

# March 2026 Update

**Year letter** for animals born in **2026** is "**B**".

## COMMUNICATION

The previous newsletters will be replaced with more regular shorter email updates including an update from Council meetings.

## Council 2026

Following are the 2026 Council members including roles:

<i>Council Member</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Phone</i>
Ann Hester (President)	North West Club	087 2238252
Michael McInerney (Vice President)	Clare Club	087 8552379
Pat Sheahan (Joint Treasurer)	South West Club	087 2500311
Ger O'Brien (Joint Treasurer)	South East Club	087 2379466
James Wycherley	Cork Club	086 0740427
Martin Davis	North East Club	087 4156596
Eamonn Orohoe	North East Club	087 9336972
Gerry O'Connell	North West Club	087 9681787
Tom Bowe	South East Club	085 1092484
Michael Phillips	National Representative	087 2862285
Karol Connell	National Representative	086 3705729
Des Joyce	National Representative	087 4186208

## SPRING SALE DATES

Following are the spring sale dates. Please note there is **no Athenry sale** (changed to Gort) and the **second Roscrea sale** will take place one week earlier than usual, **on April 25<sup>th</sup>**, (to avoid a clash with sales in Carlisle and Ballymena).

<b>Sale</b>	<b>Sale Date</b>	<b>Closing date</b>
Roscrea Premier Bull sale	Mon March 16th	<b>Closed</b>
Gort Bull & Heifer EVENING sale	Fri April 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Thu Mar 12<sup>th</sup></b>
Roscrea Premier Bull & Heifer sale*	Sat Apr 25 <sup>th</sup>	Thu Mar 26th
Roscommon Bull & Heifer sale	Sat May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Thu April 25 <sup>th</sup>

**Please note that the Premier sales will remain as export sales.**

**Entries to all Society Sales is strictly via the Online Sales Entry Form.**

## BLUETONGUE

The Society are in communication with the Dept of Agriculture regarding bluetongue and if we should introduce rules regarding same for sales. There are no recommendations yet re same. If breeders have questions regarding bluetongue vaccinations or other related topics, please contact your local DVO.

## PEDIGREE ALL-STAR AWARDS

The Pedigree All-Star awards will take place on Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup>. This year will recognise the outstanding achievement of **Mullary Vabulous**, Supreme Champion at the 2025 Tullamore show and her breeders Michael and Brodie Molloy. Congratulations to Michael and Brodie.

## NOTIFICATION OF BIRTH WEIGHTS WITHIN 48 HOURS OF BIRTH

Notification of birth weights must be submitted **via email ONLY to [birthweight@irishlimousin.com](mailto:birthweight@irishlimousin.com)**. This ensures both the breeder and the office have a record of the notification. Where no calf birth weight is submitted the standard accepted birth weight for a male of 45kg and a female of 40kg is applied. You will receive an email receipt of confirmation from the office. Please contact the office if you do not receive a confirmation of receipt email (just in case you spelled the email address **[birthweight@irishlimousin.com](mailto:birthweight@irishlimousin.com)** incorrectly).

The notification is relevant for all Society events including Society Sales and Tullamore Show where the 1.7kg average daily weight gain for males or 1.5kg average daily weight gain for females is exceeded. Where there is a weight issues with an animal at a Society event, the presence or not of an email in the [birthweight@irishlimousin.com](mailto:birthweight@irishlimousin.com) Inbox received within 48 hours of birth from the breeders will be conclusive.

## WEBINARS

The Limousin Society's next Webinar will take place tomorrow **Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8.00pm** sharp. Cahir McAuley (Larkhill Limousin herd) will present an insightful session on myostatin, exploring its impact on muscle development, performance, and breeding decisions. The Webinar will be recorded and available for viewing via our website, [www.irishlimousin.com](http://www.irishlimousin.com)

Link to join the webinar will be available on [www.irishlimousin.com](http://www.irishlimousin.com) and emailed to breeders on Tuesday.

## COUNCIL UPDATE

### NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT (NDA)

At the Council meeting held on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025, a unanimous decision was made requiring all Council members to sign a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) prior to attending their first Council meeting. At the subsequent Council meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026, all 12 Council members present signed the NDA. This is for confidential and sensitive areas.

### BREED DEVELOPMENT

The primary focus area for 2026 will be Breed Development. While all Council members will be involved in this initiative, interested breeders will initially be invited to contribute their input through short surveys and workshops. The Society will also engage with other stakeholders who can provide valuable insights on this topic.

Other focus areas include:

- Breed Promotion and Marketing
- Performance Recording program
- Shows and Sales
- Rules
- YMA

### YOUNG MEMBERS ASSOCIATION (YMA)

The YMA program will be reestablished. The Irish YMA finals will take place on 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> October 2026 at Roscrea Mart. This program is for members aged from 12 to 25 years. The Society are in discussions with the British Limousin Society about running an Anglo-Irish event, however, nothing has been confirmed.

An email will be sent to all breeders inviting them to become involved with YMA at club level. Zoom calls will then be arranged to share how different clubs organise and run their YMA events, along with other YMA topics.

