



IRISH CHAROLAIS NEWSLETTER

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

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EDITORIAL

For a number of years pedigree Charolais cattle have been exhibited at the R.D.S. during Spring Show Week. This showing of cattle has gone a long way in promoting our breed. Comments on colour, size, docility and general conformation have been the order of the day.

Did YOU know that classes for pedigree Charolais cattle have now been introduced at a number of the larger Shows throughout the country?

In 1977, largely due to the hard work of our Munster breeders and in particular Mr. Jim Ryall, pedigree Charolais cattle were exhibited at Cork Summer Show. This indeed was breaking new ground and it was a delight to see the big white cattle amongst the traditional breeds. The Munster breeders, small in number, were supported in their efforts by breeders from other regions, with the result that almost 20 pedigree animals were on show. Cork Show 1978 will be held in June and your support would be appreciated.

In the south eastern region, Mr. P. Lett, one of our new breeders, was instrumental in getting Charolais classes at Enniscorthy Show. In 1977 these classes were also supported by breeders from outside the region.

In the mid-eastern region, Tullow Show Committee introduced classes for continental pedigree cattle in their 1977 Show. Ms. Power & Brophy kept the Charolais flag flying and were awarded the Overall Championship for the continental classes with their 1½ year old pedigree Charolais heifer.

In the western region the county shows see mainly Charolais X bred animals. With the ever increasing number of pedigree Charolais moving westwards we look forward in the not too distant future in having classes for pedigree Charolais at some of these shows.

When talking about Shows the whole question of sponsors sometimes seem to be forgotten. Sponsorship is very necessary and this Society is very grateful to all its sponsors. Due recognition should be given to Sponsors and proper advertising in catalogues etc. should be made available to them.



The Nelson Bunker Hunt Perpetual Trophy being presented by the President, Mr. J. J. Kelly to Mr. T. G. Curtin at Goffs. (See report on sale).

What of the 1978 Shows, are YOU prepared to show even one Charolais animal? If you cannot support any of the above Shows then find a Show near you. CHAROLAIS is your breed, its up to YOU to promote Charolais by exhibiting at Shows.

MEMBERSHIP FEES 1978

Membership fees (£5) fall due on the 1st January each year.

We would appreciate receiving yours at your earliest convenience.

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

OFFICIAL CHAROLAIS SHOWS AND SALES - 1978

- TULLY, Co. Kildare 4th APRIL 17 fully attested, performance tested bulls.
- GOFFS, Co. Kildare 5th APRIL Sale of pedigree and graded Charolais.
- R.D.S., Dublin 3rd MAY Sale of Pedigree males and females.
- GOFFS, Co. Kildare 25th SEPT. Show and Sale of fully attested pedigree males and females.
- GOFFS, Co. Kildare 7th NOV. Show and Sale of pedigree and graded Charolais.

All calves born in the 1978 year will carry the letter O in their ear.

O-1978 Year Letter

BLOOD TYPING AND PEDIGREE BREEDING

by Dr. Eamonn P. Kelly, M.V.B., M.R.C.V.S.,
D.A.Gen., Ph.D.,
Department of Veterinary Hygiene and
Husbandry, University College, Dublin 11.

Pedigree breeders, I suppose beginning with Robert Bakewell back in 1760, were the true pioneers of record keeping in animal husbandry and today, the breeder who does not keep good records cannot practice selection efficiently within his herd in order to maximise genetic improvement.

One of the most important items in the Herd Record book is the entry of the pedigree of the new born calf. All societies limit the time between birth and registration in order to ensure that the breeder will make immediate entry. The idea here is to ensure accuracy of information. Details of parentage are of course accepted in good faith.

Why all the talk about record keeping? Well, the sole evidence of the pedigree of any cow or bull is based on the entry made by the breeder shortly after its birth. This constitutes, in fact, proof of identity. All good breeders recognise that this should be a true and accurate record of the parentage of the calf.

There are several occasions when the true parentage of the calf could be legitimately in doubt. Let's look at a few of the more practical cases:

Your old stock bull may break into the field where some of your cows are running with your younger bull. A heifer is on heat that day and subsequently proves in-calf. Which bull served the cow?

You nominate an exceptionally good progeny tested bull for one of your best cows. Subsequently doubt is expressed regarding the actual semen used for insemination.

One of your heifers has never been seen on heat nor has she run with your bulls – but she is pregnant. Where did the bull come from?

These are only a few of the many problems which can occur in your pedigree herd and naturally you would like to get them answered. Can this be done? The answer to this question prompts an even larger question – what are cattle blood groups – do they work and what can they tell?

THE TEST:

We will not try to get too technical in our explanation of how blood typing is done, but you must understand that the techniques involved are highly sophisticated and require great concentration and accuracy on the part of highly skilled blood laboratory staff.

Blood typing refers to the testing of the red blood cells of an individual with a selected battery of fluids, often referred to as Reagents. It takes about three months of careful research to produce one Reagent; this batch can, on average, be used to test several thousands of blood samples. The number of Reagents available depends on the financial resources of the particular laboratory.

Over one hundred Reagents have been proved to exist and this number is being added to year by year. On average, a fully operational laboratory would have about forty Reagents available for routine testing. The vast majority of Reagents used in cattle blood typing are obtained from isoimmune antisera; that is, antisera produced in individual cows by injecting them repeatedly with the processed red cells of other cattle. So, when a Reagent is labelled anti-A or anti-D we are certain that it does not contain other blood-typing antibodies in addition to those specified on the label. The arduous task of Reagent preparation is a never-ending job, since those in short supply must be replenished.

