



IRISH CHAROLAIS NEWSLETTER

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

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EDITORIAL

Plan for the future

This year the national suckling herd will have fallen to 514,000 head. In 1974 the national suckling herd stood at an all time high of 732,000. What happened in 1974 is history, what will happen over the coming years is in your hands.

The national dairy herd increased from 1,319,000 in 1970 to 1,580,000 in 1978 a very small increase. With a national campaign to eradicate brucellosis no dramatic increase in dairy cow numbers can be visualised, in fact a decrease is forecast.

At this moment the beef producer is clamouring at the drain of calves to Italy, while the dairy man, quite rightly, states that this lucrative market should not be interfered with. This year 140,000 top quality calves will be exported to Italy — a

short term gain from a national point of view. What those animals would be worth to the processor and to the national economy, as beef animals in two years time can easily be calculated. It must be remembered that all the raw material to finish those animals is grown in this country and has not to be imported. The finished animal would give large scale employment in processing to the unemployed people of this country.

You may ask what has all this got to do with an editorial in your Newsletter. I think you, as a member, must become involved in promoting the suckling herd once more and I do not mean just producing a calf from a nondiscript cow and a nondiscript bull. The choice of cow is very important in any suckling system and of course it goes without saying that the choice of bull can only be a Charolais. The Charolais bull will colour mark his progeny and is the only real terminal sire available in this country.

MARGINAL LAND

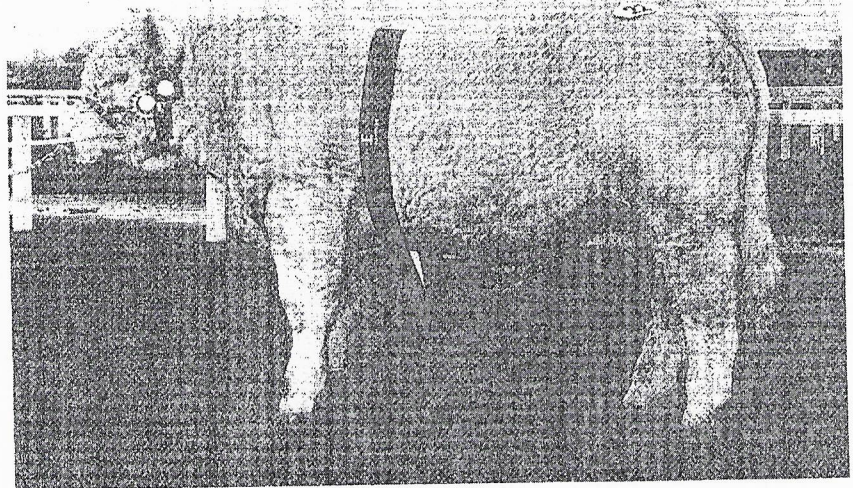
Results from all major research organisations show a clear advantage in

using Charolais. I now ask each member to increase the size of their own herds and to encourage other farmers to think seriously of going into suckling once more. There are thousands of acres of marginal land that can and must be made productive with suckling herds. Good quality straw with a little barley and soya bean will reduce wintering costs. To cash in on this inevitable shortfall in numbers we must plan now. A concerted effort by you the breeders, the meat plants, the Government and a little financial backing from Brussels can make suckling once more an attractive proposition to Irish farmers.

In conclusion I would like to say how satisfying it is to see an Irish Meat Plant involved in financing the research work of Dr. Jordan of U.C.D. in the twinning of calves. No doubt should Dr. Jordan perfect this work suckling will once more become as attractive as any other system of farming. When this happens an unprecedented demand for Charolais bulls will come about and the attractions of breeding Charolais pedigree bulls will be even more financially rewarding.

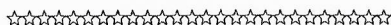
Kilgobbin Nelson, bred and exhibited by Nancy, Countess of Dunraven. This bull was male champion at Goffs sales 21st November. He was sold to Mellifont Abbey for 3,100 guineas.

Merry
Christmas



THE SUCKLING COW MUST BE BROUGHT BACK

by JOHN SHIRLEY



DECLINE IN CATTLE NUMBERS

It is sad to relate that five years after our entry to the EEC, our national cattle herd is smaller than it was when we joined.

