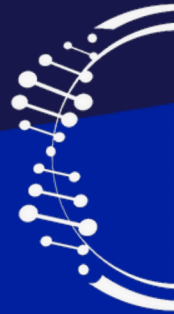




# CATCH-UP



JAN / FEB 2024

## Dear members,

Three weeks ago (22-24 January), I attended the British Cattle Breeders Conference (BCBC) which posed the question, how can farmers adapt to meet the climate change challenges? The whole event was truly informative, interesting, and provoked much food for thought. It also provided the perfect forum for networking and was immensely enjoyable. I am always amazed at what a 'small' world it is, the week beforehand, I had spoken to one of our southwest members who had sold semen to a local dairy farmer. He was keen to promote Charolais as the ultimate beef sire on the dairy herd and we discussed ways in which we could collect data to feedback to a wider audience. During lunch on day two at the BCBC, I was seated next to a dairy farmer called Katie and after the usual introductions, I went on to discover this was the very same dairy farmer who had purchased the Charolais semen from our member!

Contact details were exchanged along with the promise of data as soon as the calves arrive. Apologies I digress, but I hope this demonstrates how many valuable connections are made at such events. Throughout the conference acclaimed academics, scientists and leading farmers told delegates how a combination of tools could help farmers deliver Net Zero. These included adopting carbon calculators, using cutting-edge technology to breed more efficient animals and harnessing the untapped potential of data across the supply chain. On a personal level I particularly enjoyed Professor John Gilliland (Queens University Belfast and AHDB adviser) findings from the ARC Zero project, which involved seven farms in Northern Ireland, including his own. As part of the project, which was funded by the NI Executive and the EU's EIP-Agri Programme, farms measured GHG emissions and carbon sequestration.

This empowered behavioural change where three farms have reached net zero since 2021. The project revealed that **97% of carbon was stored in the soil, not in trees**. Prof Gilliland said: "As we race to get rid of animals and plant trees, remember one thing: **it is the soil we need to look after.**"

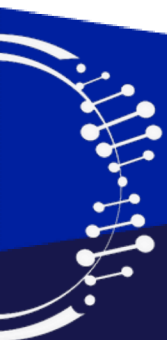
ffinlo Costain, Chief Editor of 8point9.com and former chief executive of the think tank Farmwel, said, "the grazing cow was the 'beating heart' and engineer that could help tie nature's processes back together."

A clear message at this year's conference was **how profitability underpinned sustainability** – 'you can't go green if you are in the red', was how one audience member phrased it. We also heard how greater collaboration in the supply chain could help improve efficiencies. British Limousin Society Chief Executive Alice Swift echoed the importance of using data to identify where improvements could be made. "To be efficient you need a live calf per cow per year!"

Over 250,000 cows in the UK don't rear a calf to weaning. That's massively inefficient and is a huge opportunity for us to understand why, and genetics will be playing a part in that." This data was based on SRUC figures which showed only 80% of the UK's 1.3m sucklers reared a calf to weaning. BCBC Chairman, Ben Harman, concluded: "In the face of perceived challenges ahead, here was an overwhelming positivity from speakers and delegate alike. While it was clear that there is no silver bullet, the use of accurate data in our management and breeding decisions will help us improve our environmental and economical sustainability.

## YORKSHIRE & NE AGM

I would like to extend a huge thanks to the Yorkshire and Northeast region for their kind invitation to attend their Annual General Meeting on Monday 29 January 2024. I thoroughly enjoyed my evening, and



# CATCH-UP



## YORKSHIRE & NE AGM

### cont...

I am extremely grateful to Lindsey and Mike Atkinson for their kind and generous hospitality. As would be expected, the meeting covered all the normal aspects of an AGM, but it also highlighted to me the tremendous enthusiasm and dedication of our members across the Country. I was delighted to see two of the younger members of the area Emma and Tara Patchett take on the responsibility of managing the club's social media platforms and show reports. The club also has a fantastic array of events planned for 2024 to include the annual dinner on 13 April, a regional youth program to prepare youngsters for the national CHYPS (CH-arolais Youth Program) workshop as well as a drive to encourage, support and attend dedicated Charolais classes at the calf show at Thirsk in November. Congratulations to everyone.



