



CATCH-UP



MARCH 2024

Dear members,

It is a bittersweet opening to this March catch-up, whilst we have had an extremely strong successful start to our early spring sales, we also mark the extremely sad passing of Major David Walter, of Balthayock Farms.

The Perthshire Charolais cattle legend, who celebrated his 90th birthday in January, first ventured into the breed in the late 1960s, celebrating 50 years in the breed with a memorable open farm event in 2019. Major Walter served on the Charolais Council, becoming Chairman in 1984 and President ten years after that. He topped Stirling Bull Sales again and again, and surely one of his crowning achievements came when he sold nine bulls averaging over £15,000 each in 2018 as well as commanding 50,000gns for Balthayock Justice in October-2015.



Major Walter was presented with the Sir William Young award for his outstanding contribution to the livestock industry at the Royal Highland Show in 2022 and was a great supporter of agricultural shows, winning many championships throughout the country, showing at the Royal Highland Show since 1972, when he presented the Balthayock Trophy. He always encouraged the next generation, he was a great supporter of today's youth, holding many stock

judging events, farm tours and welcoming international delegates from all over the world.

Major Walter was a true gentleman with time for everyone, “Charolais to the core”, respected and admired by Charolais breeders and the livestock industry around the world, his passion for the breed will live on for years to come through the cattle he has bred.

A funeral service will take place on Friday 22nd March 2024 at 2pm at Perth Cathedral, North Methven Street. All family and friends are respectably invited.



The aforementioned successful sales achievements, coupled with the strong performance of Charolais and Charolais cross cattle in store markets across the country is testament to the capabilities and efficiency of the breed as well as the quality of your cattle, management practices, and your exceptional breeding programmes. Well done, and let’s keep shouting about the virtues of this fantastic breed.

The purpose of this ‘Catch-up’ newsletter is to keep you the members and our commercial associates, up-to-date with the developments that are being made in the Society and decisions that are taken by your Council of Management, as well as celebrate all things ‘Charolais’ whether this be individual achievements, show wins, sale toppers etc.

I hope you find this issue useful, informative and most importantly, you enjoy reading it.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'Siân Sharp'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Siân Sharp
Breed Liaison Officer



CATCH-UP



WE SAY A BIG THANK YOU & FAREWELL TO NATASHA

We wish to let members know that our colleague and friend Natasha Prentice has decided to leave the British Charolais Cattle Society on Friday 8 March 2024. Natasha was an important and integral part of the office looking after the National youth co-ordination, social media, DNA administration and BREEDPLAN queries. She will be greatly missed and I hope you will join me in wishing her all the very best for the future.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

On Thursday 7th March 2024, Council considered data and statistics regarding the spatial distribution of members per area. Currently there are more registrations by council member in Northern Ireland than anywhere else in the UK. It was proposed and accepted that in 2025 Northern Ireland would increase to three seats and both regions in England would reduce to two seats. This reduction would leave an additional National vacancy ensuring the requirement of 16 seats as set out in the articles of association are met.

REMINDER

NEW SOCIETY SALE CONDITIONS ASSOCIATED WITH REGISTRATIONS TIMEFRAME

Current registration procedures state that all birth notifications must be received by the Society within 27 days from the date of birth. A standard registration fee is applied for full registrations within the same timeframe. Full registrations beyond 27 days incur the appropriate late registration fees in accordance with <https://www.charolais.co.uk/downloads/registration-documents/>

A new sale condition was passed at the last Council meeting, whereby all animals born on or after 1 March 2024 must be birth notified as a minimum requirement within that 27-day timeframe and failure to do so, will exclude that animal from being eligible to enter Society sales. All other sale conditions and registration rules remain unchanged.

If you have any questions at all please contact your local Council member.



NEWS



CHANGE TO UPSET PRICE

In light of the cost of production of pedigree bulls, coupled with the successful early spring pedigree sales, continued positive store markets and steady beef prices, the Council have raised the 'upset' price to 4,000gns at the following sales **only**:

Stirling Bull Sales - February

Stirling Bull Sales - October

Carlisle Sale - May

The 'upset' price for all other regional sales will remain unchanged.