What happens next? Well, the unclotted blood sample which your veterinary surgeon took from the animal to be tested (and for which he authenticates) arrives at the blood laboratory where the red cells are extracted. When a drop of one of these Reagents plus a specimen enzyme is added to a small volume of these red cells, either nothing happens or the red cells burst – a phenomenon we call haemolysis. The result of this reaction entirely depends upon the genetic (i.e. hereditary) message present in the blood of that individual and it is inherited from its parents. So in this case if nothing happened, then this animal does not have this blood factor. What is more, we can state that each of his parents also has a gene which does not produce this antigen type. A single test like this tells us very little. However, when this is repeated with forty or more Reagents, then we build up a composite blood picture of that animal. Since every combination – and there must be more than 10 million – is a particular blood type, this makes any one individual rather unique. Needless to point out, it is virtually impossible for two cattle to have exactly the same combination factors in their blood; but in practice to prove this requires the use of as many Reagents as possible.

AN EXAMPLE:

Let's take an example: Four Charolais bulls are potential sires of a Charolais calf out of a pedigree dam; the sample identification having been verified by the veterinary surgeon before despatch to the Blood Typing Laboratory. The question is posed: which bull is the likely father to this calf? The laboratory will blood type the samples as previously described and enter their results in the report sheet. We show the results of this problem in table I.

If we look at System B we see that GY2E' and the factors X2 and L of the calf are not present in the blood of the dam, but they do appear in the blood of the bull, Bull 2. In this case, therefore, three of the four bulls under consideration as possible sires could be eliminated. Bull 2, therefore, must have sired Calf 762. Note that a

solution was found to this problem using only 11 genetic systems. We could have refined our result even more by including more systems. By the way, do any other systems substantiate the previous results? (examine the Tf and CA types).

It will be noted that all possible putative parental samples were supplied in this case. This is called a Complete Test and results generally in 95% solution. An incomplete case is one where either the blood of the dam or that of one bull is not available. In such cases, the laboratory do not make a statement of fact, but rather express their opinion in statistical language as a probability.

BLOOD TYPES AND TWINS:

Twinning occurs in most cattle breeds about one in every hundred births on average. Identical twins having exactly similar sets of genes. In this case they also have precisely the same blood type. On the other hand, non-identical twins in cattle exhibit a rare blood picture due to the fact that they share each other's blood-forming tissues. Such individuals produce red cells of two different types – one type corresponding to their own hereditary blueprint, the other corresponding to the blueprint of their co-twin. Identical twins, therefore, are an exception to the general rule that no two animals have exactly the same blood group.

One further aspect is that it can be predicted from just one dizygous (non-identical) twin sample that this animal has or had a twin partner even though only one calf was born. Professor Stormont of the Veterinary School in California, who discovered this technique, calls it "The case of the Missing Womb-Mate"; the contention being that the particular calf did in fact have a co-twin which died and was resorbed in utero, but not of course before some of its blood-forming cells had taken up residence in the surviving twin.

OTHER BLOOD GENETIC TESTS

In the late fifties it was discovered that some proteins present in the blood plasma were also under genetic control. This has led to the discovery to date of at least six new enzyme and protein factors all of which are simply inherited. These tests are called electro-phoretic tests and their great advantages are that they can be performed on clotted blood, that is, your veterinary surgeon does not need to put into each blood sample special anticoagulants. These tests are extremely accurate and are still reliable in blood which is well over one month old. Also, the blood can be deep frozen and stored for many years without affecting the blood electrophoretic type. It is these tests which we use in this laboratory for a quick "screen" test of pedigree prior and supplemental to blood-typing.

The addition, of these tests improves the accuracy of blood typing, on average, by a factor of one hundred.

BLOOD TYPES & BREED STRUCTURE:

Blood type workers recognise the fact that blood group genes with a high frequency in one breed show a significantly lower frequency in other breeds. Also, if a blood gene has a low frequency in a given breed, it may be even more rare or completely absent in other breeds related by derivation. This may have significance in 'grading up' herds. An example of this from American data is a Charolais which showed the Guernsey phenotype BGKOX Y2A' E₃'G'K'B'O'Y', which prior to this had never been encountered in the Charolais breed. Blood typing showed that the rare colouration of this Charolais was due to the fact that this heifer was really the offspring of a commercial (unregistered) cow and another Charolais bull. The Guernsey gene had been transmitted by the unregistered cow. Also blood typing can help to advise the breeder on the level of inbreeding present in his herd or potential from future breeding policy.

COSTS:

The cost in Ireland to have an animal blood typed is currently £5. This is one of the cheapest rates in the world. It is well to note that University supplies all the "hardware" and the fee charged to the breeder pays for the chemicals and materials used in the test. This laboratory reserves the right of course to process all cattle blood typing data for ongoing research.

CONCLUSION:

Cattle blood type records of identification are equivalent to the use of fingerprints in identifying human beings. When we blood type cattle we are really fingerprinting the surface of the red cell.

Blood typing in itself can solve better than 90% of all problems of parentage and dispute in pedigree, providing of course that all blood from individuals in dispute is available to the laboratory. But it is not just a negative attitude; blood types could be used to save an animal's (and perhaps a breeder's) reputation as well! Consider the case of an abnormal calf reputedly from a very expensive bull or an unwanted colour turning up in the progeny of a well known bull. In such cases as these, if I were the owner of the bull, I would not judge him wanting without the evidence of a parentage test. However, if this test did incriminate him, then I would have less hesitation in condemning him.

The question, at this stage, on every breeder's mind is: "Can blood typing really clear up questions of disputed parentage?" Well, at this stage you have an idea of what blood typing involves. The answer to that question must be a "Yes", but the "yes" must be carefully qualified since the stated success as you have seen is in excess of 90%. This admits that there are some instances when you as a breeder, having used this service, could get a rather indefinite answer. But, on the law of averages, you could get your problem solved in nine out of ten cases (providing, of course, that not all your ten problems were of the type which falls within that other ten per cent). The most important point is, of course, that blood samples must be available from all disputed individuals. There's no good looking for an

answer to the pedigree of a 2-year-old heifer whose mother died last year and whose sire was slaughtered before she was born. But on the other hand the blood type done on her may help solve some subsequent progeny dispute in her calf.