The 1974 crisis delivered a body blow to the cattle industry from which it hasn't yet recovered. Even today, the prospects for beef expansion look bleak and both the beef farmers and the meat plants are concerned about a calf shortage over the next three years.

Since 1974, the suckler cow herd has fallen by a staggering 30 per cent and the latest count shows that it is still falling. The dairy herd in the meantime, has been growing at a rate of only 2 to 4 per cent per year. This has not compensated for the decline in suckler cows, and this poor growth in the dairy herd occurred during a period of unprecedented profitability.

On top of this, there is the new trade in calves to Italy and the accelerated disease eradication programme. In 1978, 138,000 of our best bull calves, one bull calf in seven born, was exported to Italy and this trade is expected to continue albeit at a reduced rate. When the full brucellosis eradication programme is extended to include counties like, Cork, Tipperary, Limerick, Kildare, as it will over the next four years, literally hundreds of thousands of extra cows will have to be slaughtered.

So where will the beef industry get its raw material. Since the dairy herd is not producing the goods, the answer must be that the beef industry must supply its own calves, that is, more suckler cows will have to be kept.

THE BEEF INCENTIVE SCHEME

The suckler business got a bad name in 1974. The removal of the Beef Incentive Scheme Subsidy and the plentiful supply of cheap calves in 1975 and 1976 drove a lot of people out of the business. (The Government dropped the Beef Incentive Scheme like a hot potato once we got into the EEC. I regard this as a serious error of judgement since there were few investments that brought greater return to the country than that very subsidy).

Farmers have shown that they will respond spectacularly to incentives for suckler cows. This was demonstrated in 1970 to 1973 when the suckler cow herd grew by an average of 20 per cent per year on the strength of the Beef Incentive Scheme.

Currently every dairy cow in the EEC is being subsidised by £90 a head to try to get rid of dairy surpluses and the problem is getting worse. If even two-thirds of this subsidy was offered on the suckler cow, I believe that suckling would quickly be back in business and the Irish beef industry could grow.

PLANNED SUCKLING

When calves were cheap the overhead cost of keeping the suckler cow put suckling at a profit disadvantage vis-a-vis the artificial rearing of calves from the dairy herd on milk substitute.

In the absence of any subsidy it is reckoned that when Friesian bull calves cost between £95 and £100 a head, there is little difference in profit between suckling and artificial rearing.

To get Friesian bulls for his calf experiments at the Agricultural Institute at Grange this autumn, Richard Fallon had to pay an average of £120 a head, so at this rate farmers would be better off in suckling even without a subsidy.

If there is a return of interest in suckling, and I believe that there will, then this time it should be on a planned basis, and the lead should come from the meat factories, since they are the final users of the product.

Just as the dairy co-ops have been encouraging the production of milk, so should the beef industry be encouraging more beef. I know that the meat factories are in a different situation in that they haven't got a captive supply, but it shouldn't be beyond the powers of the Irish Fresh Meat Exporters Society to come together and collectively encourage the production of superior beef from suckler herds.

PREMIUM PRICE

Suckler producers should aim to produce nothing but top quality lean beef that will earn a premium price. There is an enormous premium for quality beef on the continental market and one exporter told me that if he could get a days kill of continental cattle for his customers 52 weeks of the year, then he could pay a premium of 8 to 9 p. a lb.

Somebody or some person should set about organising a pilot project whereby a meat plant would, in return for a worthwhile premium, be guaranteed a continuous supply of continental cross cattle from suckler herds.

We are fortunate in that there is a considerable fund of research knowledge available on suckler production. People like Dr. Michael Drennan of the Agricultural Institute Research Station at Grange, Co. Meath, or Donagh O'Neill of Castle Archdale, Co. Fermanagh, or Basil Lewman in East of Scotland's Agricultural College have developed various systems exploiting suckler production.

All of them agree on these two points. If you want to make more profit out of suckling then you must use a continental sire and if possible you should bring the calves right through to beef.

