

WINTER NEWSLETTER

>>> LIMOUSIN COUNCIL 2024



North-West:

Ann Hester
Gerry O'Connell
Michael Phillips*

North-East:

Arthur Lambert
William Smith

Clare:

Michael McInerney

South-East:

Ger O'Brien
John O'Reilly

South-West:

Brendan Curtin*
Pat Sheahan

Cork:

Brid Cronin*
James Wycherley

*National Seat Representatives

President:	Ann Hester	087 2238252
Vice-President:	Michael McInerney	087 8552379
Joint Treasurer:	Pat Sheahan	087 2500311
Joint Treasurer:	John O'Reilly	086 2617188
Communications:	Brendan Curtin	087 3850399
Child Welfare:	Gerry O'Connell	087 9681787
	Arthur Lambert	087 1365341
	Brid Cronin	086 8161919
	Ger O'Brien	087 2379466
	James Wycherley	086 0740427
	Michael Phillips	087 2862285
	William Smith	086 6010519

>>> HOUSEKEEPING <<<

- All animals entered for sale at any ILCS sale must be resident in the **vendor's herd for the 6 CONSECUTIVE months prior to the sale date.**
- It is important to highlight the 1.7kg males and 1.5kg females max weight gain for calves. Unless calves are notified at birth - Calves that exceed these Daily Live Weight Gain will not be allowed participate in ILCS sales or ILCS shows or any Club events.
- For the integrity of the Herdbook and to safeguard breeders, from 1st September 2019 all 1st calved heifers must be Parentage Verified at the owner's expense before their calf can be registered.
- Pedigree Females bought into your herd need to have Pedigree Certificate submitted to the Office for transfer into new owners name to avoid Pedigree Certificates for Calves being held up in TNP (Transfer not Paid)

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is with immense pride that I address you as the new president of the Irish Limousin Cattle Society. I am humbled to have such a prestigious honour bestowed upon me by my fellow council members.

Coming from a farm where our main income is from Pedigree sales, I have a clear understanding of the challenges we face as breeders. I am confident when I consider the makeup of our new Limousin council and the skill sets they possess, that not only will we be able to address these challenges, but also explore opportunities that exist for the breed.

Together with my fellow council members I am committed to work with all stakeholders to move the breed forward. Council's main focus at present is to liaise with Teagasc, ICBF and the Dept of Agriculture to address breeder concerns and remedy the issues with the new indexes which have especially negatively impacted our cow population.

Finally, on behalf of all council and our office staff, I would like to wish you a very Happy Christmas and all the best for your 2024 sales and breeding season.

I look forward to meeting you during the year ahead.

Ann Hester

**All Animals being entered in
Limousin Society Sales must be
Genotyped and Results back prior to
Sale Entry**

**LETTER FOR
2024**

"V"

REPORT ON THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Irish Limousin Cattle Society took place on 18th November in the Bridge House Hotel in Tullamore.

Following the President's address and the Auditor's report a series of questions were asked from the floor. These questions were submitted in advance of the meeting.

The main topics that arose were individual accounting issues, the cost effectiveness of the bull purchasing concessions and the issuing of AGM packs through email in advance of the next AGM. There was also a call for rule changes in relation to Code of Conduct of Council Members, Age Based Retirement was also discussed. This broadened out to discuss term limits on Council and improvements to the Dispute Resolution mechanism.

There was a call to increase club funding and for genomic evaluation to be done at the time of entry to sales. Calls were also made to improve communication protocol in the future. Council were asked to report back to members after a four month period on their progress in their new term and also to proceed with the advertising of the post of Breed Secretary.

GARDA VETTING UPDATE

Most Clubs now have person(s) Garda Vetted. For Clubs to run YMA Events it is essential that the Club have a minimum of 2 people Garda Vetted and that they have completed the Tusla Course.

Child Safeguarding Statement / Protection Policy and Risk Assessment Policy are available on our Website.

Gerry O'Connell will work with Clubs in 2024 to ensure the society is fully compliant when running YMA events.

LIMOUSIN GENETICS BREAK RECORDS AT CARRICK WINTER FAIR

Carrick on Shannon Winter Fair was held over two weekends in November. What a showcase it proved to be for the breed. Limousin genetics were very well represented in the large entry of exceptional quality Commercial stock over the course of both weekends.

Colin McFadden and Ailish McBride from Letterkenny, Co. Donegal achieved a selling price of €18,400 for a July born weanling heifer. This outstanding heifer was the Reserve Junior Limousin Champion, she weighed 260kgs, and is sired by Ballinloan Jaegerbomb.

The Reserve Senior Limousin Champion heifer was from the herd of Shane Kelleher, Newmarket on Fergus. This Powerhouse Italic daughter weighed 740kg and sold for €5,850.

21 Senior Limousin heifers sold at an average of €3,000 with James & Noel McSweeney, Macroom, Co. Cork selling their 550Kgs Bullock for €4,000. On weanling sale day, 14 Limousin Bull Weanlings sold at an average of €1,832 with John O'Grady, Glenamaddy, Co. Galway getting the top price of €4,200 for his May Elite Forever Brill (TVR) calf weighing 380kgs.