Finally, breed societies exist to safeguard the purity of breed and to furnish accurate pedigrees to all breeders who desire them. It is their duty in order to safeguard not only principle but also the massive financial investment which seedstock cattle are to their members, to use any reputable system which will enhance, endorse, clarify the records of which they are justly proud. Cattle blood typing, in its totally objective way can make its contribution to this ideal. In fact, the Canadian Charolais Association requires blood typing verification on every animal seeking entry to its Full French Herdbook, to ensure true and unbroken lineage back to the Charolais Herd Book of France. It will soon be a requirement in USA, Australia, New Zealand and South America. Indeed Canadian and American breeders have had talks with the International Society for Animal Blood Group Research to standardise on the reagents used by all Blood Typing laboratories world wide with a view to the issue of an "International Blood Type Identification Certificate". This Certificate may very soon be an important document requirement at sales level. By the way, it is sometimes possible to "resurrect" the blood type of a dead animal if sufficient collateral relatives are around. This laboratory has done this to date for three Irish Charolais bulls. When you think about the different rewards to the breeder which blood typing now can bring it sounds a (bloody) good idea!

Charolais. Animal Identification	TABLE I										
	A	B	C	FV	J	L	M	SU	Z	Tf	C.A.
Calf 762	-/-	GY ₂ E' ₁ /-	C ₁ /X ₂	F/F	-/-	L/-	-/-	S ₂ /	-/-	D ₂ D ₂	FF
Dam 1104	A/-	PY ₂ /-	C ₁ /W	F/V	-/-	-/-	-/-	S ₂ /-	-/-	AD ₂	FS
Bull 1	A/	BO ₁ Y ₂ D'/BO ₃ Y ₂ A'E ₃	-/-	F/F	-/-	-/-	M/-	S ₂ /	Z/-	AA	SS
Bull 2	A/-	GY ₂ E' ₁ /-	C ₁ W/X ₂	F/F	-/-	L/-	-/-	S ₂ /	-/-	AD ₂	FS
Bull 3	A/-	BO ₃ Y ₂ A'E' ₃ /1'	C ₁ W/	F/V	-/-	-/-	-/-	S ₂ /	-/-	AD ₁	SS
Bull 4	A/	BGKA'/BI'	C ₁ /	F/F	-/-	-/-	-/-	S ₂ /	Z/-	D ₁ D ₁	SS

SUPPLEMENTARY REGISTER

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE — BULL PREMIUM SCHEME

In 1978, for the first time ever, pedigree Charolais bulls will be eligible for premiums under this scheme.

Full details of the scheme may be had from the Chief Agricultural Officer in each county or from the Society.

As already announced, Grade A (half-bred) females will not be accepted for registration subsequent to the 31st December, 1977.

Grade B (three-quarter bred) males will not be accepted after the 31st December 1978.

Grade B (three-quarter bred) females will not be accepted after the 31st December, 1980.

Higher percentage Charolais will of

course be accepted after the above dates.

Registration Fees

Registration fees for the Supplementary Register have remained static since its inception. Unfortunately we now have to raise the fees to £10 per calf. Please forward the registration fee with the birth notification. Please remember that birth notifications must be in the office within 14 days of birth of the calf.



**CORK MARTS
IMP GROUP**



REQUIRE CONTINENTAL CATTLE

We need at our plants large numbers of steers and heifers from continental breeds: **CHAROLAIS, SIMMENTAL, LIMOUSIN and BLONDE D'AQUATAINE.**

Suitable cattle will command very substantial premiums.

Ensure cattle are properly described when advising our cattle officers and that the advice is accepted. Our procurement officers are always available for discussion with you.

For details contact our procurement offices at:

Grand Canal Street —

Tel: 683521

Leixlip — Tel: 280771

Midleton — Tel: (021) 28521

Athleague —

Tel: (0903) 7353/7363

SHOWS

COMMERCIAL CLASSES – SPRING SHOW R.D.S. 1978

WANTED – Top quality Charolais steers and heifers.

After a successful exhibition and sale of Charolais steers and heifers (top price £1,000) the Society encourages breeders to exhibit again in 1978. Should you not wish to exhibit yourself, then information on top animals should be forwarded to the Society as soon as possible.

Classes and arrangements for the 1978 show

- (1) Steers no teeth
- (2) Steers two teeth
- (3) Steers four teeth

The entries will be examined on 1st April, by a Veterinary Surgeon and animals whose teeth are correct on that date will be eligible to compete.

All animals are to arrive on the Wednesday evening. They will be judged on Thursday and an auction sale will be held on the Friday.

PEDIGREE CLASSES – SPRING SHOW 1978

The 1977 Spring Show saw a big increase in the number of entries in the pedigree Charolais classes. We would hope for an even bigger entry for the 1978 Show. Help to promote your BREED by exhibiting your top animals.

R.D.S. 1978

YOUNG STOCKMAN COMPETITION

This is a new class for the 1978 R.D.S. Spring Show. The aim of the class is to encourage young boys and girls between the ages of 12 to 15 years to become more involved in the management, nutrition and history of pedigree breeds.

The class will be confined to pure bred females born in the year prior to the show. The exhibitor will be required to have a letter from the owner of the animal stating that the exhibitor was responsible for the preparation of the animal for the show and was also responsible for the feeding, training etc. of the animal.

There will be a small entry fee and prizes will be sponsored. Details to follow later.

All animals will be stabled in one yard.

During the Xmas vacation a letter of intent to show such an animal should be sent to the R.D.S.

Points will be allowed for:

- (1) Grooming and general turn out of the animal.
- (2) History of the animal and its nutritional requirements.
- (3) Ability to handle the animal in the show ring.



The Overall Champion and Reserve Charolais Champion steer at the R.D.S. Spring Show 1977. The Champion Steer sold for £850 and the Reserve for £1,000.

The picture shows Mr. D. Mills, Cullduff, Donegal, on the left with the Overall Champion and Mr. E. Cunningham, Strokestown with the Reserve and top price animal.

CORK SHOW

by Mr. J. Ryall, Vice-Chairman of the Shows and Sales Committee.

Mid-June 1977, saw the first appearance of Charolais Cattle at the Munster Agricultural Society Summer Show in Cork. It was a real achievement, when almost twenty animals were presented in three classes to our Judge – Mr. J. J. Kelly. The number of Breeders in Munster are small but very enthusiastic and with a little encouragement breeders from outside the area supported the show.