Siân Sharp  
Breed Liaison Officer

## BLUETONGUE UPDATE

### LATEST NEWS - 09/02/24

There are 86 bluetongue cases in England on 48 premises in 3 counties. There is still no evidence that bluetongue virus is currently circulating in midges in Great Britain. Surveillance is ongoing. There is no vaccine available for bluetongue virus serotype 3 (BTV-3). This is the serotype that has been confirmed in Great Britain. **Movements of all ruminants and their germinal products (semen, ova & embryos) from GB to NI remain suspended.**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bluetongue>

## ADVERTISING PRIVATE SALES

The Council wishes to re-iterate its position / policy with regards to advertising cattle for sale by private treaty on the run up to official Society sales. No pedigree cattle offered for sale by private treaty will be shared on the British Charolais Cattle Society website or any of its social media platforms within a designated period prior to a scheduled Society sale.

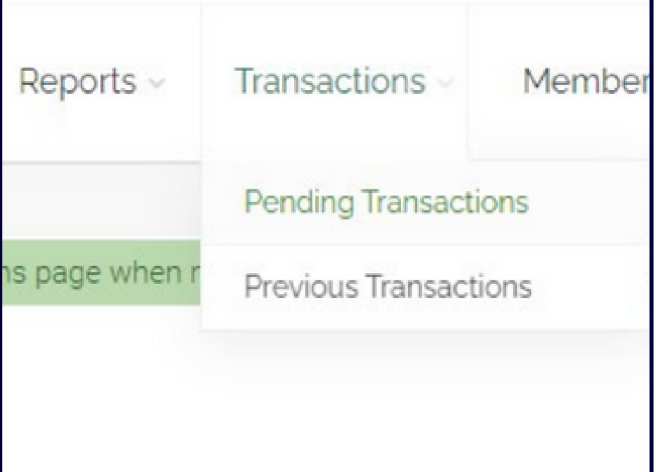
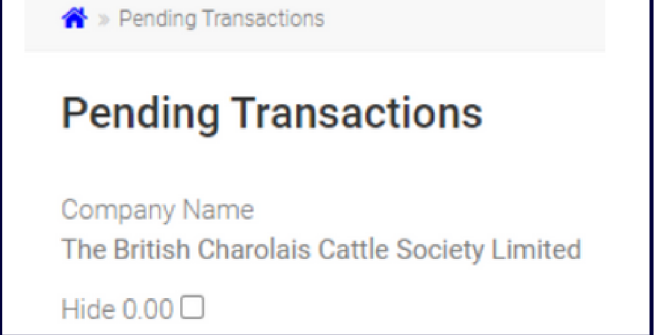


# CATCH-UP



# ILR ONLINE REGISTRATIONS

Don't forget the last step when submitting registrations online via ILR online.

Once you have completed all of your registrations, hover your mouse over 'Transactions' at the top of the screen, and select 'Pending Transactions'. This will show you all of the registrations/transfers/other actions that have not yet been sent to the Society office.	
Un-tick the 'Hide 0.00' box at the top of the list to show any actions that do not incur a cost (such as birth-notifying an animal).	

If you are satisfied that all of your new registrations are accounted for, click the green 'Submit Transactions' button to send your submissions to the Society office.

## Pending Transactions

Company Name  
The British Charolais Cattle Society Limited  
Hide 0.00 ☐

Rows: 1			
Transaction Date	Invoice Desc.	Additional Info	Animal
14/06/2022 16:09	Registration Pending Query	Online Pending Recording	SILVER TUTORIAL (UK280857123456) 761205

Submit Transactions



# CATCH-UP





## NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

### DIRECT DEBITS V STANDING ORDERS

Prior to Direct Debits, many of our members had set-up standing orders to pay their membership. A standing order is an instruction to the bank that can **only** be made and cancelled by an account holder [the member].

From 1 January 2018 the Society took the decision to only accept membership payments going forward via direct debit which is an arrangement made with the bank that allows payment of your membership on an agreed date. Once the direct debit had been set-up, any existing historical standing orders should have been cancelled with the bank by the member.

However, there are a substantial number of members who have set-up membership direct debits but have failed to cancel their existing standing order. This results in confusion and additional time and paperwork for you the member and additional administration in the office.

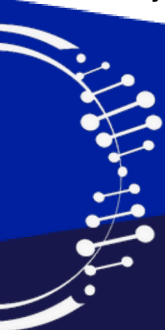
To make the accounting process for both parties simpler and more efficient, if you have both a direct debit and a standing order set-up on your bank account, please could you contact your bank to arrange for the STANDING ORDER to be CANCELLED. In doing so, please can you ensure that you DO NOT cancel the direct debit.