Presentations made to former council members David Swayne (above) and Trevor Masterson (below) by William Smith and Tom Jackson.

LETTER FOR
2024

“V”



Reserve Junior Limousin Champion, sold for €18,400

There was fantastic interest in the Limousin Heifer Weanlings with 100 selling at an average of €3,151.

Derrick Forde, Corrandulla, Co. Galway received €13,100 for his February born heifer, this heifer weighed 510kgs.

Sean Hughes, Co. Monaghan presented a smashing Ampertaine Elgin weanling, she weighed 350kgs and sold for €10800

Dermot McGinley, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal sold his April heifer weighing 390kgs for €8200. James Cunney, Aclare, Co. Sligo received €8,100 for his May calf weighing 320kgs.

Sweeney Brothers, Ardara, Co. Donegal sold their February calf weighing 380kgs for €7,800, while John O'Malley, Westport sold his January weanling, weighing 450kgs for €6,500.

Niall McKiernan, Ballinagh, Co. Cavan achieved €6,000 for his February calf weighing 420 kgs, while Sean O'Brien, Culdaff, Co. Donegal also achieved €6,000 for his April calf weighing 415kgs. Lydia Gallagher, Carrigart, Co. Donegal sold her April calf weighing 350Kgs for €5300.

Many of the cattle from other breeds were offspring of Limousin bred cows, a prime example of this was the granddaughter of Castlevue Gingo that broke the record price in Carrick when she sold for a mouthwatering €21500. The heifer named Sugar n' Spice was bred by John Kennedy, Tullymore, Co. Donegal.

The Meenross Limousin herd from county Clare sold their first prize winning weanling bull for €4400, this 7-month-old bull calf has Ampertaine Elgin and Wilodge Vantastic in his lineage.

THE REVISED INDEXES

The only topic of discussion and of huge concern for pedigree breeders today are the new indexes. While ICBF present figures and I quote:

- "More suckler bred animals and less dairy bred animals at 5* after changes."
- "84% current 4-5* retain 4-5* status after changes"

The reality on the ground for Pedigree Limousin breeders is very different. The cow's replacement index has been negatively impacted the most. Taking our own herd as an example we had 20 4 and 5-star cows prior to the update. We now have 10. A 50% reduction is very different to 84%.

Many breeders have been following the advice from ICBF trying to breed 5-star cows, genotyping their animals, weighing their calves a few times a year etc. Many of these 5-star cow had high reliability scores. What has happened is ethically wrong and besides the financial impact, will have a wellness and mental health impact on breeders.

Council met with Donagh Berry (Teagasc) who developed the new algorithm for the Terminal index. When you will be reading this piece the Oireachtas Agriculture committee will have met with ICBF on Wed Dec 13th. Council members and breeders have spoken directly to some of the committee to explain the context of the issues and provided questions to ask/clarify on the day.

What is becoming very evident is that no one is aware of the impact of the new indexes specifically on the continental pedigree breeds. The article on the Farmers journal of Dec 9th highlighted the issue "Any evaluation model that puts a Dexter bull above a Charolais in term of an overall profit index has to be questioned. How can ICBF defend this?"

ICBF EVALUATION DATES 2024

Evaluation 1 Publication 23rd January 2024

Evaluation 2 Last Day for all Data 26th January 2024

Evaluation 2 Publication 19th March

Donagh will source from ICBF the before and after data for the entire Limousin population. This will clarify the real impact on the breed and will provide key inputs to support any proposals.

The Limousin Society cannot force ICBF to revert to the previous indexes (on our own). This can only be achieved by pressure from other parties such as the Oireachtas Agriculture committee, the Department of Agriculture and the farm lobby groups. In the last week the momentum against the new indexes has grown substantially as more farmers are becoming aware of the impact on their stock.

We all realise that environmental changes are a key driver, however, the new algorithm may be optimising the calculation to reduce carbon emissions but this approach on it's own across the whole beef population will have a detrimental effect in other traits.

The pedigree herd exists for a totally different reason than the commercial herd. The make-up of a pedigree cow or pedigree bull, that exists to breed the seed-stock to improve the genetic merit of future generations, is very different to a commercial cow/bull. The outcome being looked for is that the pedigree stock (especially the cow and top bulls) are provided with some leeway in terms of the traits that are negatively impacting the current stars by applying a different calculation to this subset. The objective is to save the environment while still producing top class progeny.

LIMOUSIN CONTINUES TO BE THE #1 SUCKLER DAM

Given the reduction of the Suckler herd in recent years, a positive indicator for the Limousin breed is that it remains the number one Suckler dam and is nearly double the next highest breed. The quality of the Limousin cow was very evident again this year at the Carrick Winter Fair, with Limousin being the dams of many of the top priced animals across all breeds.