GALBRAITH STIRLING BULLS SALES - MAY '24

Sunday & Monday, 5 & 6 May '24
Entries close on Monday 18 March

Please enter online at

<https://shorturl.at/lQW29>



WHITE GOLD SHOW & SALE & ANNUAL BULL SALE CARLISLE - MAY '24

Friday 10th & Saturday 11th May '24

Entries close on Friday 15th March

Please enter online at

<https://shorturl.at/lQW29>



EXETER SHOW & SALE EXETER - APRIL '24

Friday 19th April '24

Entries close on Friday 15th March

Please enter online at

<https://shorturl.at/lQW29>



NEWS & SALES



NI CHAROLAIS CLUB SPRING SHOW & SALE



SWATRAGH

Friday
26th April

NBA Beef Expo Young Farmer Focus
Sean Mitchell



Saturday 27th April 2024

NORTH WEST AUCTIONS,
J36, RURAL AUCTION CENTRE



Sean Mitchell from Grassknop Farm near Skelton in Cumbria is a progressive young Charolais breeder and a member of the British Charolais Cattle Society. Aged 23, he works at home on the farm alongside his father Alistair, and also operates his own cattle clipping preparation service for show sales and showing. He will feature in the NBA Beef Expo young farmer focus - look out for his story and video on social media and read all about him in our next Charolais catch-up!



BEEF EXPO FOCUS





“

We have a once in a lifetime opportunity to create a positive future for the beef industry, with a growing focus on sustainable farming and breeding better animals to achieve a quality product whilst being more efficient and making a major contribution to cutting carbon and regenerating our environment.

Annabelle Howell

”



The National Beef Association is delighted to confirm the appointment of Annabelle Howell as the first Young Ambassador for the only organisation representing the interests of British beef farmers.

Born and brought up in a livestock farming family and passionately committed to the industry from a very early age, 22-year-old Annabelle joins the NBA both as an inspiration to the next generation of beef farmers, and as an important part of the Association’s Management Team for the future. One of her first roles will be to support the NBA at the UK’s only dedicated event to the British Beef Industry, NBA Beef Expo, being held at North West Auctions, J36, on Saturday 27th April 2024.

Always deeply involved in her family’s 700-head cattle finishing business in Norfolk, Annabelle started her own Charolais pedigree herd at the age of just 15, planning her own breeding strategy and winning multiple young handler championships including Young Stockperson of the Year in 2018. She qualified for the National Charolais Stock judging final in 2016, 2017, and 2019, and was invited to become an officially appointed Charolais Judge at the age of just 22.



NBA AMBASSADOR



Alongside working with her father in cattle production, Annabelle's career has always revolved around livestock, with early work experience being with United Auctions, Genus, and the British Charolais Cattle Society. Later she worked on a progressive dairy enterprise including calf-rearing and milking 350 cows. Before taking up her new appointment with the NBA, she served as Wagyu Coordinator at ABP York, and currently in livestock procurement for Pickstock Telford. The appointment of a Young Ambassador is a new milestone and initiative for the NBA, and CEO Neil Shand believes they could not have chosen a better representative for the future of the industry. "Annabelle's credentials are unique and her professional and personal qualifications are tailor-made for this role. She has livestock in her DNA and an astonishing breadth and depth of knowledge and experience covering every aspect from the day-to-day practicalities of farming to the sophisticated science of genetics and breeding, and the economic realities of marketing. "Most importantly, she brings a deep and genuine passion for livestock and the people who are taking this traditional and essential part of our farming heritage into the future. We all face steep challenges in safeguarding a sustainable future for our industry, and I am absolutely confident that no-one will carry the flag forward more effectively than Annabelle." The new post at the NBA will give Annabelle Howell a national platform to champion the industry she loves. "I am incredibly excited to be joining the NBA and supporting the breeders and farmers who are taking our industry forward in these changing and challenging times. We have a once in a lifetime opportunity to create a positive future for the beef industry, with a growing focus on sustainable farming and breeding better animals to achieve a quality product whilst being more efficient and making a major contribution to cutting carbon and regenerating our environment.

"The NBA is helping to ensure that the UK beef industry continues to play a key part in the future of the country's food supply and its commitment to a Carbon Net Zero economy, and I am looking forward very much indeed to being part of this fascinating journey."



NBA AMBASSADOR



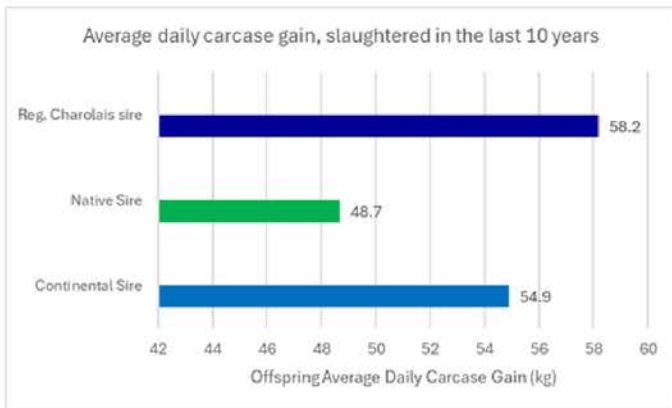
AHDB NATIONAL BEEF EVALUATIONS

Analysis of AHDB's National Beef Evaluations (NBE) December data is encouraging and something the Society will be using going forward to demonstrate the efficiency, profitability and sustainability of the Charolais breed. Find out more about AHDB's National Beef Evaluation at: ahdbbeef.egenes.co.uk