The Show prizes included a Perpetual Cup, presented by the Earl of Iveagh, a stoneware bull, presented by the Herd Book in France, and the Northern Bank sponsored the Male and Female Championship of Munster. The Society's thanks is extended to these sponsors for their generosity.

Many people were seeing Charolais for the first time, and it was very satisfying for the exhibitor when many interesting questions concerning the breed were posed. The standard of the cattle was excellent, and I am sure many people were impressed.

In 1978, we look forward to an even bigger event for Charolais at Cork Show. We are increasing the number of classes (see below) and we are sure Breeders will respond and support these classes. It is vital to interest the farmers and cattle breeders of the south in Charolais cattle. Plans are a-foot to have a stand at the Cork Show next year, with possibly some cross bred cattle on display.

Results of this year's show classes

COW IN MILK OR IN CALF

- 1st. FARMLEIGH HALA – Exh. by The Earl of Iveagh, Farmleigh, Castleknock, Co. Dublin.
- 2nd. CREGG FLORIDA – Exh. by Mr. Jim Ryall, Knockane House, Castlemartyr, Co. Cork.

HEIFER BORN IN 1976

- 1st. MEATH MINERVA – Exh. by A. J. F. O'Reilly, Castlemartin Farm, Kildare, Co. Kildare.
- 2nd. FARMLEIGH MAUD – Exh. by The Earl of Iveagh.

BULL BORN IN 1976

- 1st. KILGOBBIN MARLBOROUGH – Exh. by The Countess of Dunraven, Kilgobbin, Adare, Co. Limerick.
- 2nd. KNOCHANE MONARCH – Exh. by Mr. Jim Ryall.

CLASSES FOR CORK SHOW 1978

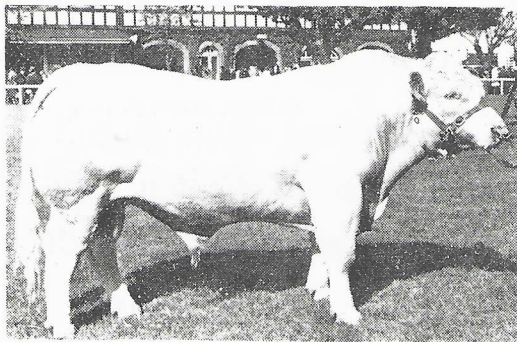
- SENIOR COW CLASS in milk or in calf, born prior to 1st. Jan., 1975.
- COW OR HEIFER in calf or calf at foot, born in 1975.
- SENIOR HEIFER CLASS born in 1976.
- JUNIOR HEIFER CLASS born in 1977.
- SENIOR BULL born prior to 1st October, 1976.
- JUNIOR BULL born on or after 1st October, 1976.



The Doyle Perpetual Cup, for the Male Champion of the Show, being presented by Mr. Pat Doyle to Mr. John Harold-Barry. (See report on sale).

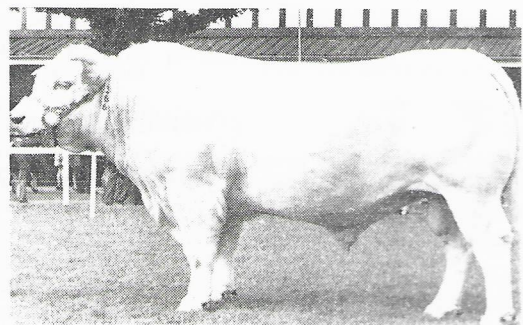
THE FARMLEIGH CHAROLAIS HERD
(owner: The Earl of Iveagh)

Farmleigh, Castleknock, Co. Dublin.



**FARMLEIGH
HARMONIEUX**

Reserve Male Champion
R.D.S. — 1974, 1975



**FARMLEIGH
EDOUARD**

Male Charolais Champion
R.D.S. — 1972, 1974, 1975, 1976

HERD
SIREs

Bred for ease of calving, good growth rate + size.

Also calves by: Bent Carabinier, Charogal Ecosais, Emir de The, Dovea Heritier.

Cows were especially selected for ease of calving, fast growth rate, milkiness and above all size. They are bred from the great French sires Uranus, Bulgare, Cresus, Bidas, Adam.

Prizewinners in herd to date include 9 firsts and 13 seconds and thirds.

ENQUIRIES TO: Mr. Sean Fitzgerald (01) 383663.

AUTUMN SHOW AND SALE - GOFFS

4th OCTOBER, 1977

With a turn over of just under £100,000 Irish breeders were optimistic in their outlook for the Charolais breed. A feature of the sale was the interest shown in bulls by dairy farmers also the number of new breeders purchasing Charolais for the first time.

The overall female champion of the show, FARMLEIGH LENA, bred by the Earl of Iveagh, sold for 4,700sgns. to the well known Charolais breeder and businessman, Mr. P. Pentony, Murragh House, Oldtown, Co. Dublin.

The overall male champion of the show, CASTLEMORE MAXIM, by Enfield Illico, bred by Messrs. Power & Brophy and exhibited by Mr. J. Harold Barry, sold for 1650 gns to Mr. S. Johnson, Ballyworkan House, Portadown. Mr. Johnson purchased five bulls in all.

The winner of the special competition for the NELSON BUNKER HUNT Trophy was Mr. T. G. Curtin, Bluebell Farm, Naas, with his bull 'BLUEBELL MARTINET' by his own stock bull Bluebell Ivan who is a son of Shamrock Ambassador.

The result of the show classes are as follows:

Cow Class

- 1st - SCARRIFF (IMP. '68F) DELAGE (206 H.B.) Exhibited by Mr. F. McInerney.
 2nd - CLONACODY (IMP. '68F) DORADE (139 H.B.) Exhibited by Mr. F. Harte
 3rd - CASTLEMORE (IMP. '74) INDOCILE (1183 H.B.) Exhibited by Ms. Power & Brophy.
 4th - LOUGHGALL HOSTESS (1009 H.B.) Exhibited by Mrs. E. Gardner.