Below is the data from 2012 and 2022. A few insights stand out over the last 10 years:

Calf births registered by breed of dam in 2022		
Breed	% per breed	# per breed
LM	33.8%	285,658
CH	17.5%	148,329
AA	12.6%	106,927
SI	10.8%	91,572
HE	10.1%	85,077
BB	3.6%	30,729
SH	3.6%	30,135
SA	2.6%	22,013
AU	0.9%	7,919
PT	0.7%	6,053
Other	3.8%	31,807
Total suckler Dams		846,219

Calf births registered by breed of dam in 2012		
Breed	% per breed	# per breed
LM	32.10%	343,000
CH	23.10%	247,000
SI	11.90%	127,000
AA	12.10%	129,000
HE	9.10%	97,000
BB	5.30%	57,000
SH	3.30%	35,000
SA	1.50%	16,000
Other	1.80%	19,000
Total Suckler Dams		1,070,000

Limousin, the top sire used on beef dams in 2022		
Breed	% per breed	# per breed
LM	37.1%	316,745
CH	31.7%	270,470
AA	11.0%	93,767
SI	5.1%	43,782
HE	4.1%	34,768
BB	2.6%	22,207
Other	8.4%	71,717
Total		853,456

Limousin continues to be the #1 beef sire on all beef cows

- Total suckler cow population has decreased by 223,781 cows or 20.9%.
- Customer base is decreasing.
- Limousin has maintained its market share over other breeds and even grown by 1.7%. There will continue to be opportunities to gain more market share from other breeds.

WHERE DO BUYERS AT SOCIETY SALES COME FROM?

It is an interesting exercise every year to review where our buyers come from. This information can help in making decisions re mart locations for future or new sales.

A few insights are:

- Over a fifth of cattle sold at society sales were to Galway based customers.
- Nearly 10% sold went to Northern Ireland and the UK.
- Nearly 40% went to three counties - Galway, Clare, and Roscommon.

ANALYSIS OF LIMOUSIN BULLS’ REPLACEMENT INDEX FOR BULLS BORN IN 2005 (OR LATER), INCLUDING WHAT IS CATAGORISED AS ACTIVE OR INACTIVE BULLS BY ICBF

The download of Limousin bull from ICBF contains 789 bulls. Removed bulls born before 2005, giving a sample size of 394 bulls. Included are bulls tagged as "Inactive Bulls" born in 2005 or later as breeders will still be using some of these bulls (Sample size 394)

Replacement Index

The Replacements Index € value increased for 100 (25.4%) of bulls. Of these

- The stars remained the same for 52.
- The stars increased for 48.

Replacement Index € value stayed the same for 5 bulls.

The Replacement Index € value decreased for 289 (73.4%) bulls of these

- The stars remained the same for 198 (68.5%)
- The stars decreased for 91 (31.5%).

Replacement Index stars:

- Increased for 49 (12.4%) of bulls.
- Remained the same for 254 (64.5%).
- Decreased for 91 (23.1%).

Terminal Index

The Terminals index € value increased for 45 (11.4%) bulls. Of these

- The stars remained the same for 24 (6.1%)

- The stars increased for 21 (5.3%)

Terminal index € value stayed the same for 8 (2%) bulls.

- The stars stayed the same for 5.
- The stars increased for 3.

The Terminal Index € value decreased for 341 (86.5%) bulls. Of these

- The stars increased for 11 (2.8%)
- The stars remained the same for 220 (55.8%)
- The stars decreased for 110 (27.9%)

Terminal Index stars:

- Increased for 35 (8.9%).
- Remained the same for 249 (63.2%)
- Decreased for 110 (27.9%)

County	Total sold to county	% sold to county
Galway	53	21.9%
Clare	22	9.1%
Roscommon	20	8.3%
Mayo	10	4.1%
Tipperary	10	4.1%
Westmeath	10	4.1%
Cork	9	3.7%
Carlow	8	3.3%
Cavan	8	3.3%
Kildare	7	2.9%
Longford	7	2.9%
Meath	7	2.9%
Wicklow	7	2.9%
Kerry	6	2.5%
Offaly	6	2.5%
Sligo	6	2.5%
Laos	5	2.1%
Monaghan	5	2.1%
Kilkenny	3	1.2%
Limerick	3	1.2%
Leitrim	2	0.8%
Wexford	2	0.8%
Donegal	1	0.4%
Dublin	1	0.4%
Louth	0	0.0%
Waterford	0	0.0%
UK	10	4.1%
NI	14	5.8%
Total	242	

Calving Ease

The calving ease figure Increased (more difficult) for 171 (43.4%)

The full breakdown of this information with the bulls listed per section will be available on the website.

TULLAMORE SHOW 2023

The National Livestock Show Tullamore was where the 32nd National Limousin Championships were hosted. Throughout the proceedings, the Limousin marquee was a hive of activity and around the showing there was a great atmosphere overseeing the breeding talent on display.

The National Limousin Championships, kicked off at 10am with Mr. Douglas Graham from the Burnbank Herd in Scotland, tasked with the difficult job of judging some 22 classes across male and female sections.

It will be another National Championship to remember for William Smith's Milbrook Limousin herd based in Oldcastle, Co. Meath. It was **Milbrook Nikkiespice ET**, a 5-year-old cow, suckling a calf, (a daughter of famous **Milbrook Gingerspice** and sired by **Ampertaine Elgin**) who swept the boards and was tapped out as Overall Limousin Champion of the Show, after earlier being crowned Senior Female Champion and Overall Female Champion.