### DNA

Registrations can be unnecessarily delayed because the dam does not hold a genotype. If you have a calf to register, please, can you send the hair sample / tissue tag in advance. If a sample from the dam has already been submitted for storage, please could you notify the office prior to registration to enable a genotype to be requested to prevent delay.

### TROPHIES

We are looking to track down two trophies from the October Stirling Bull Sales. If anyone knows the whereabouts of the Balmyle Trophy awarded to the Intermediate Champion and / or the Maerdy Trophy awarded to the Senior Champion Bull please contact Siân on 07377 119233 or email her at [sian@charolais.co.uk](mailto:sian@charolais.co.uk)



# CATCH-UP



# 2024 CH-AROLAIS YOUTH PROGRAM (CHYPS)

The 'S' stands for study, stock, social, scholarship, skills, syllabus, science, and success! (and this year it is likely that it will be held on a Saturday & Sunday!!)

This year CHYPS will be held in Wales August 2024, the exact location will be announced in early March.

As well as a new name we have a slightly different format.

## Pre-workshop work

There will be some work that will be conducted at home and presented to a judging panel on the day. The scores will be used alongside the stock judging results and the Harbro assessment.

## Demonstration, BBQ & Games

5pm – Clipping demonstration

6.00pm - Talk from agricultural university

6.30pm – BBQ and social evening with games

## Workshop

8.30am – Sign in and introduction  
(Workshop plan overleaf)

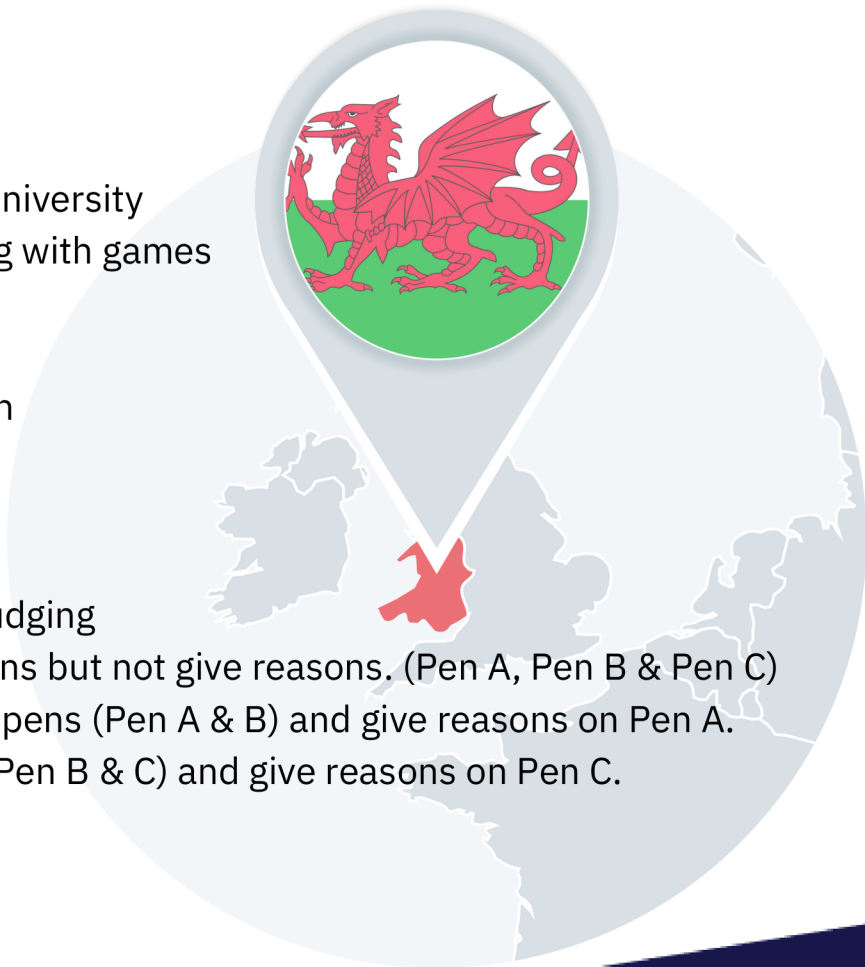
## Stock judging

(3) Pens of four cattle for stock judging

The juniors will place all three pens but not give reasons. (Pen A, Pen B & Pen C)

The intermediates will place two pens (Pen A & B) and give reasons on Pen A.

