

CHAROLAIS NEWS

Irish Charolais Cattle Society · Irish Farm Centre · Bluebell · Dublin 12 Ireland

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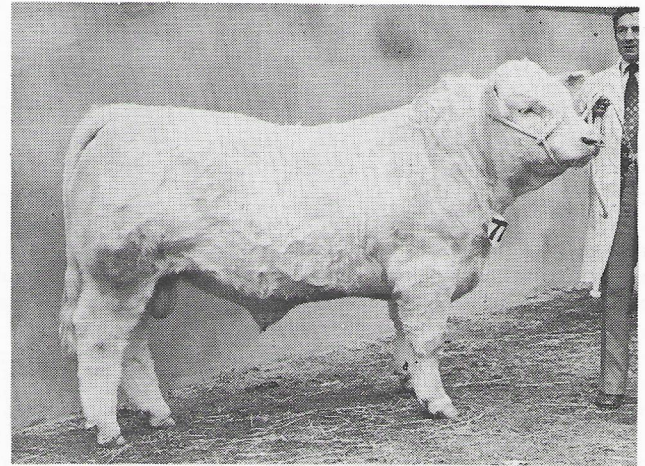
No. 2

EDITOR: WALTER FEELY.

CHAROLAIS PRIZEWINNERS AT HOME AND OVERSEAS



Charolais classes attracted a lot of attention at Limerick Show. Picture shows Miss Peggy McElligott of Craugh Darrig, Asdee, Listowel, with her prize winning Charolais bull — Asdee Omar.



Top priced Irish bull at Perth 'Ballybrado Oribi' bred by Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Craik-White, Ballybrado, Cahir, Co. Tipperary. This bull sold for 9000 gns.

DID YOU KNOW?

That where Farm enterprises have tended to stagnate or decline in recent years — Charolais breeding, both Pedigree and commercial has continued to expand.

That there has been an increase of 74% in the number of pedigree breeders over the past three years.

That there are now registered Pedigree herds in all of the 26 Counties.

That several of the newer breeders and smaller herds have dominated the scene over the past twelve months.

That a Hot-Dog bull, the first progeny sold from the herd of John Craik White, at Goffs in April 1979, was sold at Perth in October, as a herd sire, for 9,000 gns — the highest recorded price yet for an Irish Charolais bull.

That a Heritier Bull sold by John Fahy at Goffs April sale went to England as a herd sire.

That a bull bred by Lady Dunraven from Tattenhall Hublot, and winner of the Bunker Hunt Trophy, was purchased by Ted Curtin as a herd sire.

That a Helas Bull, runner up for the Bunker Hunt Trophy and bred by Louis McLoughlin went to England as herd sire.

That a bull bred by Dr. Frank Austin was reserve champion at Bingley Hall, England.

That the concept of the Bunker Hunt competition — recorded farm performance plus Visual assessment was an original idea thought up by the Irish Charolais breeders.

That the competition is open to breeders from any country in the world.

That the Irish Charolais Society hopes to have a similar Trophy in the future to identify a top yearling heifer.

That many of the early imported cows from France are still in full production at 10 to 12 years of age.

That many of those cows are equal to the best to be found in France today.

That a French Champion is coming to Ireland. Omar Van Landghem beat off all opposition to secure Paul Pacaud's

overall champion bull at Vichy sale last September.

That practically every Franch Breeder keeps his own herd sire and so broadens the blood lines available to other breeders.

That with the stock available now, plus the progeny of the present import from France — Ireland will have the opportunity to produce the best Charolais in the world.

That the Irish Charolais Society has passed a resolution requesting the Minister for Agriculture, before deciding to abolish bull licensing, to obtain a detailed report from the Agricultural Institute on the detrimental effect that this will have on the quality of our cattle and the enormous loss to the National Economy by producing these inferior cattle. Much support has already been received for our resolution from other Breed Societies, Cattle exporters and Co. Committees of Agriculture.