Milbrook Nikkiespice ET , bred by William Smith, with Eleanor O Reilly

The Overall Limousin Reserve Champion was awarded to Donal Moloney's powerful in-calf heifer **Charlottes Sapphire**. Sired by Elite **Forever Brill** and out of **Roundhill Kmelodie**, Donal purchased this prize-winning female from Northern Irish breeder, Charlotte Martin, at the British Limousin Cattle Society's 50th Anniversary Sale in Carlisle.

Bobby O'Connell from Clarina, Co. Limerick took the honours for the Overall Male Championship, with his 17-month-old bull, **Ballybrown Toby** after being tapped out as Senior Male Champion. **Ballybrown Toby** is sired by **Ampertaine Foreman** and out of **Roundhill Punanime** which was a sale topping female that Bobby purchased at the 2020 Roundhill & Castlevue Genetic Advantage Sale.

Castlebrock Trafford ET, a March-2022-born bull, owned by Donal Moloney was awarded Reserve Overall Male Champion. **Castlebrock Trafford** was bred by Gerard Davis, sired by **Mereside Godolphin** out of **Lomond Lexie**.

In the Junior Male Championship, it was Tom Bailey with his September-2022-born bull, **Baileys Trump** who took home the champion sash. This bull was sired by **Wilodge Vantastic** and out of **Baileys Norma**.

The Reserve Junior Male was awarded to **Brackan Tick Tok**, bred by Padraig Gormley, Carrigallen, Co. Leitrim. A stylish September-2022-born bull sired by **Derrygullinane Kingbull** and out of **Esker-Hill Karen ET**.

Micheal Roche from Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick, took the honours of Junior Female Champion with his yearling heifer – **Knockcoolkeare Toffee** sired by the AI bull **Elite Lazette** and out of **Wood Road Nollaig**.

The Reserve Junior Female Champion spot was awarded to **Carrickmore Tina** from the Connell Brothers in Oldcastle, Co. Meath. Out of **Baileys Iceprincess** and sired by **Ampertaine Nugent**, a stock sire in Tom Bailey's herd. At the end of the show, the Ardnacrusha herd of Donal Moloney finished the day in style by winning the Best Pair of Limousins by the same breeder.



The 2023 YMA competition was won by Claire Coyne showing **Haven Uh Oh** bred by Ian Santry



Claire Coyne (YMA Competition Winner), pictured with Haven Uh Oh, bred by Ian Santry

AUTUMN SALES REPORT

ROSCREA - MONDAY 30TH OCTOBER

Bull Highlights

- 92% Clearance
- €5100 Average Price Bull
- €16,500 Top Priced Bull
- 3 Bulls €8000-€9000
- 2 Bulls €7000-€8000
- 4 Bulls €6000-€7000
- 14 Bulls €5000-€6000
- 17 Bulls €4000-€5000
- 13 Bulls €3000-€4000
- 1 Bull €2000-€3000

Heifer Highlights

- 50% Clearance
- €3600 Average Price Heifer
- €6,100 Top Priced Heifer
- 1 Heifer €5000-€6000
- 4 Heifers €3000-€4000
- 3 Heifers €2000-€3000



Carrefour Turbo, bred by John Kenny, sold for €16,500



Carrickmore Sasha ET, bred by Connell Brothers, sold for €6,100

ATHENRY - SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER

- 62.5% Clearance
- €3358 Average Price Bull
- €4500 Top Priced Bull
- 7 Bulls €4000-€5000
- 9 Bulls €3000-€4000
- 9 Bull €2000-€3000

Killcastle Tyson ET, bred by A&P Kelly, sold for €4,500



SALES DATES 2024

Roscrea Bull Sale (Premier)	1st April
Athenry Bull & Heifer Sale	8th April
Roscrea Bull & Heifer Sale (Premier)	6th May
Roscommon Bull Sale	25th May
Roscrea Bull & Heifer Sale (Premier)	28th October
Athenry Bull Sale	14th December

CLOSING DATES

16th February
21st March
22nd March
26th April
13th September
15th November

LETTER FOR
2024

“V”

CLUB NEWS

NORTH WEST LIMOUSIN CLUB

A calendar of summer shows was held in the club area and it was great to see everyone out showing Limousin's both pedigree and commercially. In particular, well done to Jason Maughan who won the January 2023 All Ireland at the National Show in Tullamore.

In September the club held its annual Calf Finals in Elphin. Judge on the day was Martin Conway of the noted Craigatoke herd in Northern Ireland. He had a tough task to judge 25 super Limousin cattle. Overall winner of the calf finals went to the Hester Family for a second year in a row.

Martin also had the task of judging our herds competition also ran in September. Well done to all category winners and all who took part with the Overall Herd Competition winner going to the Gerrygullinane herd. The Gerrygullinane herd also hosted a very successful online sale and open day in May.

At the recent Roscrea Premier sale again the North West Limousin club was well represented with Bertie Mannion securing Senior Reserve Champion and selling for one of the top prices on the day, capping a great 2023 sales season for Bertie. The Hester Family also sold their NW Calf Champion for one of the top female prices on the day.