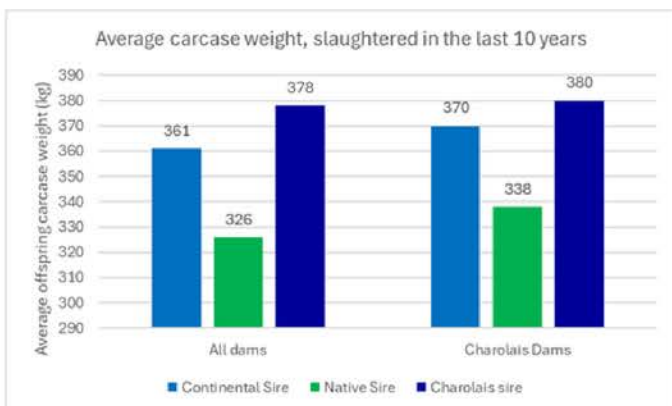
AVERAGE DAYS TO SLAUGHTER

When it comes to efficiency across suckler and dairy beef, the progeny of a Charolais sire on average finishes 37 days quicker than a Continental sire and 46 days quicker than progeny from a native sire.



AVERAGE DAILY CARCASS GAIN

Average growth rate across the lifetime of the animal. The graph clearly shows that, across suckler and dairy beef, progeny from the Charolais sire is 6% better than the progeny of a Continental sire and 19.5% better than the daily carcass gain of a Native sire.



AVERAGE CARCASS WEIGHT

More 'bang for your buck' the Charolais sired progeny carcass weighs a whopping 52kg heavier than those sired by a Native sire and 17kg heavier than those progeny from a Continental sire, across suckler and dairy beef. There are even bigger gains when the dam is also a Charolais.

December 2023 | Continental data

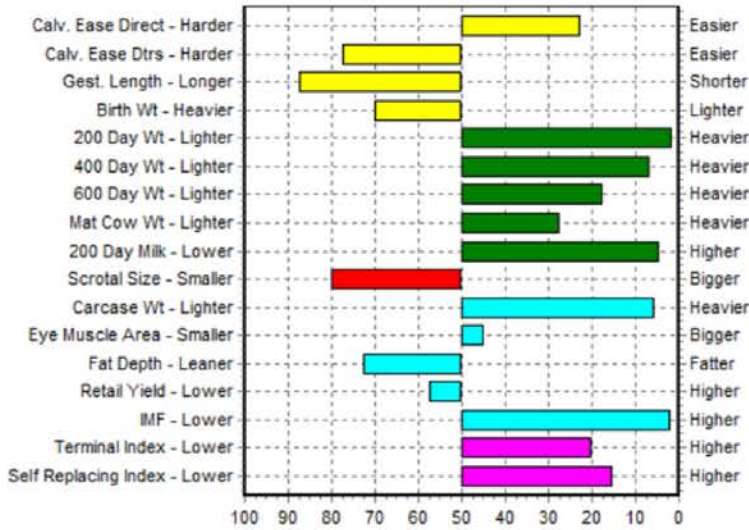


BEEF EVALUATIONS



Alternative EBV graphs

CURRENT EBV GRAPH



NEW EBV GRAPH

TRAIT

BREED AVERAGE SCORE & ANIMAL SCORE

ACCURACY



TRAIT		Breed Avg.	Animal Score	Acc	
Calv. Ease Direct	Harder	-24.7	+6.8	+29.9	Easier 53%
Calv. Ease Dtrs	Harder	-22.5	-3.9	+20.7	Easier 49%
Gest. Length	Longer	+9.9	+1.6	-8.7	Shorter 62%
Birth Wt	Heavier	+11.9	+3.2	-6.7	Lighter 74%
200 Day Wt	Lighter	-16	+46	+76	Heavier 73%
400 Day Wt	Lighter	-20	+70	+122	Heavier 72%
600 Day Wt	Lighter	-37	+74	+157	Heavier 72%
Mat Cow Wt	Lighter	-82	+67	+196	Heavier 59%
200 Day Milk	Lower	-23	+16	+43	Higher 52%
Scrotal Size	Smaller	-5.0	-0.5	+5.0	Bigger 72%
Carcase Wt	Lighter	-17	+64	+111	Heavier 62%
Eye Muscle Area	Smaller	-6.3	+3.5	+13.3	Bigger 50%
Fat Depth	Leaner	-6.3	-0.7	+6.3	Fatter 57%
Retail Yield	Lower	-4.7	+1.2	+7.5	Higher 54%
IMF	Lower	-4.0	+0.4	+3.6	Higher 48%