CATTLE BREEDING A NATIONAL ASSET

Frank Austin

The beef industry is of vital importance to the Irish economy amounting, as it does, to almost one fifth of the total value of all our exports. Indeed, approximately 85 per cent of the output of the Irish beef industry is exported annually. The United Kingdom market was the main outlet for Irish cattle and beef until the early 70's. However, accession to the EEC in 1973 provided us with alternative outlets for quality products both on the hoof and on the hook. This is, a market that is both demanding and expanding, a market that offers lucrative opportunities that must be exploited more fully in the years to come if beef producers are to achieve their full potential earnings.

In the 1950's Irish agriculture was still in the midst of depression following the war years. The dairy industry was depending on the Shorthorn cow, with beef coming from the the traditional British beef breeds, i.e. Hereford and Angus. The introduction of the Friesian into the dairy herd has revolutionized milk production over the past two decades. At the same time progressive elements in the beef industry were examining the possibility of introducing a new beef breed that would enable us to exploit alternative world markets that might be developed. It must be remembered that all this was taking place long before there was any prospect of an EEC. Community such as exists today.

An in-depth investigation of European cattle breeds led Irish farmers to conclude that Charolais cattle alone could do for the beef industry what the Friesian was about to do for the dairyman. As a result of this, a determined effort was made to convince the Department of Agriculture of the need to find a way to permit the importation of the great white cattle from France. The Department of Agriculture was very conscious of the necessity to protect the unique health status of Irish livestock and in particular to maintain our freedom from Foot and Mouth Disease. Nevertheless, Murty Hynes and John Beatty, the Chief Veterinary Officer and Chief Livestock Officer respectively at that time and their respective staffs listened intently to the case as it was presented and after deep and careful consideration of all the implications eventually decided that the Department itself should undertake a small trial importation of Charolais cattle in 1964. At the same time the Department developed an offshore quarantine station at Spike Island in Cork Harbour which has permitted ten subsequent importations of Charolais Cattle into Ireland since that time. Charolais cattle have been subjected to considerable criticism over the intervening years, but much of this has come from vested interests who recognised the challenge that was being presented to their established breeds. The truth of the matter is plainly evident to one and all, "Charolais have come to say — leaner meat won the day".

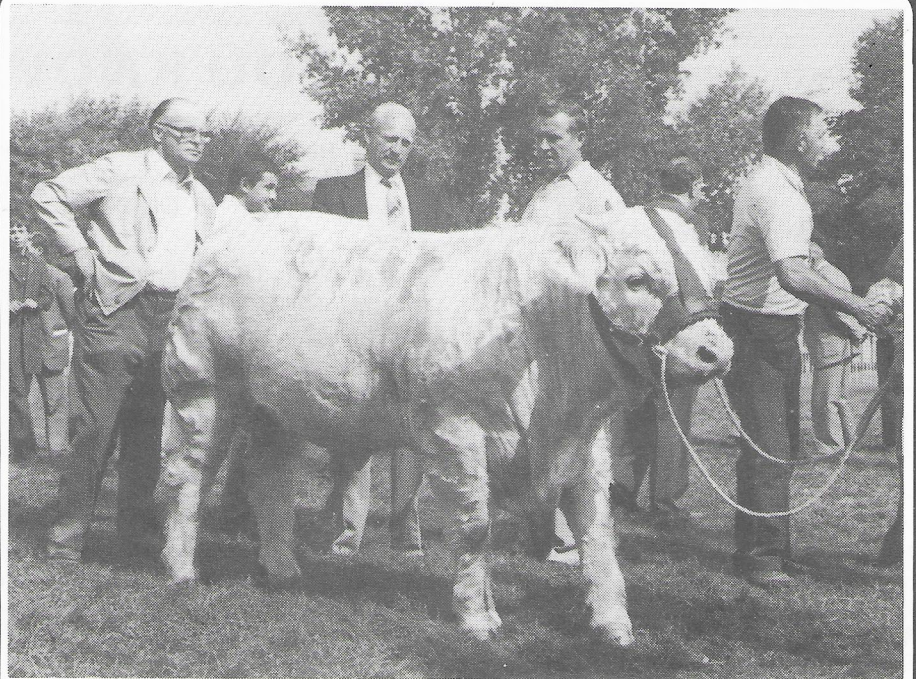
Charolais cattle have now firmly established themselves as the Rolls-Royce of the Irish beef industry. It is well established that they eat large quantities of feed but they use this to very good effect. They are unrivalled for their growth rate, feed conversion efficiency and capacity to produce lean meat. They can withstand extremes of temperature and find no difficulty in outwintering in the West of Ireland where Charolais inseminations now extend to over 20 per cent of the total and have long since surpassed Herefords and Angus in popularity.