CHOICE OF BULL

The individual bull you choose can be even more important than the breed. The Meat and Livestock Commission in the UK estimate that a bull that is 100 kg. above the breed average at 400 days should breed calves that are 25 kg. above average.

Micheal Drennan's spring calving suckler herd is leaving a gross margin of £136 an acre, which could be pushed up to £160 an acre with the use of implants and the granting of a premium for quality.

At Castle Archdale, Donagh O'Neill has 3 herds, one calving in spring, another in autumn, and a third, calving in early June.

The June calving herd is proving very interesting, very easy to run and is the most profitable. June calving means no scour problem, no problem getting the cows in calf, and a very tight calving season, with all of the cows calving within 4 to 5 weeks.

In this system where calves are sold at a year old, and the cows never get meals, the gross margin in 1976-77 was £174 an acre. At today's prices the gross margin would be over £200 an acre.

STOCKING RATE IS IMPORTANT

Having to carry the cow reduces the stocking rate in suckler production. Even under good management you are doing well to produce one finished suckled calf from under 2 acres. Profits can be increased by buying in cheap rations for cows and increasing the stocking rate. For instance, spring calving cows that are strong going into the winter will perform satisfactorily on a daily diet of barley straw plus 4 to 6 lb. of barley supplemented with urea vitamins and minerals.

In Scotland, Basil Lowman has brought the feeding of the autumn calving suckler cow to a fine art. He recommends feeding 60 lb. of medium quality silage plus 4½ lb. of barley per head over the winter.

Another way to get more out of the cow is to multiple suckle.

Since the lowland suckler subsidy in Northern Ireland has been dropped, some producers switched to rearing two and three calves per cow in order to maintain profits. On Lord Dunleath's farm in East Down, this has been done with satisfactory results, last year, the system giving a gross margin of up to £200 an acre. While breed of cow doesn't have as big an influence as the bull breed on the weight of suckled calf, it is suggested that the dam should be 50 per cent Friesian, 50 per cent beef breed. This would be especially true if you wanted to multiple suckle.

ITALY:

Two Italian cattle experts are currently in Argentina to investigate the possibility of live cattle exports from that country to Italy.

Sources close to the Italian officials said they were looking forward to about 250,000 head a year from Argentina.

They expected a visit to Argentina by Italian Agriculture Minister Giovanni Marcora in the near future for final talks on the deal.

New Zealand Charolais News Letter.



NELSON BUNKER HUNT TROPHY GOES TO MONAGHAN
 Mr. Tom Hussey, T.D. presenting the trophy to the winner – Mr. F. Harte, Legnakelly, Clones. In the centre is the President – Mr. Sean Fitzgerald.

**ADDRESS BY MR. TOM HUSSEY T.D.
 AT THE PRESENTATION OF PRIZES AT
 OUR SHOW AND SALE ON
 25 SEPTEMBER 1978 AT KILL,
 CO. KILDARE**

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am glad of the opportunity to present the awards at this the first fully attested show of Charolais Cattle organised by your Society. I am delighted to compliment the exhibitors on the magnificent stock exhibited here to-day. The high quality of the stock is obvious and it reflects the highest credit on the skill and dedication of the members of the Society. Charolais cattle are now an important component of the cattle and beef trades and my presence with you is an indication of the Department's appreciation of the role which the Charolais breed is playing in our major industry.

Before presenting the awards it is perhaps appropriate to recall that the original decision to import Charolais was taken as far back as 1964. This was long before our entry to EEC. Even then, however, it was becoming apparent that our production would have to be geared to changing tastes and newer market outlets. Because of its great potential in the production of lean meat, attention naturally focussed on the Charolais and the judgement of the early importers of the breed has since been amply justified.

The Charolais, of course, excels in the production of fast growing cattle with excellent carcasses and for this reason all

concerned in the meat industry would wish to see more of the breed. Difficult calvings especially with Friesian cows have been a problem but I am glad to say that several Charolais sires standing in AI which give significantly less trouble in this respect have now been identified. It is important that pedigree breeders use these sires so that the incidence of difficult calving can be reduced, if not eliminated, in the pure breed. The Department will continue to co-operate with the AI Centres in identifying easier-calving bulls, provided these are used widely by pedigree breeders, I believe we can look forward to much greater use of the Charolais breed.