EBV GRAPHS



Alternative EBV graphs

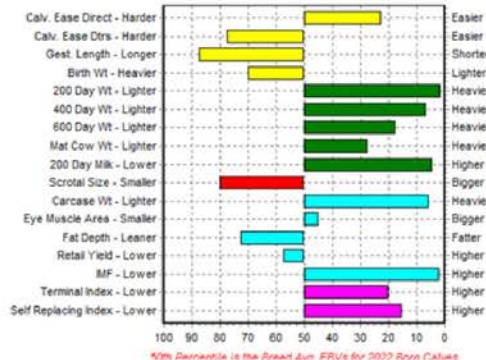
The current EBV graph is based on percentiles. Percentiles are obtained using a subdivision into 100 groups. The 25th percentile is also known as the first quartile (Q1), the 50th percentile as the median in EBV terms the Breed Average, and the 75th percentile as the third quartile (Q3).

In the **new graph** it shows the breed average for birth weight is +2.6, this bull has a birth weight of +3.2 with a 74% accuracy, the length of the coloured line reduces the higher the accuracy of the data.

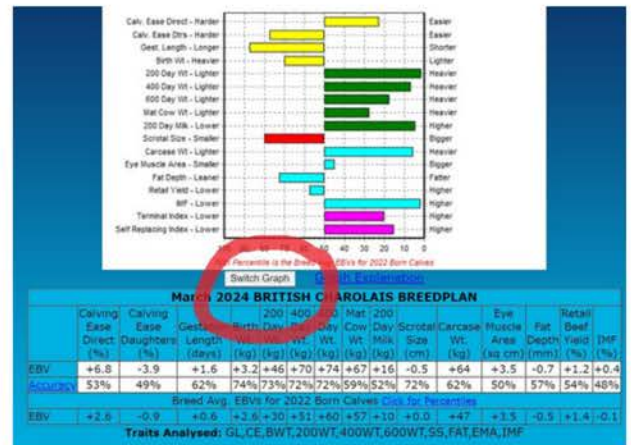
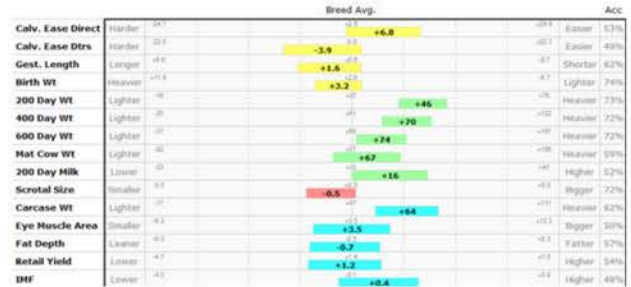
In the old EBV graph the birth weight +3.2 falls in the 80th percentile so the graphic is more severe and exaggerated.

Council has decided to use the new graph on all pen cards at sales. You can view the new graph on BreedPlan. We would be extremely grateful to hear your feedback about these new graphs and whether we could adopt them more widely in the future.

EBV Percentiles for ELGIN TITAN (UK523358502747) MBM0091073



EBV Graph for ELGIN TITAN (UK523358502747) MBM0091073



EBV GRAPHS



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 by kind permission of Mr D. Esmor Evans of the Maerdy herd in Wales on 3rd & 4th August 2024. As well as a new name we have a slightly different format.

ENTRIES WILL OPEN IN APRIL 2024

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)