Confidence in Charolais cattle is presently at an all time high. Irish Charolais breeders invaded France over the past summer and have returned home with the pick of the 1979 calf crop against opposition from Brazil, Canada, Russia and Britain amongst others. French breeders exhibit their best cattle at the Annual show at VICHY where buyers from all over the world congregate. Irish breeders caused a sensation this year when they captured four of the top ten bulls in France in face of vigorous opposition from both local and international patrons. Included in the Irish purchases at Vichy was the Supreme Champion bull which was purchased by Omar Van Landghem as a herd sire in his Skidoo stud. Other outstanding bulls were purchased in Vichy for the Drumnagoon herd and for the Dublin and Dovea A.I. stations. Bart Monaghan, Joe McGrath and Castleisland A.I. station had purchased

bulls privately prior to the Vichy show, so that in all, 8 outstanding bull prospects are on their way to Ireland at the present time. In addition to these bulls there are 93 maiden heifers, from the best herds and blood lines in France, destined for Ireland. These heifers have been bought for herds in Donegal, Monaghan, Tipperary, Wexford, Offaly, Meath, Kildare and Dublin. It is quite obvious, from all this, that Irish Charolais cattle will in the future be even bigger, better and still more attractive economic proposition for crossing on the native cow herd.

The people involved in Irish Charolais breeding know what will be demanded from them in the future and they are determined that they will be in a position to supply the type of cattle that the lucrative beef markets in Belgium and Italy are demanding. It is worthy of note that these markets are currently offering up to £115/100 Kg. for suitable types at a time when Irish cattle are commanding no more than £75/100 Kg for the better types. Prices of this nature can be obtained, when our beef is sired by quality, pedigree, Charolais bulls bred to Charolais X Friesian dams. At present the vast bulk of our beef comes as an unplanned by-product of the dairy industry which explains our failure to command the prices that are available for the quality product.

Pedigree Charolais breeders have supreme confidence that dramatic changes are about to take place in the beef industry. Supreme confidence that the silver cattle offer a golden future to progressive beef producers.



A Charolais bull typical of the breed being observed by French breeders at Vichy Show 1979.

SUCCESSFUL FIELD DAYS

SLIGO

The very successful open day held in Sligo on Saturday, September 22nd was organised by the Strokestown Charolais Club in conjunction with the North Western Cattle Breeding Society.

The visitors saw the fine Charolais bull stud at Doonally House, where Brian Duffy, Farmer Relations Officer, gave a succinct description of the bulls. He told the group of farmers who had travelled from as far away as Meath, Limerick and Kildare, that Charolais inseminations had outstripped those of all other beef breeds and were in fact second only to Friesian at present.

Later at the seminar in the Imperial Hotel, Brian Duffy outlined the work done by the N.W.C.B.S. in progeny testing Charolais: The Sligo A.I. Station are pioneers in this work and their results have much to do with the popularity of the Charolais in the North West.

Progeny testing he said was an increasingly expensive activity especially as Charolais calves were costing the Society between £170 and £200 each including transport.

Another good reason why the Charolais inseminations have jumped in the North West is that the bulls in Sligo A.I. have proven to have a low incidence of calving difficulty and no bull has ever been culled for that reason.

Michael Drennan of the Agricultural Institute, Grange, gave a very revealing insight into the economics of suckling and he left no doubt in anyones mind that the returns from rearing Charolais are considerably greater than from rearing any of the traditional breeds.

John Keane, Marketing Manager of N.C.F. Co-op Marts told the seminar that the Charolais had all the characteristics of a top class beef animal. He stressed the advantages which the breed had in terms of the ratio of lean meat in the carcass and he debunked the idea that tenderness and juiciness was related to the fat content of meat.

He also stated that a premium could and would be paid for Charolais if a guarantee supply was forthcoming.

