then taken out of the car and told to stand there for a positive ID, to which he replied, "yes, officer, that's her, that's the lady I stole the purse from."

MAILING REPLY SLIP

Please would you tell us whether you would like to receive the Newsletter by e-mail or by post, in order to help keep our costs down.

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