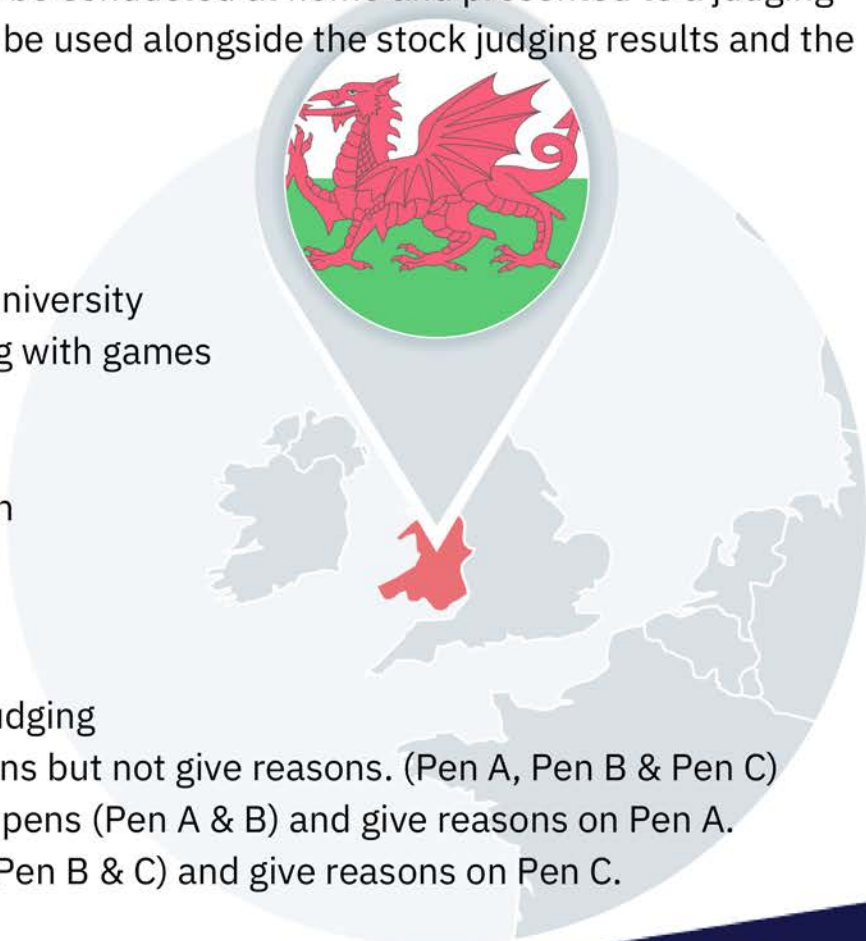
Stock judging

(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.



CHYPS



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 & 3 minutes talk)</p> <p>Candidates can select one of the following two topics:</p> <p>1 Why Charolais make the best terminal sire, or, 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 & 4 minutes talk)</p> <p>Candidates can select one of the following two topics:</p> <p>1 Top tips for a successful calving (management, nutrition, health) 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



CHYPS





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 & 1 minute explanation)</p> <p>Candidates can select one 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	Snapshot tour of the breeding females & calves at Maerdy



CHYPS





MacG
FEB '24

GALBRAITH STIRLING BULL SALES - FEBRUARY 2024

The sales 'high' started at Galbraith Stirling Bull Sales in February 2024 where a new breed record was set which was clearly underpinned by commercial confidence. The strong demand and buoyant trade achieved an astonishing sale average and new breed record average price of £8470, a rise of £436 on the year for 107 bulls with a clearance rate of 80%. An incredible 29 Charolais bulls and five females achieved five-figure prices.

I would like to thank the judge of the pre-sale show, Mr Gareth Roberts of the Montgomery herd, and his shadow judge, Erin Quigley from Ardmachree Charolais, Northern Ireland.

It was a memorable day for Neil and Stuart Barclay, Harestone, Stirling who led the bull trade at 22,000gns and heifers to 20,000gns. They achieved a staggering average, that only dreams are made of, as well as a female trade, which was deservedly on fire.



STIRLING



The sale leader was Harestone Tyrone, sired by Goldies Oasis, out of Harestone Lacey (ET). In the pre-sale show this October-2022 born bull stood first in his class and was purchased by pedigree breeder Mr Jeremy Price, Oakchurch, Hereford.



Richard McCornick realised 18,000gns for second prize intermediate bull, Ricnick Tyson, a Castellmawr Rocketman son out of Ricnick Peach. This July-2022 bull had earned the breed champion title and reserve interbreed title at LiveScot in November-2023 and joins the Kersknowe herd owned by J Jeffrey, Kelso.



The reserve junior champion from J & S Middleton, Hollywell T20 was snapped up for 16,000gns by W Millar, Tealing, Dundee. This August-2022 born Nuthampstead Judas son out of Hollywell Italy had stood senior male champion at the Stars of the Future show in November-2023.



Four bulls hit 15,000gns including the senior and overall champion Solwayfirth Tierney, a Glenericht Majestic son out of Solwayfirth Malibu. Bred and owned by Ian & Dorothy Goldie the May-2022 bull had been placed second in his class at the RHS 2023, he sold to Messrs Dalrymple, Ballantrae, Girvan.



Next was the intermediate champion from Mr & Mrs C J Wight, Carwood Trojan a May-2022 Maerdy Magestic son out of Elgin Emperor sired daughter Carwood Mandy, he headed home with N Wordie, Huntly, Aberdeenshire.



STIRLING



Glenericht Tavernier an April-2022 son of Caylers Oxford who has produced progeny to 20,000gns, made 15,000gns for W K & P Drysdale. He sold to Messrs Bryce & Son, Kilry, Alyth.



M Durno & Son, Glenlivet, Ballindalloch also paid £15,000gns for D K Timm's Wensleydale Tomahawk, out of Hillviewfarm Margaret, by Balthayock Nominee and born in June-2022.