Other Speakers included Mr. Max Kilroy, Manager of the Station, and Mr. Bart Monaghan, Vice-President of the Charolais Society. Joe Gilfillan, Chairman of the Strokestown Club, who presided at the Seminar praised the N.W.C.B.S. for its initiative in regard to the introduction and promotion of the Charolais breed in the north-west. He said the results of their work was showing up clearly in the very good cattle to be seen all over the north-west region.

FERNS

A very successful Field Day was held on the farm of Mr. & Mrs. P. Lett, Tomsallagh, Ferns, Co. Wexford. The Lett's suckling herd comprising mainly of Shorthorn, Angus and Hereford cows together with this year's calf crop was on view. The calves, all by pedigree Charolais bulls looked extremely well. There is no doubt that a suckling herd of this calibre can be a viable proposition when a system of calf to beef is practised. The 18 months old steers will be taken right through to beef with the majority of the heifers going to the butcher as they reach the finishing stage.

The small select herd of pedigree Charolais was also on view and no doubt more will be heard of this herd in future years.

The Field Day was kindly sponsored by Wexford Marts. Mr. M. O'Leary representing the Mart, demonstrated clearly from surveys carried out in that area the price differential that exists between Charolais and other breeds at all stages of marketing. He urged greater use of Charolais and stated that this was one way farmers can increase their net income from cattle production.

Our thanks to Pierce and Rita for hosting this Field Day.

CASTLEMARTYR

On the 8th August, we were delighted to welcome to our Field Day, many members of the Charolais Cattle Society, as well as neighbours, and others interested in Charolais cattle.

This was the first regional field held, and I hope those who attended were satisfied. Some new pedigree breeders will result from it, and I am sure bulls will appear in the fresian herds too, judging by the interest shown, and the many enquiries received since.

We had a judging competition, a class for cows, and a class for yearling heifers, and a "guess the weight competition". Tea and sandwiches was served followed by a lively discussion with Dr. Frank Austin, very capably accounting for his judging of the classes. Many other breeding topics were also discussed.

The Knockane Herd is a fully accredited herd, brucellosis and T.B. free. It meant hardships to attain the brucellosis free status in an area where farmers reacted slowly towards accreditation. The step has paid off, and I fully recommend any herds not yet accredited, to make every effort to do so. Animals from non clear herds are now completely shut off from export markets.

Report by the host Jim Ryall.



Strokestown Show Champion. Bart Monaghan, Vice President of the Charolais Society, presenting Eddie Cunningham, Strokestown, with his well deserved trophy.

SHOWS AND SALES

SEPTEMBER GOFFS

The second annual Show and Sale of pedigree Charolais cattle held at Goffs on the 20th Sept. can be regarded as satisfactory. Prices for females remained steady with bulls tending to be slightly easier on previous sales. Top priced female 'Farmleigh Nan' exhibited by the Earl of Iveagh sold to Mrs. Carvill, Balrath, Navan for 5000 gns. This heifer was placed second in her class and is by the well known Charolais bull Dovea Heritier. Top priced Bull 'Trim Omar' bred by Mr. L. McLoughlin, Moneymore, Trim, sold to Mr. Peter Platts, Lindhurst Farm, Mansfield, Notts, England for 2,100 gns. This bull, by Enfield Helas will be used as herd sire on Mr. Platts pedigree Charolais herd.

The winner of the Nelson Bunker Hunt Trophy 'Kilgobbin Olympus' was bred in Co. Limerick by Nancy, Countess of Dunraven. This bull by Tattenhall Hublot was purchased by Mr. T. Curtin, Naas, Co. Kildare.

Sale Results:

Cows — average: 1735 gns

In-calf heifers — average: 3391 gns.
With a top price of 5600 gns.

Maiden heifers — average: 2163 gns.
With a top price of 4300 gns.

Bulls average: 1020 gns. With a top price of 2100 gns.

Show Results:

Cow Class (Sponsored by — Guinness Group Sales)

1st — Ballinagore (Imp.'70F) Fabiola — exh. by Dr. Frank Austin.

Heifer born in 1977 (Sponsored by Waterford Glass)

1st — Farmleigh Nanette — exh. by The Earl of Iveagh.