On behalf of the club we would like to thank all purchasers of NW Limousin cattle both pedigree and commercial and wish them every success with their purchases. We would also like to wish all our own members and breeders continued luck and success with their breeding and sales in 2024.



Keep an eye on our Facebook page **"NW Limousin"** to keep up to date with all upcoming events in the club.



Michael, Maria and Ann Hester pictured with Meelickaduff Take on Me, sold for €5,500 at Roscrea Premier Sale

NORTH EAST LIMOUSIN CLUB

The North East Limousin Club held their Annual Calf Finals at Trim Show this year. The sponsor of this years event was Univet Ltd, Tullyvin, Co Cavan. Judge on the day was Mickael Clavel from KBS Genetic, France. All entrants in Trim had to pre-qualify at 3 other shows in the club area over the summer. Entries were consistently over 25 at club qualifying shows this year. Credit must go to the breeders and the shows for the great effort that was put in.



Left: Grovite NE Limousin Club Female and Overall Calf Champion 2023, Aughalion Tina 2, a Telfers Munster daughter bred by Paddy Clerkin, Ballyjamesduff, Co. Cavan, pictured with Eleanor O Reilly (Herd Manager)

Right: Grovite NE Limousin Club Male Calf Champion 2023, Milbrook Terence ET, a Halfcliffe Dancer son, bred by William Smith, Oldcastle, Co. Meath. Also pictured, Mickael Claval (KBS Genetic) and Philip Crowe (NE Club Chairman)

CLUB NEWS



Left: Grovite NE Limousin Club Reserve Champion Male Calf of the Year 2023, Clontown Treanor, a Mereside Lorenzo son, bred by Treanor Brothers, Monaghan.

Right: Grovite NE Limousin Club Reserve Female Calf 2023, Muff Tia Maria, a Ronick Hawk Daughter, bred by Thomas & Paddy Carolan, Kingscourt, Co Cavan



Keep an eye on our Facebook page "**North Eastern Limousin Club** " to keep up to date with all upcoming events in the club.

SOUTH EAST CLUB

The South East club had a very productive year. We held a Farm visit on the farm of Tom Harney Finboy Limousins in Birr in August. We saw exceptional Limousin cattle from the Finboy herd. Tom spoke in detail about his Limousin cattle as he showed the club members around his farm.

The club also held a grooming demonstration and guess the weight of the bull competition. We also heard from our guest speakers Seamus Nagle from Bull Bank and Jake Finnegan from Elite Pedigree Genetics. The Club would like to thank Tom and his family for welcoming our members to his farm.

The South East Herd Competition was held in August. We had a special committee of 5 members from our club, Emer Moran, Brendan O'Shea, Tom Harney, Steven Tierney and Sean Maher, who arranged all details for members to enter the competition and they also collected sponsorship for our raffle on the night. The club had the honour of welcoming our Judge, Mr John McInerney from the Drummin herd in Clare. Judging took place throughout 3 days in August and then we held our club's social event in November in Langton's Hotel in Kilkenny to announce the results.

On the night we had great prizes to be raffled, all which were sponsored from the following companies, Elite Pedigree Genetics, Bull Bank, Animal Farmacy, John Kenny- Agritech, Dovea AI, Southern Milling, Gary Morrissey, Munster AI, Bova AI, AB Ireland, Vale Oil and the Irish Limousin Society.

Thanks to all our Sponsors and all members who participated in the herd's competition.

Results:

Large Herd: 1st Prize, Caponellan Herd (Thomas Bowe), 2nd Prize, Bannixtown Herd (David Tierney), 3rd Prize, Crohane Herd (Imelda Vaughan)

Medium Herd: 1st Prize, Templequain Herd (Brendan O'Shea), 2nd Prize, Grangetown Herd (Gary Morrissey), 3rd Prize, Whitehall Herd (Noel Brennan)

Small Herd: 1st Prize, Finboy Herd (Tom Harney), 2nd Prize, Kilkenny Herd (Emer Moran), 3rd Prize, Teach Garraig Herd (Pat Fitzgerald)

New Entrant: Oak Farm (Stephen Crampton)

CLUB NEWS

Results - Special Classes:

Best Stock Bull: 1st Prize, Huntershall Seth (Gary Morrissey), 2nd Prize, Galbally Nuclear (Stephen Tierney), 3rd Prize, Capponellan Roberto Carlos (Thomas Bowe)

Best Junior Bull: Templequain Tyson (Brendan O'Shea)

Best Cow- in milk/with calf at foot: 1st Prize, Tweeddale Lollipop (Gary Morrissey), 2nd Prize, Whitehall Kerry (Noel Brennan), 3rd Prize, Whitehall Roma (Emer Moran)

Best Dry Cow: 1st Prize, Finboy Krystal (Tom Harney), 2nd Prize, Rathlyon Marilyn (Myles McDermott), 3rd Prize, Haltcliffe Ode (Gary Morrissey)

Best In-Calf Heifer/ Maiden Heifer: 1st Prize, Glenford Royalty (Kelly Stephenson), 2nd Prize, Templequain Selena (Brendan O'Shea), 3rd Prize, Glenford Redribbon (Kelly Stephenson)