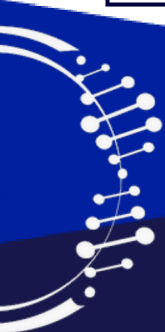
The seniors will place two pens (Pen B & C) and give reasons on Pen C.



# CATCH-UP



Time	Group	Activity
09.00	Seniors	Harbro Ltd Presentation - How do Charolais cattle fit into the commercial cattle world & assessment
	Intermediates	<p>Presentation of pre-course work (3 slides either on USB stick or printed &amp; 3 minutes talk)</p> <p>Candidates can select <b>one</b> of the following two topics:</p> <p>1 Why Charolais make the best terminal sire, or,</p> <p>2 What makes the way ruminants (cattle, sheep) digest feed special</p>
	Juniors	Stock judging competition
	Back-up activity	Tips and tricks for dressing an animal for show & sale
10.00	Juniors	Harbro Ltd Presentation - How do Charolais cattle fit into the commercial cattle world & assessment
	Seniors	<p>Presentation of pre-course work (7 slides either on USB stick or printed &amp; 4 minutes talk)</p> <p>Candidates can select <b>one</b> of the following two topics:</p> <p>1 Top tips for a successful calving (management, nutrition, health)</p> <p>2 An example health plan for a suckler herd</p>
	Intermediates	Stock judging competition
	Back-up activity	Tips and tricks for dressing an animal for show & sale



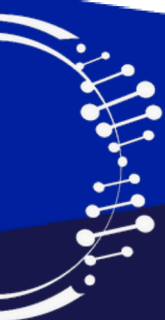
# CATCH-UP







Time	Group	Activity
12 Noon	Intermediates	Harbro Ltd Presentation - How do Charolais cattle fit into the commercial cattle world & assessment
	Juniors	<p>Presentation of pre-course work (1 poster &amp; 1 minute explanation)</p> <p>Candidates can select <b>one</b> of the following two topics:</p> <p>1 Why you should join Charolais Young Breeders</p> <p>2 Why Charolais make the best terminal sire</p>
	Seniors	Stock judging competition
	Back-up activity	Tips and tricks for dressing an animal for show & sale
13.00	Lunch	Lunch
14.00	Everyone	<p>Reasons demonstration by stock judging judge</p> <p>Summary of the day</p> <p>Presentation of cups</p>
14.30	Everyone	Farm Tour



# CATCH-UP





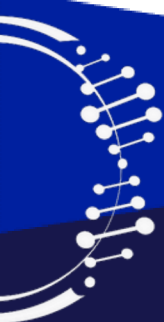
# Harbro

QUALITY LIVESTOCK NUTRITION



The following two factsheets have been created by Jill Hunter, Harbro Beef & Sheep Specialist that will be used in this year's youth programme (CHYPS). The information is useful for everyone but will form part of our CHYPS workshop and some of the pre-workshop coursework. In addition, there is a link below to a video Jill created with Glasgow Vet School to show young breeders **how to body condition score**. It's on Harbo's YouTube channel, so it is easy view:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-bK3AR1DUI>



# CATCH-UP



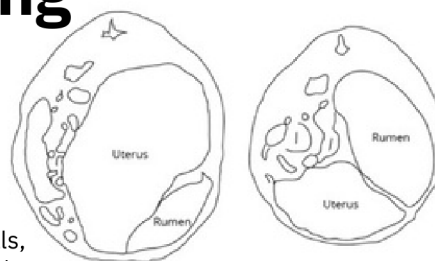


# Preparing cows for calving

## Last 3 months of pregnancy is key

In the last 3 months of pregnancy, the foetus gains 75-80% of its weight. This starts to take up a huge amount of room in the cow where her rumen usually sits.

Analyse silages to make sure there is sufficient energy and protein supplied and top up with quality bypass protein and essential minerals, trace elements and vitamins without adding excessive bulk to the diet.



Late Pregnancy

Early Pregnancy

Source: J.M. Forbes (1968)

## Nutrition

Getting nutrition right before calving is important as it can affect calving ease, calf survivability and getting the cow back in calf again the following year.

Three main points to consider when planning pre-calving diets are:	<b>Bypass</b> protein is crucial for cows produce good important role in the brain quality colostrum rich in development of the unborn antibodies. This is essential calf. In combination with for providing the newborn selenium and vitamin E, this calf with a strong start has proven to get calves standing and suckling quicker.	Feeding a quality mineral package, including an organic source of <b>Selenium</b> such as <b>Sel-Plex</b> is important for the efficient absorption and transfer to colostrum and milk. Selenium is crucial for early growth and survival.
Provide by:	Feed Ruminant GreenGold at 200g/head/day for last 3 weeks before calving.	Working Suckler mineral from housing until 6 weeks before calving, then move to Super Suckler SEC mineral.