Senior Heifer

- 1st - FARMLEIGH LENA (1342 H.B.) Exhibited by The Earl of Iveagh.
 2nd - CREGG LODEMA (1245 H.B.) Exhibited by Mr. C. & Miss L. Carrigan.
 3rd - FARMLEIGH LILAC (1339 H.B.) Exhibited by The Earl of Iveagh.
 4th - FARMLEIGH LULU (1346 H.B.) Exhibited by The Earl of Iveagh.

Junior Heifer

- 1st - MINISTOWN MELINDA (1550 H.B.) Exhibited by Mrs. E. Gardner.
 2nd - MEATH MODEL (1692 H.B.) Exhibited by Mr. B. J. Monaghan.
 3rd - CASTLEMORE MICHELE (1723 H.B.) Exhibited by Ms. Power & Brophy.
 4th - KELLSINGRAM MEG (1584 H.B.) Exhibited by Mrs. C. McCarrick.

Senior Bull

- 1st - GLENCARRIG LUDVIC (1512 H.B.) Exhibited by Mr. J. H. Hayes.
 2nd - KILLEGLAND MALAGA (Vol 11) Exhibited by Mr. P. F. McCullough.
 3rd - ELMGROVE MAX (Vol II) Exhibited by Mr. P. F. McCullough.
 4th - BLUEBELL MARTINET (Vol II) Exhibited by Mr. T. G. Curtin.

Junior Bull (Born between 1-5-76 and 31-8-76)

- 1st - CASTLEMORE MAXIM (Vol II) Exhibited by Mr. J. Harold-Barry.
 2nd - ARDRAHAN MARECHAL (Vol II) Exhibited by Mr. O. Vanlandeghem.
 3rd - FARMLEIGH MANDRAKE (Vol II) Exhibited by The Earl of Iveagh.
 4th - MEATH MILORD (Vol II) Exhibited by Mr. B. J. Monaghan.

Junior Bull (Born subsequent to 1st Sept. 1976)

- 1st - LEGNAKELLY MIGHT (Vol II) Exhibited by Mr. F. Harte.
 2nd - TARBROOK MARCO (Vol II) Exhibited by Mr. J. H. Hayes.
 3rd - ARDRAHAN MARCELLO (Vol II) Exhibited by Mr. P. J. Whiskey.
 4th - CLONACODY MERRYMAN (Vol II) Exhibited by Mr. O. Vanlandeghem.

The Society appreciates the generosity of the following Firms who kindly sponsored the above classes.

GUINNESS & CO; WATERFORD GLASS; COYLE HAMILTON HAMILTON PHILLIPS LTD. KAVANAGHS OF MAYNOOTH; FARRINGTONS OF RATH-COFFEY; BESTOCK FARM FEEDS.

Sale Prices

Cows	Top price . . .	£3,780.
	Average	£2,460.
In-Calf Heifers	Top price . . .	£4,935.
	Average	£2,972.
Maiden Heifers	Top price . . .	£2,730.
	Average	£1,407.
Bulls	1975 bulls	Top price . . . £1,312.
		Average £1,025.
	1976 bulls	Top price . . . £1,732.
		Average £ 864.
	1977 calves	Top price . . . £892.
		Average £788.

New members purchasing pedigree females for the first time include the following:

- Mr. N. Packe, Drumfin, Inver, Co. Donegal.
 M. J. J. Melody, Bunratty, Co. Clare.
 Mr. L. Collins, Ennistown Stud, Kilmessan, Co. Meath.
 Mr. M. Dockery, Kye, Elphin, Co. Roscommon.
 Mr. C. O'Connor, Beechmount, Trim, Co. Meath.
 Mr. J. Donovan, Boher Carrow, Emily, Co. Tipperary.
 Mr. L. Rice, Stapleton Place, Dundalk, Co. Louth.
 Mr. F. Twomey, Pine Tops, Glanmire, Co. Cork.
 Mr. W. Murphy, Tullow, Co. Carlow.

NELSON BUNKER HUNT TROPHY

The Irish Charolais Cattle Society were very pleased to accept a beautiful trophy from Mr. Nelson Bunker Hunt, the international bloodstock and Charolais breeder.

This trophy, based on Irish mythology depicts two bulls fighting. One of the bull's is gilded. The bulls stand on a silver plate 11" x 10" on a marble base 14" x 12".

The trophy itself is perpetual but a replica will be presented by the Society to each winner.

The trophy is to be competed for at the Autumn Show and Sale, by bulls born in the previous year. Only bulls bred by their exhibitor are eligible to compete. The judge will take into consideration the weight for age record of the bull. Marks will be allocated for visual assessment and the performance records of the bull.

The competition is an international event. Bulls from any country complying with Dept. of Agriculture rules, and who are eligible under the above rules can compete.

P.S. Nearly forgot! There is also a cash prize of £200, also presented by Mr. Nelson Bunker Hunt, for the winner.

NOTES ON SHOWS AND SALES

by Mr. Jim Ryall,
 Vice-Chairman Shows and Sales Comm.

The Shows and Sales Committee are responsible for the organising and running of all official Charolais Shows and Sales. The Committee have spent long hours discussing ways and means of improving Shows and Sales, and new rules are only made in an effort to improve the smooth running of our Shows and Sales.

During 1977 very successful sales were held at the R.D.S., Dublin and at Goffs, Co. Kildare. The main feature of the sales was the satisfactory prices offered for good Charolais cattle and the number of new breeders purchasing pedigree stock.

Now that we have made a start we must keep up the good work. Cattle must be properly presented at shows and sales, and the full co-operation of all concerned must be obtained.

Little problems have arisen from time to time but these are being ironed out. Absenteeism of entries is a big problem and is high on our list of priorities. We hope, with your help that we can improve in this respect and make our sales more attractive for our prospective buyers at home and abroad. Improvement in the veterinary status of our herds is vitally important, and we hope to see many of our pedigree herds becoming brucellosis certified.