Heifer born on or before 30th April, 1978 (Sponsored by Kavanaghs of Maynooth).

1st — Castlemartin Olga — exh. by Mr. A.J.F. O'Reilly.

Heifer born on or after 1st May, 1978 (Sponsored by Farringtons of Rathcoffey)

1st — Drumfin Olga — exh. by Mr. Noel Parke

Bulls born on or before 31st July, 1978 (Sponsored by O'Shea Motor Group)

1st — Drumnagoon Oodles — exh. by Dr. Frank Austin.

Bulls born on or after 1st August, 1978 (Sponsored by Bestock Farm Feeds)

1st — Kilgobbin Olympus — exh. By Nancy Countess of Dunraven.

We would like to express publically our appreciation of sponsorship received from all of the above mentioned Firms and would like to add a special word of thanks to Mr. Ted Curtin, Bluebell Farm, Naas for his generosity in presenting each year a cheque for £200 which is given to the winner of the Nelson Bunker Hunt competition.

RECORD PRICES AT PERTH

Perth, for years the home of the traditional British Beef Breeds, has now become the home of the Charolais. On October 25th I paid my annual visit to Perth. Reservations as to how good prices might be were expressed prior to the Sale. This was due to two factors (a) 240 bulls entered for sale and (b) the general depression in the cattle industry. After one hour's selling, with 54 animals sold, confidence was building up. Irish bred bulls among this lot sold well but the best was yet to come. A bull bred in Tipperary, by Mr. & Mrs. J.R. Craik-White opened in the ring at 3,000 gns. and in a matter of two minutes was knocked down for 9,000 gns. The purchaser was a well known Angus and more recently Charolais breeder, Mr. B. Adam, Newhouse of Glamis, Glamis Farfar, Angus.

The bull is by Meath(Imp.'73F) Hot Dog (owned by Mr. Bart Monaghan Staffordstown House, Navan), the dam was also bred by Mr. Monaghan and is by Shamrock(Imp.'65F) Ambassadeur. This price was second best of the day, the record going to an 18 months old Charolais bull which sold for 28,000 gns.

The herd of Mr. William Austin, Enniscorthy should attract some attention in future from Scottish Buyers. A bull from this herd was placed first in his class and sold for 3,100 gns. This bull was by Shamrock(Imp.'65F) Ambassadeur.

Other Irish bred bulls from the herds of Mr. Francis Harte, Mr. J.J. McGrath, Mr. O. Vanlandeghem and Mrs. Anthony, sold extremely well. In fact Irish bred bulls averaged over 3,000 gns. whilst the average for the sale was 2,377 gns.

OFFICIAL CHAROLAIS SHOWS AND SALES — 1980

CARRICK-ON-SHANNON 12th & 13th February

R.D.S. Dublin 25th March

KILKENNY March

TULLY, Co. Kildare 1st April

GOFFS, Co. Kildare 2nd April

CARRICK-ON-SHANNON 15th & 16th April

R.D.S. Dublin 7th May

Two sales will be held at Goffs in the Autumn.

One fully certified and one mixed sale.

Particulars from:

THE SECRETARY,

Irish Charolais Cattle Society Limited, Irish Farm Centre,
Bluebell, Dublin 12. Telephone (01) 501166

OFFICIAL CHAROLAIS SALES

Best for Buyer and Seller

Carrick-on-Shannon Bull Sales

12th & 13th February

CLOSING DATE: 3/12/79

CHAROLAIS CLASSES FOR

—Pedigree Bull calved between 1st May 1978 and 1st May, 1979.

—Charolais Bull (7/8 bred or Higher Grade) calved between 1st May, 1978 and 1st May, 1979.

Entry Forms from The Secretary

BULL LICENCING

At a Council meeting held on 5th Oct. '79, the following resolution was passed.

RESOLUTION

The Irish Charolais Cattle Society considers that the Minister's present proposal for the abolition of bull licencing will have a detrimental effect on the quality of cattle in this country. The loss to the National Economy, by producing these inferior cattle will be of enormous proportions. We ask the Minister to get a report from an Independent Authority, such as the Agricultural Institute or University College, before making a decision.

Your support for this resolution within your own county would be appreciated.