## Management

### Prepare the cows:

- Cows should be scanned to confirm they are in calf and identify any carrying twins. Pregnancy testing can be carried out from 5 weeks after removing the bull.
- Body condition score (BCS) cows before housing and group into fatter animals, leaner animals and animals already at target BCS. Any heifers or cows carrying twins should be grouped with the thinner cows to allow a higher rate of feeding to this group. Check out our video for more detail on how to condition score your cows.
- Target 2.5-3 BCS at calving and avoid any significant swings in weight gain or loss in the final three months pre-calving. Thinning cows down does not reduce calving difficulties!

### Prepare the calving area:

- When calving indoors, cleanliness is key. Use plenty of clean dry bedding and disinfect areas if necessary.
- Have a separate calving pen set up which is easy and safe to guide a cow into if they require assistance.
- Things to have on hand include a calving jack, lubricant, iodine and ear tags. A thermometer can be useful if you suspect the calf or cow is becoming ill.

## Health

Vaccination for rotavirus, coronavirus and E. coli should be given at least 1 month before calving to stimulate antibody production in the colostrum to benefit both cow and calf.

Test if worming is required by sending away faecal samples for a faecal egg count. Get in touch with your local vet to advise on where to send samples.

## What to record

Data	Your result	Industry
Cows scanned in calf		<b>target</b> Over
Cow body condition scores		96%
Cows calving in first 3 weeks		Over 65%



# Looking after cows post calving

Management and nutrition after calving has an impact on the cow's ability to get back in calf.

## Nutrition

Cows post-calving have a huge demand for energy and protein to support milk production, to recover from calving and to start preparing for bulling again in a couple of months.

Three main points to consider when planning diets after calving are:

Energy & protein	Magnesium	Water
<p>A cow's energy and protein requirements are almost double of a cow before calving, so it's crucial there is ample palatable feed available.</p> <p>As a rule, a couple of kilos of barley and some additional protein would be sufficient to meet the demand of most suckler cows, along with good quality forage and some straw to bulk the diet out.</p>	<p>A fresh calved cow needs magnesium given to her every day, as they are at a higher risk of hypomagnesemia or 'grass staggers'. This risk increases if day they are outside too.</p> <p>Water is essential for rumination. Magnesium is not stored in the body so choosing a mineral with a high level of magnesium such as Super Suckler SEC is an easy way to make sure daily requirements are met.</p>	<p>An average suckler cow produces 8-10 litres of milk per day and needs to drink 50-100 litres of water per day to make this happen.</p> <p>Encouraging dry matter intake. Make sure there is plenty of clean accessible water, especially straight after calving.</p>

## Health

After calving, make sure a cow has passed all her placenta within 12-24 hours. If not, consult your vet promptly. A healthy cow's temperature should be 38.6-38.8°C. If her temperature is above this range, it could indicate an infection.

Monitor for any signs of mastitis which can include swelling, redness or hardness of the udder.

## Management

There are some essential management points which should be done after calving:

1. When calving inside, spray the navel with iodine to help dry up the umbilical cord and protect from bacteria. This will help reduce cases of joint-ill and navel-ill
2. Unlike humans, antibodies do not cross the placenta from cow to calf during pregnancy so calf immunity is reliant on receiving antibodies from this first feed of colostrum. This means it's important to check the quality of the colostrum:
  - a. Guide cow into a crush if safe to do so
  - b. Using a Brix refractometer, place a drop of colostrum on glass screen
  - c. Good quality colostrum should have 50g IgG/L or read above 22% on a brix refractometer
3. Check the calf has had enough colostrum by feeling it's stomach. Full, content calves will stretch when they first stand. It will take around 20 minutes of active suckling to maximise absorption of antibodies
4. 1st calving heifers should be kept as a separate group after calving. They are still growing themselves so have a higher energy and protein requirement. Keeping them as a separate group prevents them from being bullied away from the feed face by older cows. As they are first time mothers, it's important to give them plenty of space and time to suckle their calf

## Think about recording:

- How many cows have had to be helped to calve?
- How long is your total calving period?
- How many calves are born dead or die in the first few days?