Best Junior Heifer Calf: 1st Prize, Brookland Tulip (John & Tom Hickey), 2nd Prize, Templequain Triona (Brendan O'Shea), 3rd Prize, Templequain Tulip (Brendan O'Shea)

Best Heifer born in 2023: 1st Prize, Caponellan Upada (Thomas Bowe), 2nd Prize, Caponellan Uma (Thomas Bowe), 3rd Prize, Brookland Uma (John & Tom Hickey)

Best Junior Bull Calf: 1st Prize, Finboy Thor (Tom Harney), 2nd Prize, Rathlyon Tonic (Myles McDermott), 3rd Prize, Templequain Tucker (Brendan O'Shea)

Best Bull Calf born in 2023: 1st Prize, Caponellan Universe (Thomas Bowe), 2nd Prize, Caponellan Unflappable (Thomas Bowe), 3rd Prize, Finboy Usain (Tom Harney)

Best Crop of Calves: 1st Prize, Templequain (Brendan O'Shea), 2nd Prize, Caponellan (Thomas Bowe), 3rd Prize, Whitehall (Noel Brennan)

Judges Choice Award: Finboy Krystal (Tom Harney)

We would like to thank all our members who participated in our events and meetings throughout the year. Also, we would like to thank Veronica and Marie in the office for all their help.



Keep an eye on our Facebook page "**South East Limousin Cattle Club**" to keep up to date with all upcoming events in the club.

CORK CLUB

It was another busy year for the Cork club. We held our AGM on the 11th of April in the Vienna Woods Hotel. Alan Kelly was guest speaker on the night. He gave an interesting update on how the Limousin breed is performing based on the research around methane emissions. Club officers elected on the night were Chairman Declan O'Regan, Secretary Adrian Buckley & PRO Tony Kelleher.

The Cork Club held a Calf Promotion Day in conjunction with Kanturk Mart on 11th April. There were prizes on the day for Best Limousin Bull and Heifer calf. Thanks to Kieran Noonan for running this event.

The Cork Calf Championship was held at Ballyvourney Show on 16th July. Judge on the day was Maurice Carroll. Overall Calf Champion was Declan O'Regan's September bull calf sired by Eddakya and out of a Bavardage cow Paircalassa Thunder. Reserve Calf Champion was Ian Santry's February born bull calf sired by Lodge Hamlet and out of a Drummin Lar sired cow. The calf championship was sponsored by Dovea Genetics.

The Herds Competition was judged by Emer Byrne on 28th and 29th July.

Results:

Small Herd

1st Gaberial Herd (Timmy McCarthy)
2nd Powerstown Herd (Brid Cronin)
3rd Leevalley Herd (Diarmuid Thompson)

Medium Herd

1st Aherla Herd (Jim Good)
2nd Inchintaglin Herd (Vincent O'Sullivan)

Large Herd

1st Domanig Herd (Kieran Noonan)

Additional Classes

Best New Entry: Leevalley Herd (Diarmuid Thompson)

Best Group of Calves: Aherla Herd (Jim Good)

Best Young Bull born in 2022: Powerstown Timothy (Brid Cronin)

Best Young Heifer born in 2022: Gaberial Tess (Timmy McCarthy)

Best Heifer Maiden or Incalf: Gaberial Rebecca (Timmy McCarthy)

Best Cow: Gaberial Lucy (Timmy McCarthy)

Best Cow Family (Generations on farm): Cronrea Fiona 2 (Kieran Noonan)

Highest Terminal Index Male: Glountane Toronto (Michael Flemming)

CLUB NEWS

The Southwest and Cork Club's Biennial heifer sale took place on 2nd September in Roscrea Mart. 24 heifers sold for an average price of €3104 with a top price of €6000 for Ger Ryan's October 2022 born heifer Ryans Timothea ET sired by Wilodge Cerberus.

We held a field event on Saturday 5th August. We visited the Gaberial herd of Timmy and Marie McCarthy and family in Ballydehob. The crowd that attended were treated to an excellent display of top-quality Limousins. Timmy established the herd in 1998. His breeding goals are to breed a well-balanced animal with a focus on docility and this was evident from the temperament of his cattle on the day. 100% AI is used on the herd. When selecting bulls Timmy picks the bull to suit the cow and improve what might be lacking in the cow.

We had a stock judging competition on the day. Master judge was Peter O'Connell of the Raceview Simmental herd. Thanks to our generous sponsors for sponsoring prizes for the stock judging. Dr William Burchill of UCC spoke to us on the day about grassland management and the benefits of clover in the sward. Thanks to the McCarthy family for hosting us and providing us with refreshments on the day.

Best wishes to Tom Jackson who is retiring from Council and best of luck to James Wycherly who will be filling his seat. A special thanks to Marie and Veronica in the society office for all their help during the year and to everyone who gave us sponsorship during the year.



Keep up to date with Cork Limousin on the "**Cork Limousin Cattle Society Club**" Facebook page.

SOUTH WEST CLUB

Ballylin Herd Open Day

The club held an Open day on the Farm of Brian and Jane Frawley, Croagh, Co. Limerick home of the Ballylin herd. A massive crowd attended and were treated to a fantastic display of both pedigree and commercial cattle. Brian and Jane together with their children – Sarah, Orla and Pat run the farm.

