

Irish Limousin Cattle Society

Review of 2024

2024 proved to be **another great year for the Limousin Breed**, with **many successes** throughout the year given the challenges including:

- The reducing Suckler herd, now stands at 799,000, the lowest figure since the early 90's.
- The impact of the updated ICBF algorithm on the stars.

There was super demand for Limousins in all the commercial marts throughout the country. Our main customer are the men and women around these rings. The **prices at the commercial sales rings** are the best promotion our breed can have.

The Farmers Journal published analysis where Limousin rated #1 in €/kg for 5 out of 6 categories (covered all animals going through their online mart sales system MartBids).

The March bull sale in Roscrea saw **two records set** for a premier sale, the **highest average €5,739** and **highest clearance 98%**.

The **33rd National Limousin show** took place on Sunday 11th August at **Tullamore Show**. It was great to see an increase in the number of animals and exhibitors present and the interest all day around the ring. Supreme Champion was awarded to the outstanding May 2022 born Leopard daughter **Ernevalley Tempress** from the herd of Eddie Lynch, Loughduff, Co. Cavan.



Limousin are **outperforming all other beef breeds** when it comes to **lower methane emissions**. From the research currently taking place in Tully, out of 319 bulls in the test sample of which 57 are limousin.

- 19 of the lowest 20 bulls are Limousin.
- 49 of the 57 Limousin in the sample are in the bottom 100.

The **AGM** in November saw 2024 deliver a profit of €83,970, a turnaround of €170,683 from the previous year (which saw a loss of €86,711. This was a very positive outcome given a decrease in income of €94,203.

Shannon Stan, bred by Sarah Mc Elligott in Asdee Co Kerry, made history after the November '24 index rerun when he achieved a **minus gestation score**. This is the first time a Limousin bull has achieved this milestone and hopefully he will be the first of many.

A weanling **Limousin heifer** beat the previous top priced recorded at the **Carrick Winter Fair**. Lizzo, a daughter of MBP (**Milbrook Dartangan Et**), sold for a **record price of €30,000**. She was bred by renowned showman and commercial cattle producer **Derrick Forde from Galway**. Lizzo was born in May and weighed 345kg on sale day.



Limousin remains the Number 1

Beef Sire

Sire selection for beef dams

| Breed | # of Dams | % per Dam |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|
| LM | 286494 | 36.19% |
| Ch | 250890 | 31.69% |
| AA | 93330 | 11.79% |
| SI | 39388 | 4.98% |
| HE | 32630 | 4.12% |
| BB | 23076 | 2.91% |
| Other | 65907 | 8.32% |

Total 791715

Continental breed of choice for Dairy herd

| Continental sire selection in the dairy herd | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Breed | # calves born to dairy dams | % Continental sire |
| LM | 54657 | 38.13% |
| BB | 37586 | 26.22% |
| SI | 31781 | 22.17% |
| CH | 15496 | 10.81% |
| SA | 3022 | 2.11% |
| BA | 790 | 0.55% |
| Total | 143332 | |

Suckler Dam

| Calf births by breed of beef dam born | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Breed | # calves born per breed of dam | % calves born per breed of dam |
| LM | 264545 | 35.07% |
| CH | 135368 | 17.95% |
| AA | 97432 | 12.92% |
| SI | 88862 | 11.78% |
| HE | 77161 | 10.23% |
| SH | 28345 | 3.76% |
| BB | 28104 | 3.73% |
| SA | 20954 | 2.78% |
| AU | 8174 | 1.08% |
| PT | 5396 | 0.72% |
| Total | 754341 | |

Let's hope 2025 will exceed our 2024 successes.