As you are aware a Carcase Classification Scheme will shortly be introduced. This Scheme will focus the attention of producers, factory managers and meat buyers on the value of well conformed lean beef carcasses. The result should be an increased demand for breeding stock – especially bulls for crossing – capable of producing the type of cattle and meat so many of our markets require. Indeed the price premium now paid for continental type cattle is ample evidence that producers are becoming increasingly aware of market requirements.

The Department operates a comprehensive programme for the improvement of beef cattle. The programme embraces the importation of selected parent stock, the weight recording of pedigree herds, the central performance testing of bulls at Tully and the progeny testing of bulls in AI. There is in addition the survey of AI bulls for ease of calving to which I have already referred. I would like to pay tribute to

the herd-owners and the AI authorities for their full co-operation in the running of the programme. Perhaps there is one aspect, to which I should draw special attention. The continued success of the cattle improvement programme depends on breeders making their top young bulls available for performance testing at Tully. Maximum genetic progress cannot be made unless breeders send us their best young bulls. Charolais breeders have been very co-operative in this respect and I exhort them to continue doing so.

Side by side with genetic improvement must go the eradication of disease. Your Society must be complimented on running this show and sale but much remains to be done before our country will be free of the twin scourges of Brucellosis and Bovine Tuberculosis. The objective of every pedigree and commercial breeder must be to attain full disease-free status in the shortest time feasible. We have recently introduced comprehensive measures to speed up disease eradication and I would appeal to all herd-owners to give their whole-hearted co-operation. Failure to do so will result in eradication taking much longer than is necessary with consequent additional loss to herd-owners and to the nation. Pedigree breeders should – as they do in breeding – set a headline in this vital matter of disease eradication.

History was made in 1969 when the first Charolais bull sold by public auction made 1100 guineas in Maynooth. I hope that the prices to-day will fully reflect the quality of the animals on offer.

I now have great pleasure in presenting the awards.

REPORT ON

SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER

OFFICIAL SHOWS AND SALES

GOFFS 25th SEPTEMBER, 1978

The first ever Show and Sale of fully brucellosis certified pedigree Charolais was held at Goffs, Kill, Co. Kildare on Monday 25th September. In addition to home buyers this sale attracted a number of Scottish and Northern Ireland buyers.

The sale was an outstanding success with a top price of 7,500 gns. for the Champion Female.

The Judge, Mr. Jim Goldie from Scotland commented very favourably on the standard and presentation of the cattle and took home a bull with him to Scotland.

The Champion female, Curragrange Mariana, exhibited by Mr. J. J. McGrath was purchased by Mr. O. Vanlandeghem.

The Champion male, Legnakelly Newman, exhibited by Mr. Francis Harte sold for 3,400 gns. to Clarecastle A.I. station. This bull also won the Nelson Bunker Hunt Trophy.

Fifty-one animals sold for 118,063 gns. Bulls averaged 1129 gns. and females 3369 gns.

Show Results:

Cow Class

1. Cregg Fleurette, exhibited by Mr. F. Harte.

Senior Heifer

1. Curragrange Mariana, exhibited by Mr. J. J. McGrath.
2. Farmleigh Minnie, exhibited by the Earl of Iveagh.
3. Farmleigh Margaret, exhibited by the Earl of Iveagh.

Junior Heifer

1. Meath Nadine, exhibited by Mr. B. Monaghan.
2. Curragrange Nessa, exhibited by Mr. J. J. McGrath.
3. Castle Nonie, exhibited by Mr. C. Doherty.

Junior Heifer

1. Trim Noreen, exhibited by Mr. L. McLoughlin.
2. Trim Nina, exhibited by Mr. L. McLoughlin.
3. Farmleigh Novice, exhibited by the Earl of Iveagh.