A further five bulls made 13,000gns a piece, first up was R A & J Blyth's fourth prize bull, Marwood Trigger, born in May-2022 by Marwood Odin and out of Marwood Lucile, he found a new home in Wales with Messrs Richards, Maesteg, Mid-Glamorgan.



The Drysdale family sold fifth prize winner Glenericht Topper born in June-2022, by Glenericht Limpet who has sired sons to 17,500gns, to Messrs Cooper & Son, Forfar, Angus.



At the same money Greystokes Castle Farms, Penrith, Cumbria secured J Irvine & Son's Inverlochy Thunder born in July-2022, out of Ballindalloch Nova by Caylers Napoleon.



STIRLING



Also at 13,000gns was M. J. Massie's second prize September-2022, Elrick Trident by Westcarse Houdini was purchased by Ross Farms, Wester Middleton, Gorebridge.

J Wardlaw & Son's Haughhead Tam by Gretnahouse Pimp was born in April-2022 and sold to J Warnock, Dreva Farm, Biggar for 12,000gns.

R & N Barclay's, a Goldies Oasis son, Harestone Technip born in November-2022 was purchased in a joint deal for 12,000gns by Messrs Clark & Messrs Provan, Carluke, Lanarkshire.

A further seven bulls went under the hammer for 11,000gns they included R & N Barclay's junior champion Harestone Thedalg, an October-2022, Harestone Rabelais son who found a new postcode in Derbyshire with Cox Brothers, Bakewell.

Messrs Sutherland, Thurso, Caithness purchased October-2022 born, Goldies Tiptop by Caylers Rocky out of Goldies Lora.



STIRLING



Messrs Fisher, Wigtown, Stranraer procured W K & P Drysdale's first prize winner, September-2022 Glenericht Tomahawk by Caylers Oxford.

J. H. C. Campbell & Sons, August-2022 born second prize bull, Thrunton Titanium also went for 11,000gns to Messrs Watson, Darnford, Durris.

Goldies Titus an Elrick Officer son born in July-2022 who won his class, headed home for 11,000gns to Shanry Farms, Rait, Perthshire.

April-2022, Glenericht Tester a red ticket holder for W K & P Drysdale and another Caylers Oxford son took a boat to Orkney with Messrs Stevenson, Backakelday, Holm.

Marwood Tinker, a senior class winner sired by Balthayock Lineup and born in April-2022, headed north to the home of Messrs Smith of Dunecht, Aberdeenshire.



STIRLING



Mr T Coghill, Muce, Orkney secured second place Stranagone Topdog, a May-2022, Stranagone Jones son who was junior interbreed champion at Balmoral show in May-2023, for 10,500gns and at the same money AJR Farms sold a Newlogie Nobel son, Newlogie Tomahawk born in May-2022 to Messrs Hanson, Dilwyn, Hereford.



The remaining five-figure sum bulls sold for 10,000gns a piece, starting with Lucy Houston's, Glenericht Superb bred by W K & P Drysdale who opened the sale and was bought by Messrs Millar, Kingoldrum, Kirriemuir, followed by AJR Farms' Newlogie Topprize, an April-2022 Newlogie Nobel son bought by Hyslop Farms, Moffat, Dumfries.



Next up at 10,000gns was first prize winner, Goldies Target from Mr H Goldie a Caylers Rocky son bought by Messrs Hair, Ardwell, Stranraer.



W. P. Bruce, Ltd, Balmyle purchased the third prize winner Ballinlare Tycoon (ET) born in August 2022 from J. H. Wilson & Sons while Messrs Fisher, Stranraer, Wigtown matched the bid for Messrs Curry's August-2022 born Burradon Tailor by Burradon Parko.



STIRLING



The Westcarse Houdini son from Mr M. J. Massie, Elrick Torpedo born in September-2022 also made 10,000gns to Maesquoy Farms, Harray, Orkney.



Standing first in his class and then stepping forward for the reserve senior title and reserve overall sash, completing the championship double for Ian & Dorothy Goldie was Solwayfirth Topgun born in April-2022, out of Solwayfirth Mae by Glenericht Majestic, sold for 9,000gns to Messrs Lawrence, Achmagatt, Ellon.



STIRLING



The draft of the entire 2021/2022 crop heifers from R. & N. Barclay, Harestone, Stirling topped at an exceptional 20,000gns for homozygous polled Harestone Spice (P) (ET) born in July-2021. French bred on both sides her full brother; Harestone Sharpshooter was exported to France last year for £20,000. Messrs Tuohy, Co. Galway backed the potential of this Niger PP daughter out of Harestone Helen (P).



In total, five lots made a five-figure sum, 32 females were sold with a 97% clearance and an average of £7593. Boden & Davies Ltd purchased Harestone Singsong (ET) born in October-2021 by Goldies Oasis for 14,000gns. A full sister to 30,000gns Harestone San Diego, she was purchased in calf to Mister.