INTERNATIONAL CHAROLAIS CONVENTION 1978

The British Charolais Cattle Society are hosts to the 1978 International Convention. The venue is the City of Edinburgh, combined with the Royal Highland Showgrounds at Ingliston, and the dates 17th/22nd September.

CHAROLAIS FIELD DAY

The 1977 Charolais Field Day was held on the farm of Mr. B. Monaghan, Staffords-town House, Navan, Co. Meath.

The Monaghans have been in the beef cattle business for generations and fattened Angus and Hereford cattle until they discovered the extra growth potential and earlier maturing properties of the Charolais.

The Royal Meath Pedigree Charolais herd was founded in 1969 with the importation from France of six pedigree females. In 1970 the Monaghans imported nineteen more females and this was followed by the importation of their stock-bull 'Hot-Dog' in 1973. All of the cattle were personally selected in France and preference was given to the URANUS-AMIRAL bloodlines. One-third of the females came from the famous herds of Bardin & Vincent. Using these bloodlines the Monaghans' have selected from each successive generation, females which not only show the ability to put on weight but also the ability to milk, to be good mothers, to reach optimum size at maturity and to thrive with the minimum amount of feed and care.

Maximum performance has always been the goal of Royal Meath Charolais. They

find very little use in visual assessment alone. They participate in the On-Farm Recording Scheme run by the Dept. of Agriculture and have had bulls included in every test at the National Performance Test Station since its inception.

Royal Meath Charolais are not pampered or stuffed with 'hot feeds'. The Monaghans believe that an animal should stand on its own merit in pasture condition and feel that it is senseless to show visitors an overfat bull or heifer when the Charolais breed is world renowned as the true 'meat type' animal. Royal Meath Charolais are fed a balanced ration which will enable them to develop into healthy individuals, able to produce healthy offspring with little or no breeding and calving difficulty and who, if necessary, will be able to exist under the most adverse conditions.

From the very beginning Royal Meath breeding has centred around two bulls – Shamrock Ambassadeur and their own stock bull Hot-Dog. Both of these are from the Uranus bloodline.

The Monaghans have exported Charolais to Canada, U.S.A., New Zealand, Scotland, England and Northern Ireland. This year at the Auckland Easter Show a Royal Meath

Bull exported to New Zealand (a son of Shamrock Ambassadeur) was Supreme Charolais of the Show and the first Charolais ever to be runner-up for the New Zealand Meat & Wool Cup.

The animals shown to visitors at the Field Day were in excellent condition and up to the usual high standard of the Royal Meath Herd.

The Field Day was followed by a symposium, chaired by Mr. Bart Monaghan. Contributors included, Mr. John Corr, General Manager of C.B.F. (Irish Livestock and Meat Board) who spoke of the importance of the Charolais breed on beef production in Ireland and also identified the market requirements for our two main markets.

Mr. Sean Fitzgerald, Chairman of the Sales Committee, spoke on the progress of the Charolais in Ireland.

Mr. C. O'Reilly, gave an account of his experience of using a Charolais bull in a suckler herd.

Members of the Society joined in the general discussion that followed and a very informative evening was had by all.



This 1st Prize Winning steer (no teeth class) just 18 months old realised a price of £700 at the sale held in conjunction with the Commercial classes at the Spring Show. This steer, a ¾ bred by Shamrock Hamlet was exhibited by Mr. L. McLoughlin, Moneymore, Trim, Co. Meath and purchased by Mr. O. H. Vanlandeghem, Skidoo Stud, Ballyboughal, Co. Dublin. (See Commercial Classes at Spring Show 1978)

SPRING SHOW 1979

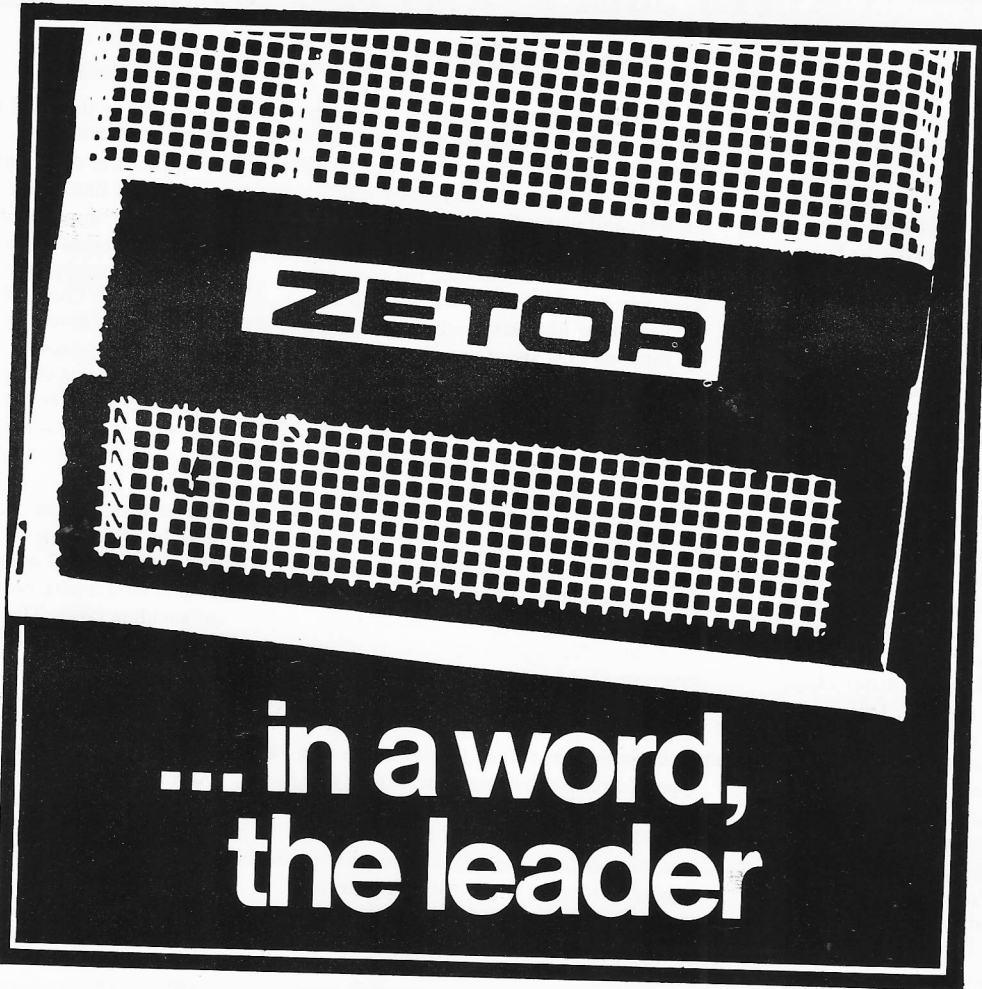
We have been informed by the R.D.S. that the 1979 Spring Show will be for fully attested animals only. It is now possible to become fully attested in any county. Why not drop into your local District Veterinary Office now and discuss your particular situation with them. It is much easier than you think to get your herd fully attested.