Senior Bull

1. Ministown Nasrulla, exhibited by Mrs. Gardner.
2. Farmleigh Noble, exhibited by the Earl of Iveagh.
3. Castlemartin Nutcracker, exhibited by Mr. A. J. F. O'Reilly.

Junior Bull

1. Legnakelly Newman, exhibited by Mr. F. Harte.
2. Farmleigh Nigel, exhibited by the Earl of Iveagh.
3. Bryanstown Noel, exhibited by Dr. R. McCarrick.

Nelson Bunker Hunt Competition

1. Legnakelly Newman, exhibited by Mr. F. Harte.

We gratefully acknowledge sponsorship from the following Firms.

SPONSORS

- Cow class — Guinness & Co. Ltd.
Senior Heifer — Waterford Glass
Junior Heifer — Kavanaghs of Maynooth
Junior Heifer — Farringtons of Rathcoffey
Senior Bull — O'Shea Motor Group, Naas Rd.
Junior Bull — Bestock Farm Feeds.

A special word of thanks to Mr. T. Curtin, Bluebell Farm, Naas, for his most generous sponsorship of £200 which accompanies the Nelson Bunker Hunt Trophy.



GOFFS 21st NOV. 1978

This sale, following so soon after the September sale, left a lot of people dubious as to how successful it might be.

With over 70 animals catalogued enquiries surpassed all other sales. However at the last moment, owing to veterinary problems, the numbers were reduced to just over 40 animals. The turnover for the sale amounted to 105,000 gns. with prices averaging: £3367 for cows; £4375 for in-calf heifers; £3517 for maiden heifers and £1703 for bulls.

Top price bull and overall Male Champion was Kilgobbin Nelson, by Bent Carabinier, owned by Nancy, Countess of Dunraven and sold for 3,100 gns. to Mellifont Abbey. The Countess of Dunraven sold her second bull for 2,900 gns. to Mr. Wm. R. Gubbins, Kilfinane, Co. Limerick.

The Overall Female Champion 'Bluegrass Niolanthe' owned and exhibited by Mr. Pat Stephens sold for 5,000 gns. to Mr. Hawkins Ballyhacket, Tullow, Co. Carlow.

The Top price female 'Farmleigh Nymph' exhibited by the Earl of Iveagh, sold for 5,200 gns. to Mr. Wymes, Bective House, Navan.

Show Results

Cow Class

1. Scarriff Jennifer, exhibited by Capt. J. J. Ryan.
2. Killegland Lazy, exhibited by Mr. John Mooney
3. Meath (Imp.'70F)Emilie, exhibited by Mrs. E. O'Shea.

Senior Heifer Class

1. Farmleigh Nymph, exhibited by the Earl of Iveagh.
2. Farmleigh Nectar, exhibited by the Earl of Iveagh.
3. Ballinteskinn Myrtle, exhibited by Mr. W. Austin.

Junior Heifer Class

1. Bluegrass Niolanthe, exhibited by Mr. Pat Stephens.
2. Meath Nola, exhibited by Mr. B. Monaghan
3. Meath Naere, exhibited by Mr. B. Monaghan.

Senior Bull Class

1. Kilgobbin Nelson, exhibited by Nancy, Countess of Dunraven
2. Curragrange Natham, exhibited by Mr. Jim Hayes
3. Kilgobbin Neptune, exhibited by Nancy, Countess of Dunraven.

Junior Bull Class

1. Castlemore Nero, exhibited by Messrs. L. Power & S. Brophy
2. Castlemore Napoleon, exhibited by Messrs. L. Power & S. Brophy
3. Ministown Outlaw, exhibited by Mrs. E. Gardner.

The cattle were judged by Mr. W. Spiers from Northern Ireland.

Our grateful thanks go to the sponsors of the five classes:

- Cow class — Agricultural Credit Corp.
Senior Heifer — Mycofarm (Ireland) Ltd.
Junior Heifer — Bank of Ireland
Senior Bull — P. A. Pentony Ltd., Swords
Junior Bull — Hodge Finance (Ireland) Ltd.

SPECIAL CHAROLAIS TIES

Charolais ties, designed especially for Irish Breeders are now available from the office at a special price of £3.25, inclusive of postage.