The Ballylin herd was established in 2013 with the purchase of Wood Road Geraldine from fellow Limerick breeder Noel Fennessy. Geraldine is a daughter of Tullamore prize winning bull Wood Road Donald and Wood Road Celia ET, a Raquette daughter. Geraldine's first calf Ballylin Isobel, a daughter of Lowerfrydd Empire, has had seven calves born into the herd. Her 2019 born son Ballylin Popeye (by Grangeford Jojo) is the father of this years English Winter Fair Champion.

Popeye sold to a UK based breeder in the Covid restricted premier sale in May 2021.

Brian is continuing to grow the herd and has continued to acquire new bloodlines, with an emphasis on style and docility the herd was a pleasure to walk through. After the farm walk - it was onto the farmyard for a Barbeque and stock judging competition. Micheal Roche, ably assisted by his wife Brigid, proved to be a culinary expert team feeding the crowd delicious Limousin beef burgers.

Master judge and south west club man John Lynch of Dovea Genetics undertook judging duties for our stock judging competition and took the time to explain his reasons for his placings of four young heifers, daughters of Mereside Godolphin, Tomschoice Lexicon, Elite Lacette Et and Claragh Neymar. The winners of the competition were Rory Biggane, Alan Connolly, and R. Patch, while the under sixteen category winners were Pat Frawley and Conor Geary. On hand to present the prizes were Michael Phillips from World Wide sires and Mary Duggan from Eurogene.

The South West club together with the Frawley family would like to thank the sponsors of this event:

Main Sponsors: Paul and Vincent, Southern Milling & Kelliher's Feed and Agri Supplies

Sponsors: Bova AI, BullWise, Bull Bank, Elite Pedigree Genetics, Eurogene, Dovea Genetics, Munster Bovine, Progressive Genetics, World Wide Sires, Geary's Garage Ltd, John Deere Tractors & Samco Agricultural Manufacturing Ltd.

Days like this do not just happen a lot of time goes into the preparation and organising – we would like to acknowledge and thank the Frawley family for all their efforts, Brian's parents, siblings and nephews, and friends were on hand to ensure the smooth running of the event. Everyone present appreciated all your efforts.



Herd Competition

During August judging took place for the Herds competition. Judging this year was Michael McNerney of Brickhill Limousin herd. The results will be announced at the December club meeting.

CLUB NEWS

Heifer Sale

On the 2nd of September the club held its Biennial heifer sale in conjunction with the Cork Limousin club in Roscrea mart. A catalogue of 40 heifers were presented with prices peaking at €6,000 for the youngest heifer on offer Ryans Timothea ET, born in October 2022, Timothea was presented by Ger Ryan of Ballyhooly, Co. Cork. She is a daughter of Wilodge Cerberus and Vern Blossom, an Imperial daughter. Timothea was part of the Ryan families show team during the summer, acquiring numerous prizes including the Overall Limousin Champion at Barryroe show

Two heifers changed hands for €4,200, first at this price was Caherlevoy Tinkey from Shane Sheehan, Mount Collins. Tinkey is a daughter Whinfellpark Lomu. Tinkey was also on the show circuit and was placed second to the Junior Female champion at the National Show in Tullamore. Also at €4,200 was Carbery Thailand from Keith Vickery, Rosscarbery. Thailand is steeped in prize-winning genetics with both her grand dams enjoying very successful show ring careers.

Many thanks to all sponsors of our sale – please support their businesses whenever possible. Dovea Genetics, Bova AI, Munster AI, World Wide Sires, Bull Bank, Elite Pedigree Genetics, Eurogene Genetics & Roches Feeds

Northern Ireland Herd Visit

In October a group travelled to Northern Ireland to visit both the Trueman herd and the Glenmarshal herd. Trueman Limousins is the home of the Savage family - Henry and his sons have a tremendous interest in all thing Limousin, they have a wealth of knowledge on cattle genetics that they are more than willing to share. The farm is the birth place of the world record breaking bull Trueman Jagger. In recent times the herd stock bull Telefers Munster is leaving his mark in herds both north and south. A thoroughly enjoyable herd visit was enjoyed by all.

Then on to the recently established Glenmarshal herd of Trevor and William Shields. Glenmarshal herd is growing from strength to strength having carefully invested in top genetics from both the UK and Ireland. The farm is set in a beautiful setting just outside the seaside town of Newcastle in the shadow of Slieve Donard.

On the journey home a stop was made to the Glenford herd of PJ McGrath and Kelly Stephenson. This busy farming family is based in county Wicklow. Since its foundation Glenford Limousins have enjoyed much success in both the show and sales rings. In 2022 the homebred heifer Glenford Royalty was crowned Tullamore Show Supreme Limousin Champion.

The welcome and hospitality we received from all herds on the visits was second to none.

Carrick Winter Sale

The enormous influence of Limousin genetics in the Irish commercial herd was never as evident as seen at this year's winter Fair. Time and time again the top ranked cattle in both the show ring and the sales ring had Limousin in their lineage. With Carrick reaching record prices we in the South West club were delighted to see the record price of €21,500 achieved for a granddaughter of Kerry bred Castlevew Gringo.