Harestone Sophia born August-2021 by Major and in-calf to Harestone Hercules was sold for 11,000gns to Claire Ferris, Newtownards, County Down while at the same money D MacPherson, Baldersbury Hill, Berwick-Upon-Tweed purchased a Goldies Oasis daughter Harestone Symphony born in October 2021, served by Harestone Sportsman.



Harestone Sybil sired by the 40,000gns Maerdy Newman out of Harestone Layla sold to J Barlow, Preston Lancashire for 10,000gns.



[CLICK HERE FOR CLASS RESULTS, PRICES & BUYERS.](#)



STIRLING



SWATRAGH EXPORT SHOW & SALE

Four days later at Swatragh commercial demand was yet again evident, with 19 bulls selling to a top price of 9,200gns with an 83% clearance to an average of £5620, a whopping £1370 up on 2023. The pre-sale show was skilfully judged by mother and son duo Leanne and Jamie Workman.



Mr Trevor Phair trumped the sale with Brogher Trump, a Whitecliffe James son going back to Blelack Digger and out of the Mornity Nero sired Brogher Ripple. This October-2022 born son sold for the top price of 9,200gns to W. J. Fraser & Sons, Ballindalloch, Scotland.



The reserve intermediate champion Drumacritten Toby (ET) from Mr G. E. Nelson, was next at 9,000gns, selling to C McDonnell, Glenariff, Co. Antrim. Out of Drumacritten Jessie this bull was also sired by Whitecliffe James and carried two copies of F94L.



The senior champion, male champion and overall champion was awarded to S. & D. Bothwell's, Killadeas Trevor, a Cloonglasna11 Padraig son out of Killadeas Octavia who also carried two copies of F94L. This August-2022 born champion was snapped up by J & G Smith, Stromness, Orkney for 8,000gns.



SWATRAGH





The intermediate champion Glencoe Thanos born in October-2022 from Mr P. & Mrs V. McDonald made 6,800gns and went to the home of M. Johnston, Toomebridge, Co. Antrim. This Liscorran Magic son is out of a Clyth Diplomat sired daughter, Beechdale Lupin.



Pedigree breeders J. & D. Watson & C. Curry, Northumberland, England put their money on the reserve junior champion Stranagone Unrivaled by Ocean sired Stranagone Saphir born in January-2023. This bulls heads across the water to join the Tweeddale and Burradon herds for 6,000gns.



N. Blair, Limavady, Co. Londonderry paid, 5,800gns for T. Phair's Culmvale Novello son, Brogher Tyson, out of Brogher Fancygirl, born in October-2022 whilst G. & J. Armstrong, Florence, Co. Fermanagh paid 5,600gns for a bull out of the same stable, Brogher Trader, this time a myostatin free November-2022 born bull sired by Goldies Icon and out of Brogher Pamala.



At the same money 5,600gns, P. Hackett sold second prize Fury Turbo born in September-2022, out of Fury Jewel and by Domino sired Fury Action to R. Watters, Stewartstown, Co. Tyrone.



SWATRAGH





The Sagesse Pierre sired son, Damview Thor from Miss C. Ferris made 5,500gns, this June-2022 bull out of Derryharney Naughtygirl went to the home of Mr. J Newell, Ballymoney, Co. Antrim. S. Bradley, Draperstown, Co. Londonderry backed his pick October-2022, Stranagone Tucker by Stranagone Jones, out of Coolnaslee Rainbow for 5,200gns and Mr. S McLean, Maghera, Co. Down also secured Mr. W. Short's second prize Woodpark Elgin son, Woodpark Toronto (ET) for 5,200gns. The female trade was led by the female champion, January-2023 born Ashview Upmarket (ET) from Mr V. & Mr. S. Keys with their double Q204X Lisnagre Elite ET sired heifer out of Ashview Rebecca, she joins the herd of Mr. C. McVeigh, Tassagh, Co. Armagh for 3,500gns. Matching the top female bid of 3,500gns was Mr. K. C. Veith's Drumlone Sonia by Fury Action, out of Drumlone Edwina she was sold in-calf to Drumlone Navigator to Mr. W McElmurray, Pomeroy, Co. Tyrone. Topping the trade of Mr. W. Short's draft at 3,400gns was July-2022 Woodpark Tara, by Deeside Gulliver and out of the prolific Woodpark Ermintrude who is still going strong at fourteen years of age. She went to E & C McCloskey, Colrairie, Co. Londonderry. Drumlone Tina from Mr. K. C. Veitch a Simpsons Gregg daughter out of Drumlone Nora found a new home with pedigree breeders W. D. Connelly, Ballynahinch, Co. Down for 3,300gns.