WORLD CHAROLAIS FEDERATION MEETING

Harrogate, Yorkshire, England

by B.J. MONAGHAN,

Since we very successfully hosted World Federation 1973 we have had many new breeders — perhaps a recap might not be out of place. Federation Internationale des Associations d'Eleveurs de la Race Bovine Charolaise — more conveniently abbreviated to F.I.A.E.R.B.C. and meaning in plainer language — the World Federation of Charolais Breeders — was the brain child of the late Emile Maurice. It was established on his initiative for the world wide promotion of the Charolais breed and media exchange of information on breeding techniques. Through annual subscriptions of participating Associations an international fund was formed — part of which is allocated to the investigation of certain problems within the Breed.

Leaving for Harrogate — 16 miles from York — seemed like retracing the foot prints of our predecessors, when one remembered the many hundreds of Irish cattlemen who marketed and made famous Irish store cattle there over the past century. The Irish attending included Sean Fitzgerald and myself as official delegates, Joe O'Kane representing the Dept. of Agriculture, Walter Feely as technical delegate, the Earl of Iveagh, Mrs. Gardner, Tom Gilfillan, Francis Harte, the Twomey brothers, Denis and Finbarr, Peter Matson and Pat Raleigh. Unfortunately, we were deprived of the company of our Limerick Diplomat, John Dillon, who previously had an argument with a Charolais heifer who left him indisposed to travel. After the British and the French the Irish delegation was probably the largest attending the Convention.

Official delegates set to work on Sunday 18th Sept., while non delegates availed of the many interesting coach tours laid on, such as a tour of the Yorkshire Dales, a visit to Harewood House, a visit to the County town of York and a visit to a local operational farm cattle unit. The response to the British Society's request for technical papers was practically nil and in the absence of a paper for the first meeting, after delegates had been introduced to one another, the Argentinian delegate proposed a debate on calving difficulties in Charolais. After two hours discussion by all present very little conclusions were arrived at and the matter is to be further discussed, internationally at Vichy in 1979.

Most of the Irish party attended an open meeting that afternoon at which four papers were read:-

1. Testing Programme for Charolais Bulls in Sweden by Jan Persson
2. Progeny Testing the offspring of Bulls in A.I. in France by Foulley and Menissier
3. Progress of Charolais in Britain by the British Charolais Herd Book
4. The Charolais in Britain by W.H.E. Lewis of the M.L.C.

This last paper dealt with Farm Recording, Central Performance and Progeny Testing. A paper which was very interesting and which I think would be worth reprinting for Irish Breeders.

Things became much more interesting on the Monday morning, starting with a visit to the M.L.C. Central Performance test station for Charolais bulls just outside York. Forty Charolais bulls were on test with an intake procedure quite different from our system at Tully. Young bulls were selected from animals born in every month of the calendar year commencing on 25.5.77 and finishing on 10.4.78. The bulls that had finished their test period were paraded for the visitors and everyone was given a scoring sheet to place the bulls in order of preference. A panel of experts had previously selected number one bull on the test as 'Tullygarley Nijinsky' a bull bred in Northern Ireland by John Currie. Of the younger bulls just starting their test it was remarkable to find that the best farm recorded intake — 3.74 lbs pre-test gain and 200 day weight 884 lbs — came from an Irish dam 'Farmleigh Isabella'. It will be interesting to see the end of that test. Isabella sold at our Spring Show sale in 1975 — practically for a song — after a disastrous 1974!

After lunch the International General Meeting of F.I.A.E.R.B.C. was chaired by Mr. A.S. Harmon, President of the British Charolais Society and President of the World Federation. New Zealand has decided to hold the World Convention in 1980 and Spain will do so in 1981. On the proposal of your Irish delegate, Mr. Jack Sutherland from New Zealand was elected World President in succession to Mr. Harmon.

The President of the American Society, Mr. Frank Wesson, protested at the way fees were levied by the Federation and demanded that unless American Charolais were given equal status in all herd books the American Society would leave the Federation and pay no further subscriptions. He demanded that a decision should be taken at that meeting and had the support of the Canadian Society. Eventually the American and Canadian delegates agreed to a proposal of your Irish delegate that the matter be left over and fully discussed at the next Federation meeting in New Zealand in 1980.