The Society hopes that some YMA members from previous years will become involved in helping to develop and support the next generation of breeders.

## TWO RULE CHANGES RELEVANT TO SALES

- Bulls must be between 13-24 months of age on sale day. Previously bulls had to be aged between 14-24 months for spring sales only.
- Females must be over 12 months for all sales, with the exception of the Autumn Premier Sale, where the minimum age will be 9 months. This change will be piloted at this year's October Premier Sale.

## INSPECTIONS AT PREMIER SALES

The Society is reverting to having two inspectors at Premier sales.

## CARCASS COMPETITION

The carcass competition at Ashbourne meats Roscrea will take place in mid-May. Prize money of €2000 will be an additional attraction. To be eligible for the prize money the cows must be Pedigree Limousin and in the seller's herd for at least six-month.

## DIRECT DEBITS WILL BECOME THE ONLY PAYMENT METHOD FOR ALL MEMBERS

One of the "**Rules of Procedure of the Irish Limousin Cattle Society Ltd**" states "*Members joining the Society after 1<sup>st</sup> September 2002 must make all payments due to the Society in the form of Direct Debit.*"

From **April 6, 2026**, direct debit will become the **only** payment option available to members. This change will have no impact on the majority of our members.

### Why is the Society making this change?

The majority of transactions for breeders who are not on direct debit must be processed manually. As technology has advanced, many updates are now automated through integrated systems that communicate directly with one another. Manual processing limits these efficiencies and increases administrative workload.

Certain scenarios — which arise only in cases involving breeders who are not on direct debit — impact the Society's ability to maintain the integrity of the breed and to ensure consistent application of rules.

Direct debit helps reduce the risk of unpaid balances for the Society.

Having reviewed these matters, Council has decided that, **from April 6, 2026**, direct debit will be the only payment option available to breeders. Breeders affected by this change will be contacted by the office to arrange and support them to implement a direct debit solution. Council recognises that some members may be disappointed with this decision and empathises with those concerns; however, as a Society, it is important that we continue to modernise and adapt to current systems and best practices.

Council is also reviewing late fee policies. Where a direct debit cannot be processed due to insufficient funds, a late fee may be applied depending on the payment timeline involved.

## CHANGES TO TULLAMORE SHOW CLASSES

- The September class (both male and female) will be divided into two classes. Entries will be taken as normal and then split evenly into two classes based on the total number of animals entered, rather than by age. Half of the entries will be allocated to each class.
- Two additional January classes will be introduced: (a) Non-ET Males and (b) Non-ET Females.

## ROYALTY SCHEME

### Addition to the list of Royalty bulls

Clonark Ultan, Price per straw €10, Royalty Fee €40. Semen distributed by Bova AI.

The Royalty scheme will be reviewed. New bulls will not be accepted into the scheme until the review is complete.

## FROM MARCH 9TH, HAIR CARDS FOR GENOTYPING CAN ONLY BE REQUESTED DIRECTLY FROM ICBF

Currently some breeders contact the Society office to request hair cards from ICBF for genotyping. This creates a labour-intensive administrative process for the office without adding value to the breeder. It also delays receipt of the hair card and, in some cases, result in the you being charged more.

Under the current workflow:

- The breeder contacts the Society office to request hair card(s).
- The office records the breeder's details and forwards the request to ICBF.
- ICBF posts the hair card(s) to the Society office.
- The Society office posts the hair card(s) to the breeder.
- The breeder sends the completed hair card(s), with hair samples, directly to ICBF.
- The office processes the associated charges to the breeder and arranges payment to ICBF.
- Where breeders are not on direct debit, further manual checking may be required.

The Society currently charge €32.51 per hair card request.

**From Monday March 9<sup>th</sup> breeders should contact ICBF directly for hair cards on 023 882 0452**

### The ICBF charges for hair cards are:

- Members of the National Genotyping Program (NGP) are charged €6 per hair card.
- If you are not a member of the NGP but signed up to HerdPlus the charge is €18 per hair card.
- If you are not a member of the NGP or HerdPlus, the charge is €30 per hair card.

## 50TH ANIMAL REGISTERED AND DNA TESTING

A rule was passed in November 2010 that every 50th calf notified to the Society shall be required to be DNA tested to confirm sire and dam parentage. With the National Genotyping Program (NGP) and many breeders already genotyping pedigree animals, this rule will no longer be applied.

## DO NOT BUY OR SELL A PEDIGREE ANIMAL UNLESS IT HAS BEEN GENOTYPED

The Society strongly recommends **only buying or selling a pedigree animal that has been genotyped**. There are a few problems still being reported to the office:

- A farmer buys a bull and uses him on their pedigree cow. It is only when the genotype results of their calves are received that they realise their bull is by a different sire.
- A farmer buys what they believe to be an easy-calving bull, use him on heifers and when the heifers start calving, realise he is not easy calved. They then genotype him and realise he has a high calving figure and is not suitable for heifers.

All animals sold at Society sales are genotyped, thereby preventing these types of problems occurring.