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SWATRAGH



ROYAL NORTHERN SPRING SHOW & SALE, THAINSTONE

The Charolais breed ruled the Royal Northern Spring Show at Thainstone on Wednesday 28 February 2024. Of all the five breeds the Charolais triumphed with the highest average price of £6542, a substantial increase of +£710 of the other breeds represented, as well as taking the highest price per head at 11,500gns or £12,075.

In charge of judging proceedings was Mr Andrew Anderson, Plewlands Duffus who picked out his Charolais breed champion from J & S Middleton's Hollywell herd based at New Pitsligo, Fraserburgh. Hollywell Taco carried two copies of F94L, born in March-2022, he was sired by Whitecliffe James, out of home-bred Hollywell Priva, he went on to win the overall interbreed championship and sold semen tested to Cairness Ltd, Cairness, Fraserburgh for the second highest Charolais price of the day at 11,000gns. Trending in the sale ring was Harestone Tiktok from R & N Barclay, a June-2022 Harestone Outlander son out of Harestone Luci. Keen to take home his pick of the day was D. M McCallum, Culbokie, Dingwall who paid 11,500gns.



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The reserve overall champion from A & A Wright, Glenlivet, Ballindalloch was May-2022 born Lagavaich Topgun, a myostatin free Elrick Jazzman son out of Elrick Oracle who went home to Thurso, Caithness with A & W Campbell, Thurso, Caithness. First prize winner in the junior class from Major D. F. W.H. & N. R. Walter made 7,500gns. Balthayock Tenacious was born in June-2022, a son of Elrick Paragon and out of Balthayock Melody who is a daughter from the very successful herd sire Balthayock Impression who carries seven of the top EBV traits in the National herd, sold to J. W. Moir, Auchorties, Keith. Tonley Tarzan (ET) born in May-2022 and sired by Balthayock Impression, who not only has impressive figures but has sired many five-figure priced bulls, swung home with W. L. R. Keir, Keir & Cawdor Estates, Stirling for 6,000gns. A twin bull calf Lochend Tic, owned by Mr C Stuart, Braes of Glenlivet, Ballindalloch and bred by current Society President Mr Iain Miller was purchased at foot at the Lochend dispersal, was next in the money at 5,800gns selling to A. M. C. Ewen, Cornhill Banff. This Swalesmoor Oscar son, out of Lochend Icecream was born in May-2022. A sporting bid of 5,500gns was put in from A. Sleight & Sons, Boghouse, Tarves to secure September-2021 born, Harestone Sportsman (ET) sired by Excellent and out of Harestone Anisette. A cracking good show of carcass cattle was topped by a home-bred Charolais cross heifer from George and Don Anderson, Netherley.



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Harbro

QUALITY LIVESTOCK NUTRITION



GRASS STAGGERS: THE FACTS

What is magnesium?

Magnesium is a mineral which ruminants rely on for many body functions, including enzyme activation and energy metabolism.

How do ruminants store it?

70% of all magnesium is stored in the skeleton.

What happens if we don't supplement?

- If the animal doesn't absorb the required level of magnesium, acute or chronic cases of hypomagnesaemia, also known as grass staggers, will be seen.

- When animals are turned out onto lush pasture which is low in magnesium due to the way it grows, animals cannot mobilise their body stores quickly enough and blood levels fall rapidly. This results in cases of acute grass staggers. If not found and treated quickly, acute grass staggers has a high death rate.

- Chronic cases can also be seen, where blood levels of magnesium drop slowly over a longer period of time. Clinical cases are then brought on by a stressor, such as bad weather.

Which animals are at risk?

All ruminants are at risk of grass staggers, although acute cases are more often seen in older animals as the magnesium in the skeleton of older animals is not so readily available.

When and what should we supplement?

- It is essential to supplement with bioavailable sources of magnesium all year round. Traditional sources of magnesium are very unpalatable and cannot be readily absorbed by the animal.
- Triple mag is the combination of three sources of magnesium that is used across the Harbro range. Triple mag is designed to be up to 50% more available than the traditional sources.
- It is increasingly important to provide supplementation in the spring and autumn, when grass is lush and fast growing. Fast growing grass contains less magnesium than slow growing swards.
- Buffer feeding (straw/hay/silage) when you first turn cows out, will help slow the passage of spring grass through the rumen, allowing more time for any magnesium to be absorbed.

Which Harbro products are designed to reduce the risk of grass staggers in Suckler Cows?

- Super Suckler rolls, fed at 1kg/cow/day to provide their 30g magnesium requirement
- Super Suckler SEC or Triple Mag mineral buckets to allow free access to supplementary magnesium
- Range of powdered minerals which can be incorporated into diets or be given free access

Harbro's team of trusted advisors are on hand to recommend which products would work best on your farm.