Upcoming Commercial Sales

We have two commercial sales in 2024 in Castleisland Mart.

Monday 8th April: LM sired dairy calf sale.

Wednesday 24th April: Commercial heifer sale.

Limousin Council

The South West Club representative on council is Pat Sheahan of the Drombanny Herd. Pat will be joined by newly elected National Representative Brendan Curtin.

Thank You

We would like to thank Michael McInerney, George Candler, management and staff of Roscrea and Castleisland marts. Thanks to the Frawley family (Ballylin Limousin herd). We wish all purchasers of Limousin cattle the very best of luck with their livestock. Many thanks to Marie and Veronica.

Happy Christmas to all and the very best for 2024



Keep up to date with South West Limousin on the **"South West Limousin Club"** Facebook page.

CLARE CLUB

Summer '23 Show Circuit

This summer saw a host of shows with great success from Clare breeders both at home and across the country. Shows included the Ennis Show (calf finals), Mullagh, Corofin, Limerick, Cappamore, Bonniconlon and Kildysart.

The highlight of the summer was the Tullamore Show with Reserve Champion going to Donal Moloney and family Charlottes Sapphire for Reserve Overall Champion.

Bringing home the ribbons in both pedigree and commercial classes included Paudi Kileen, Carina Rosengrave, Seanie O'Grady, Owen Flannery, Darragh O'Meara, Kieran Kileen & Donal Moloney. Congratulations to all.

CLUB NEWS

Autumn Premier Sales in Roscrea saw success from Colin Hogg with his Plumtree fantastic bull 'Clonlara Todd' making €6,200. Michael Mcinerney on the sale of 'Brickhill Troy' a Kaprico Eravelle son making €5000. Seanie and James O'Grady had a successful sale of their Plumtree Fantastic bull 'Meenross Topper' for €5,700.

Herds Competition

Clare Limousin Club held their Annual Herds Competition in July 2023, with a total of twelve herds taking part, Judge for the day was Mr. Philip Dunne of Liscarn Limousin, based in Bailieboro, Co. Cavan, as remarked on the day by the judge, "Philip always considered Clare the home of the Limousin" and certainly wasn't disappointed on the day with the quality of stock on display.

Clare Limousin Club Pedigree Heifer Sale

The Clare Limousin Club held their second pedigree heifer sale in Sixmilebridge Mart on Friday evening the 17th of November 2023, with auctioneer George Chandler. A catalogue of 37 pre-inspected heifers were put forward by breeders from all over the county. A jam packed ringside saw the dedicated team of organisers rewarded for their hard work with a fantastic clearance rate.

The average price was €2,721 with a range of €1,600 to €5,000.

Before the sale the eagerly anticipated Mega Moo draw took place – the lucky winner was Gordan Shine. Hurricane Utopia, a January 2023 born heifer bred by Daire O'Meara, Roo West, Ardnacrusa was Gordan's pick. Daire receives €5,000 as the breeder of the heifer. Other prizes on the night went to: Joe Moran, Brian O'Loughlin, Edward Lynch, Rachel Moloney, John Shannon & Andrew McCarthy



Keep an eye on our Facebook page "**Clare Limousin Club**".

DOES THE SOCIETY HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

HAVE YOUR SAY!



One of the objectives of the new Council is to improve communications with breeders and keep you up to date with information as soon as it is available. If the Society office does not already have your email address, just send an email to admin@irishlimousin.com including your name and herd number and they will update your details.

What type of information would you expect the Society to provide you and how would you like to see it? Email your ideas to pro@irishlimousin.com or get in contact with our Office Staff/Council members and we will take your views on board.

Herds Competition Results

Large Herd

1st Moohane Herd (John Meehan)
2nd Fairhill Herd (Anthony Moloney)
3rd Drumline Herd (James Hannon)

Best Young Bull: Fairhill Tulla (Anthony Moloney)
Best Young Heifer: Moohane Tess (John Meehan)
Best Group of Calves; Moohane Herd (John Meehan)
Best Cow: Fairhill "692" (Anthony Moloney)
Best Stock Bull: Limbo Ben (James Hannon)

Medium Herd

1st Lackamore Herd (Enda O'Gorman)
2nd Greenwood Herd (Micheal Finn)
3rd Or Rua Herd (Tom Doherty)

Best Young Bull: Greenwood Thunder (Micheal Finn)
Best Young Heifer: Lackamore Tinkerbelle (Enda O Gorman)
Best group of Calves; Lackamore Herd (Enda O Gorman)
Best Cow: Craggane Katie (Enda O Gorman)

Small Herd

1st Brickhill Herd (Micheal McInerney)
2nd Meenross Herd (James & Sean O'Grady)
3rd Mountscott Herd (Micheal Sexton)

Best Young Bull; Brickhill Troy (Micheal McInerney)
Best Young Heifer: Birchpark Tiffany ET (Owen Flannery)
Best Group of Calves; Brickhill Herd (Micheal McInerney)
Best Cow: Mountscott Primrose (Micheal Sexton)

Special award to the newest herd in Clare, went to Sean O'Connor of the Monafola Herd

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