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.

WITHDRAWAL OF PEDIGREE REGISTRATIONS

Pedigree birth registrations can be withdrawn up to 3 months of age, full fee will be credited to the Breeder's account. Please note that calves must be birth notified within 14 days of birth.



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(Son of Figaro)

(Jointly owned with Elmgrove Herd)

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Progeny of Tattenhall Hublot — Supreme Charolais Champion at British Royal Show 1977 — will be available in the spring.

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Telephone 501166

TOP QUALITY BEEF CATTLE URGENTLY NEEDED

We cannot be proud of our record of building new markets for our cattle and beef since we joined the E.E.C. We have made very little impact on European markets in the past four years. We have sold a fairly large quantity of beef and cattle to European countries, but we have established no good reputation, and in any time of over-supply we would be first suppliers to suffer. We need a supply of top quality cattle to build a reputation and to help sell the general run of commercial beef animals.

The bulk of our beef cattle in this country will come as a by-product of the dairy herd in the foreseeable future. This is a fact that we cannot ignore. We must also recognise that most of these will be pure Friesian with a certain amount of cross bred cattle. These are not by any means poor quality cattle, but they are a type that is very common all over Western Europe, and on average they do not qualify for the top grades in those countries which pay the highest prices for beef. This means that any live exporter or meat factory operator trying to build a permanent place for his products on any European market has got nothing special to offer which will get him preferential treatment from his customers at a time when cattle and beef are in over-supply. For that and other reasons it is important to the whole beef industry that we have some very high quality animals to sell as well as these from the dairy herd. We have at present some half million cows which are kept for the purpose of breeding beef type calves. If these calves were of top quality it would mean that thirty percent of what we are exporting would be very attractive to European buyers, and would help to sell the rest. From the individual farmer's point of view, there is no sense at all in producing anything but the highest quality calf from a single suckling cow, considering that this is all that she will give him for the year.

There is a common belief in Ireland that we have the finest cattle in the world, but anyone who has travelled Europe, without going further afield knows that this is nonsense. The French system of grading is based on the letters FRANCE, giving six grades of cattle. What we call good Friesians are classed N, or fourth grade when they get to Paris. This is not merely my own observation but is borne out by meat exporters who have been trading with France. Our good Charolais first cross bullocks would generally grade A or 3rd grade, but not all of them, and while occasional animals among them might get into higher grades when classed on the hoof, there is a big chance that they would be well downgraded after slaughter because they can turn out too fat. No matter how good the sire is, the dam has a big influence. The animals that reach the top grades in Paris are pure bred commercial Charolais. In France one generally sees these as steers, but in Italy one sees the same type of animal and other specialised Continental beef breeds as eighteen month old bulls, and again they make our commercial cattle look like rubbish.

Of course one cannot throw Charolais heifers out on to a range to calve on their own and let the calf live or die, but who can afford to do that with any good calf anyway, and where the calf is a near pure-bred Charolais, it is so valuable that it is well worth the trouble of minding the cow, using whatever devices are needed to help at calving and if necessary calling a vet. You are thinking now about an animal that is at least twenty five percent more valuable than a dairy bred calf or an ordinary cross bred animal.

In fact it is hard to say just how much we could expect to get for these good cattle from exporters or factories. I do know that in the years of crisis in the cattle trade when the general run of single suckled weanling calves were selling at £50 to £70, I got up to £150 a head for three quarter bred Charolais bulls to go to Italy. Many of our single suckled herd owners are quite small farmers with rough land not suitable for tillage and possibly with fragmented holdings that don't suit dairying. For this type of breeder it is most important that each calf should be worth the highest possible price. Small herds can get good attention at all times, and a herd of even twenty Charolais cows with the steers reared to slaughter weights and heavy cows sold, could give an annual gross return of £8,000 to £9,000.

That sort of return compares well with dairy farming, and with a lot less work. Because of the huge surpluses of dairy produce in the EEC the Commission is considering some kind of incentive for producers of specialised high quality beef. What this will be we don't know, but I believe that the lines I suggested is what is required. Let me suggest that the Charolais Society in Ireland should consider encouraging some members to get involved in setting up this kind of single suckling beef herd which could be used as a demonstration to other farmers of how it can be done and the returns to be gained from it. I can guarantee that such cattle will make the highest possible premium at meat factories and the more there are of them the

greater value they will have, but until we see the day that there are herds of white cows suckling white calves in Irish fields we will not have made real use of all the efforts and investment that went into bringing this great breed to Ireland.

We are making the mistake here of regarding the Charolais and other Continental beef breeds merely as crossing sires for dairy bred or nondescript cows, and we are losing out seriously by following this course. To get the best type of calf out of a single suckling cow you must start with the right heifer. I believe that this should at first be a half bred Charolais, and further, that the heifer calves from that herd by a Charolais bull should be kept back for breeding, and eventually the breeder should have a pure bred non-registered herd of suckling cows. The herd should be self contained, and in fact all heifers that are fit to breed should be put in calf. This would mean that few maiden heifers would be sold, and each cow would only produce two or three calves and then go for slaughter. At that stage she would make as much money as a maiden heifer. The aim would be to sell one animal, either a steer or a cow or a barren heifer for every animal retained in the breeding herd.