After the meeting the delegates joined the rest of the party at the farm of Mr. & Mrs. Sampson, where production of pedigree and commercial cattle are the main enterprises. Amongst the pedigree Charolais we discovered a few good young offspring from Shamrock Joshua, a bull bred by our Dept. of Agriculture. Later that night all the visitors to the Convention were entertained in the Royal Hall by the Mayor of Harrogate.

The final day saw the International Show of

Charolais cattle on the great Yorkshire Showgrounds. The British breeders gave full support by exhibiting large numbers of their best stock in all classes. The senior bulls were probably the most disappointing as none of the British bulls we hear most about were exhibited. The junior bulls were quite good and shown in good numbers but the majority were the progeny of 5 or 6 of the well known names in Great Britain.

The female classes were far better. Better cattle, much broader selection of blood-lines and quite a number of imported females shown.

The idea of having two Judges for each class did not work satisfactorily. The two British Judges, Messrs. Spiers and Robinson were partnered by Messrs. Lenthall and Labor of Australia and Texas. On occasions the Judges agreed to differ and an arbiter had to be called in. This was not surprising as the typical British Charolais is not always the most acceptable for ranch-type farming.

A very big show of Charolais cross fat cattle created equal interest to the pedigree classes.

Final evening has come — the level of the French Champagne lake must have fallen a few inches — they certainly did it big at their Cocktail Party before the International Banquet. The British did their Banquet in truly British style, and if a few of the Irish boys were disappointed that they got English lamb instead of the expected Charolais roast, they must surely understand that the British thought they were giving us a treat, when all our lambs are going to France! The merriment and dancing continued until the early hours.

Finally one must acknowledge the great hospitality offered us by the British and not least by their Secretary, Alastair Mackay who certainly spared no pains to look after everyone and make the Convention a huge success. His many roles were truly amusing — Head Waiter when you entered the dining-room, Bar Tender in the official British Refreshment room, Impromptu Speaker when one was needed at any meeting, Commentator all day at the International Show, Information Officer to all and sundry and finally M.C. at the Official Banquet.

Jack Sutherland told me they are going to do it "big" in New Zealand — 17th to 23rd March 1980. Isn't it a lovely thought — Autumn in New Zealand.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Bart Monaghan was elected International Vice-President of F.I.A.E.R.B.C. at the International Convention in Harrogate. This is the first time an Irishman has been so honoured and we know Mr. Monaghan will be a worthy holder of the title. Our congratulations to Bart.

NEWS ITEMS

SUPPLEMENTARY REGISTER

The decision to discontinue the registering of $\frac{3}{4}$ bred bulls as and from the 31st December, 1978 is final. Therefore after this date only bulls of $\frac{7}{8}$ bred and higher will be accepted by the Society.

As you already know we have not been accepting Grade A ($\frac{1}{2}$ bred) females since the 31st December 1977. But, the female progeny of Grade A females will be accepted for registration (subject of course to inspection) for the entire lifetime of those Grade A cows. Similarly Grade C females will be accepted (subject to inspection) for the entire lifetime of accepted Grade B cows. This process will continue right up to the point where all animals will have reached the purebred stage.

CHAROLAIS TO MAKE INROADS IN FRIESIAN HERDS

I recently visited the farm of Mr. Eugene Reilly, Derrylangan, Athboy, Co. Meath. Mr. Reilly owns a large herd of Friesian cows. Last year he purchased a Charolais bull and in his own words it was a "wise decision".

Calving commenced in August and a number of those calves have been retained in the herd for further feeding. The calves sold averaged £144, (price includes bulls and heifers).

To date two sets of twins have been born and calving difficulties have been equal and even less than with other breeds of bulls. Is this a sign of things to come?

CHAROLAIS DOMINATE SMITHFIELD

The dominance of the Charolais in the Smithfield show competitions since 1970 reached a new peak at this year's show when the leading beef breed swept all prizes in the carcass and the combined live/dead competitions.