## LIMOUSIN CONTINUES TO LEAD THE WAY

The back page highlights that **Limousin continues** to lead the way and is the **Number One breed** for:

- Number 1 Suckler dam
- Number 1 Beef Sire on beef dams
- Number 1 Continental Sire on Dairy Dams

### Contact details:

Irish Limousin Cattle Society Ltd,  
Kilglass, Mitchelstown,  
Co. Cork

Office: +353 (0)25 85036

### Emails

**Office:** [admin@irishlimousin.com](mailto:admin@irishlimousin.com)

**PRO:** [pro@irishlimousin.com](mailto:pro@irishlimousin.com)

### Birth weight notifications:

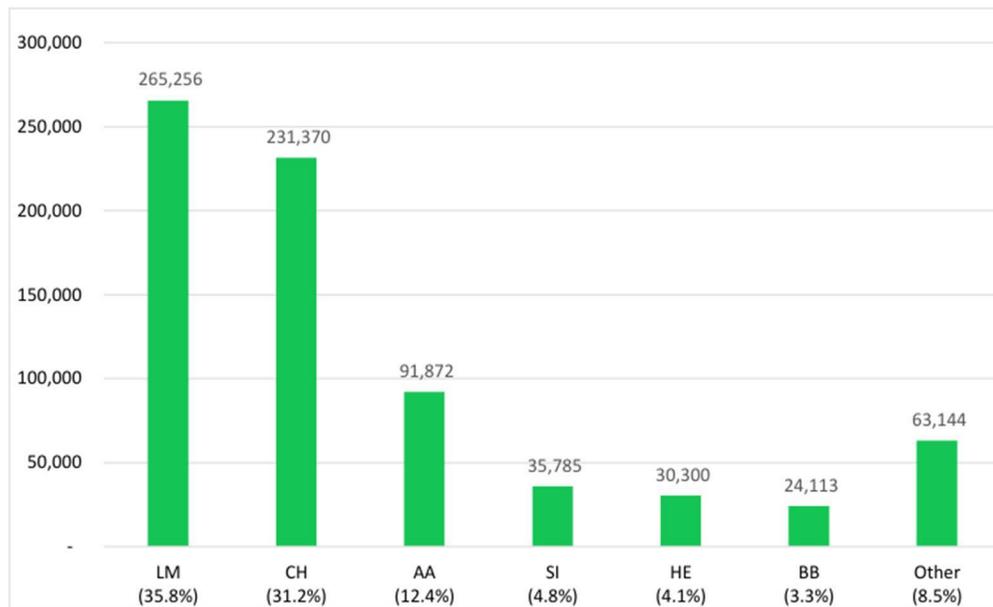
[birthweight@irishlimousin.com](mailto:birthweight@irishlimousin.com)

# Limousin continues to be the **Number 1 Beef Dam** (2024 data)

## Calf Births by Month of Registration and by Breed of Dam

Month	FR	LM	CH	AA	SI	HE	JE	BB	SH	SA	NR	MO	AU	PT	Other	Total
January	103,281	13,516	7,099	4,152	5,600	3,400	3,197	1,706	1,308	1,003	608	504	462	268	1,381	147,485
February	574,506	20,013	9,882	8,588	12,650	5,985	35,889	2,528	3,178	1,976	4,151	2,898	834	438	4,084	687,600
March	386,396	36,286	17,757	13,774	16,618	10,783	20,873	3,957	4,734	3,356	2,985	3,073	1,497	832	5,489	528,410
April	199,649	50,113	25,366	17,461	16,365	13,615	8,473	4,747	5,406	4,091	1,420	2,111	1,751	969	5,207	356,744
May	92,354	41,979	22,098	14,499	11,611	12,022	2,739	4,058	4,691	3,173	648	1,062	1,257	658	4,445	217,294
June	33,038	22,759	11,987	8,409	5,837	6,498	847	2,289	2,583	1,650	184	481	638	336	2,247	99,783
July	19,714	17,484	9,423	6,521	4,459	5,241	541	1,857	1,856	1,436	123	365	519	321	1,911	71,771
August	11,581	10,824	5,347	4,257	2,742	3,239	376	1,144	1,000	709	65	211	394	198	1,323	43,410
September	15,567	9,774	4,709	3,970	2,788	2,785	441	1,208	846	787	40	153	351	228	1,069	44,716
October	27,192	9,527	4,427	3,567	2,993	2,565	520	1,201	804	743	78	253	459	224	1,094	55,647
November	25,507	8,115	3,785	2,743	2,756	1,945	493	986	637	577	86	244	278	212	853	49,217
December	17,896	6,504	2,949	2,171	2,372	1,727	294	807	553	550	74	216	282	129	649	37,173
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,506,681</b>	<b>246,894</b>	<b>124,829</b>	<b>90,112</b>	<b>86,791</b>	<b>69,805</b>	<b>74,683</b>	<b>26,488</b>	<b>27,596</b>	<b>20,051</b>	<b>10,462</b>	<b>11,571</b>	<b>8,722</b>	<b>4,813</b>	<b>29,752</b>	<b>2,339,250</b>

## Limousin continues to be the **Number 1 Beef Sire** on Beef dams



## Limousin continues to be the **Number 1 Continental Sire** on Dairy Dams