This is the type of system used in breeding herds on the continent. I saw it used in the production of Belgian Blue cattle during the Summer, and there I got the answer to those who would complain about calving difficulties when using more than one cross of Charolais. The Belgian Blue is in fact a breed which has much more extreme muscle development than the Charolais, and far more calving problems. Twenty percent caesarian section in a herd of Belgian Blue is quite normal and in some herds it goes up to eighty percent, but because the calf is so valuable, this does not worry the breeders. Charolais cows do not have anything like these problems, and in fact with reasonable selection of the heifers and the bulls and with proper management before calving, there is no reason why there should be any caesarians.

MICHAEL DILLON



WEANLING SALES

The following is a summary of weanling sales held by Berwick Auction Mart Ltd., Berwick-upon-Tweed, over the past 10 years.

	Charolais		Average other breeds	
1967	26 sold to average	£ 65.98	£ 49.58	
1968	92 do	£ 74.96	£ 56.37	
1969	123 do	£ 75.27	£ 57.06	
1970	266 do	£ 96.41	£ 80.90	
1971	739 do	£100.52	£ 80.83	
1972	1173 do	£128.96	£101.41	
1973	1943 do	£152.64	£117.45	
1974	2059 do	£111.99	£ 87.69	
1975	2224 do	£159.97	£138.80	
1976	2262 do	£227.46	£187.94	

(1976 - Record Top Price of £1,000)

The above figure illustrates clearly the extra profit obtained from using a Charolais bull. In 1976 Charolais sucklers averaged almost £40 a head more than the average for all other breeds. This figure taken in the context of a 50 cow herd gives a staggering bonus of almost £2,000 extra for using a Charolais bull.

OVERSEAS SHOWS AND SALES

Bingley Hall, 9th November 1977.

Trade for both bulls and females was good.

The supreme champion bull sold for 5,800 gns. and top price female 4,900 gns.

A pedigree Charolais bull, bred by Mr. F. McInerney, Kelston, Bray Rd., Foxrock, Co. Dublin and exhibited by Mr. W. Shortt, sold for 3,000 gns. This bull SCARRIFF MILO by Bent Carabinier was purchased by Mr. Shortt at the fourth special sale of performance tested bulls at Tully '77. His average pre-test daily gain was 2.48 lbs. and while on test he had a daily gain of 3.43 lbs. At Bingley in a strong class of 15 bulls he was placed 2nd and this was to a Northern Ireland bull also exhibited by Mr. Shortt.

Perth, 27th October, 1977.

A small number of Irish Charolais breeders visited Perth for the Autumn Show and Sale. The interest shown by traditional Angus breeders in Charolais was very evident at the Charolais Sale. A number of Charolais bulls found new homes on traditional Angus farms. Overall demand was very good for bulls. The average age of the bulls would be 18 months and of course all were fully attested and ready to go into use immediately.

Six Irish bred bulls, purchased by Northern Ireland and Scottish buyers at official sales here, were on offer. The six bulls averaged 2,225 gns. Three of the bulls, bred by The Earl of Iveagh, two by his stock bull FARMLEIGH EDOUARD, and the third by Emir de The, averaged 2,200

gns. A bull bred in Co. Limerick by the Countess of Dunraven (sire Farmleigh Edouard) sold for 3,000 gns. A very nice bull from Mr. McInerney's herd (sire Bent Carabinier) sold for 1,750 gns. The sixth bull from Mr. J. J. McGrath's herd, by his stock bull Loughall Hussar, sold for 2,000 gns.

The overall male champion of the show sold for 2,700 gns. The reserve champion sold for 3,400 gns. The top price bull - 5,000 gns. (a grandson of Bent Carabinier) and full brother to the champion female at Bingley in May.) Top price female - 3,600 gns. This was a good 1972 heifer certified in calf to Bent Carabinier.

The Bent Carabinier and Apollon blood lines were very much in demand. Loughall Archiduc was also very popular.

BALMORAL SHOW AND SALE

The N.I. Charolais Club ran a very successful Show and Sale at Balmoral on Thursday, 17th November.

The overall Champion Heifer, bred by Mr. A. Gallagher, Dublin Road, Newtownstewart, made top price of 4,800 gns. This heifer is by the well known bull Loughall Archiduc.

The overall Champion Bull, by Loughall Diademe, sold for 2,200 gns.

Twenty-two full French females averaged £2,770 and thirty-six bulls averaged £1,300.

Five grade G heifers averaged £972.

Scottish and English buyers were keen bidders and purchased a total of ten animals.

Calving Survey on Charolais Bulls at A.I. Stations

The problem of difficult calving has been the main talking point since the introduction of continental breeds into Ireland. Considerable variation exists between bulls within each breed for ease of calving.

Official records from the Milk Marketing Board in Surrey clearly demonstrate the necessity of carrying out a survey on each Charolais Bull. In the A series of tests a total of 2,436 calvings were surveyed. This represented the progeny of 16 bulls. The percentage of difficult calvings varied between a low of .7% to a high of 10.4%. From these findings it is obvious that a good calving survey is of vital importance and all the more so in the context of Irish farming.

Results from calving surveys carried out by A.I. stations in Ireland show that certain Charolais bulls do give a higher incidence of calving problems than others.

The bull SHAMROCK DELIVERER (IC 14) now at Clarecastle, came out best in this survey, and in fact had NO difficult calving whatsoever. Other bulls to show up well include SHAMROCK AMBASSADEUR (ACF 12) 1.0%, SHAMROCK AS DE CARREAU (CF 10) 1.5%, CURRAGRANGE IMP (IC 17) 4.28% and ENFIELD HELAS (CF 15) 3.19%

Surveys are continuing and preliminary results suggest that a number of other Charolais bulls can be added to the above list.

As an aid to this type of research we urge each member to complete as fully as possible the birth notification forms.

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