The supreme champion bullock at Smithfield was a Charolais x Angus just one year old and weighing 427 kg with a daily gain of 1.17 kg. The champion was sold for £3,800.

In the combined live/dead classes and carcass competitions the Charolais was totally dominant. All eight carcass classes were won by Charolais crosses and both the Champion and Reserve Champion Beef Carcasses were won by top class examples of the breed.

The champion and reserve were Charolais x Lincoln Red.

The judge commenting on the entries for the beef classes this year said that the quality was excellent and the cattle were of the high standard necessary for the modern meat trade.

The results at Smithfield certainly show clearly that the British meat trade has fully accepted the Charolais as the best carcass for the U.K. market and this fact is reflected every day in the sales rings of Ireland.

BIRTH NOTIFICATIONS AND A.I. DOCKETS

Please ensure that all birth notifications (pedigree and Grade Register) reach the office within 14 days of the birth of the calf. *The registration fee and A.I. docket should accompany the birth notification form.* In all cases 90 days will be allowed to withdraw the animal with the full registration fee refunded.

Unfortunately, we are still receiving A.I. dockets which do not contain the necessary details. We cannot accept A.I. dockets unless the following details are filled in:

- (1) Date of insemination.
- (2) Name of owner of cow.
- (3) Name and tattoo number of cow (tag number will *not* suffice)
- (4) Name and code letters of bull.

THE 16th WORLD CHAROLAIS CONVENTION

New Zealand March 17th to 23rd, 1980.

The New Zealand Charolais Cattle Society have extended a warm and sincere invitation to all Charolais breeders to attend the XVI International Charolais Convention in Christchurch in 1980. An exciting convention programme has been prepared and participation in this 'convention of a lifetime' will mean not only the experience of fellowship within the Charolais organisation but the opportunity to holiday in the 'gem of the South Pacific'.

An organised trip can be arranged provided there is enough interest. Information from the office.

MEMBERSHIP FEES 1979

Membership fees (£10) fall due on the 1st January each year. We would appreciate receiving yours at your earliest convenience.

A number of breeders pay their membership fee by Bankers Order, perhaps you might like to do the same.

NEW BULLS AT A.I. STATIONS

A number of imported and home bred Charolais bulls are now standing at A.I. stations. As we go to press the following A.I. stations have purchased or leased Charolais bulls during 1978. North Western Cattle Breeding Society 4 bulls imported from France; Clarecastle Station 2 bulls, home bred; Bandon Station 1 bull, home bred; Dovea 1 bull, imported from France by Mr. J. J. McGrath, and Dublin District Milk Board 1 bull, home bred.

Information of these bulls will appear in the next volume of the Newsletter. Make sure you are on the mailing list.

ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

The Society's Annual Dinner Dance will be held at the Tara Tower Hotel on Wednesday 2nd May. To avoid disappointment please ensure reservations are made in good time but at the latest by Friday 27th April. Reservations through the office please.

ANNUAL FIELD DAY

On the 2nd August 1978 the annual Field Day of the Irish Charolais Cattle Society was held at Derrygreenagh Peatland Farm, Rochfortbridge, Co. Westmeath. Over 300 people attended. The Manager, Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Jerry Healy made the visit very informative.

The single suckling herd together with a random sample of last year's calf crop were on display. The history of the Derrygreenagh farm was outlined by Mr. Healy.

SINGLE SUCKLING COW HERD

The enterprise that is carried on at Derrygreenagh is a single suckling cow herd which produces some of the store cattle required by Bord na Mona at its beef fattening unit at Clonsast. In 1974 over a hundred heifers were bought in the north-west brucellosis free area and mated with Friesian bulls. These heifers calved mainly in July-August and since 1975 calving date has been brought forward so that the main calving period in 1978 was in June.

Charolais bulls were used in 1975 on these cows and this practice has been continued in 1976 and '77 and '78. Replacement heifers were bought in '75 and '76 and were mated with Friesian or South Devon bulls.

All calves born in the 1979
year will carry the letter P
in their ear.

P —
1979 Year Letter