



IRISH CHAROLAIS NEWSLETTER

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

TEL.
01/501166

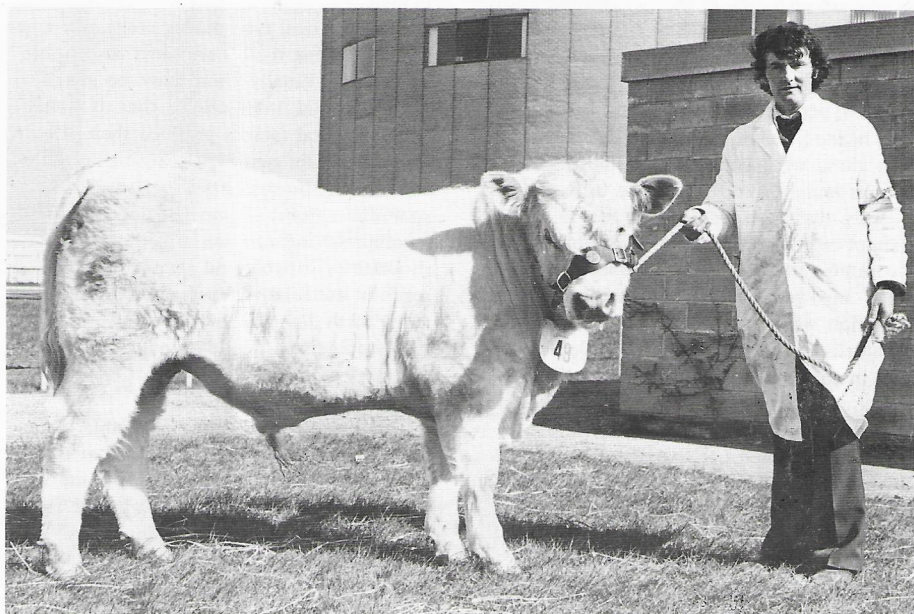
May 1978. No. 9.

EDITORIAL

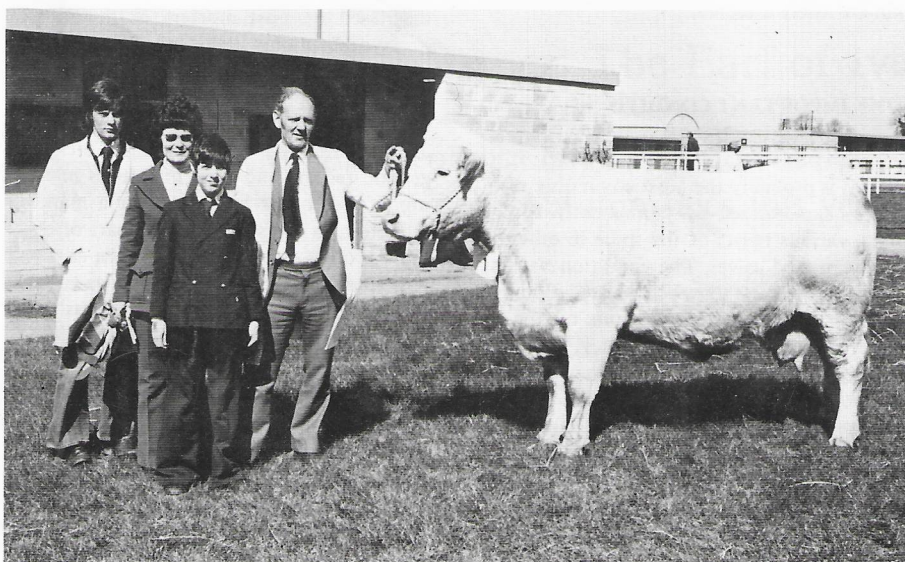
*Mr. Sean Fitzgerald,
President Irish Charolais Cattle Society.*

In 1964 the first importation of Charolais arrived in Ireland. Subsequent importations of heifers and bulls now form the basis of the national herd.

When Irish Breeders travelled to France to select and buy their foundation stock great care was taken to choose animals typifying the breed. The main objects of these importations were (1) to improve beef production in this country (2) to breed bulls for A.I. centres in order to make semen available to the majority of small farmers who otherwise would find the cost of buying and keeping a pedigree Charolais bull prohibitive (3) to breed bulls for the single suckle and dairy herds (4) to make available to the world Irish Charolais bulls and heifers of pure French origin, bred in Ireland, a country that has been free from foot and mouth disease for over 36 years. Ireland is essentially a livestock producing country. Due to climatic conditions and the exceptional quality of Irish pasture, we should and can produce Charolais cattle equal to those in France.



Mr. Joe Gilfillan, Kilmore House, Carrick-on-Shannon with his top price bull Kilmore Navigator. This bull by Shamrock Ambassadeur sold for 2,200 gns.



The Ryall Family, Castlemartyr, Co. Cork after purchasing Skidoo Gamine at Goffs.

It is now abundantly clear that the continental, and even the British consumer, has become conscious of waste fat. The demand in beef is for quality extra lean meat—produced by the Charolais. The days when fat on beef was acceptable are now over. More and more dairy farmers are now using Charolais bulls on their cows and are experiencing no difficulty at calving. I would encourage Breeders of bulls to have more calving information made available on their stock bulls, the dairy men rightly demand this information.

I would also like A.I. stations to restrict the use of young Charolais bulls until sufficient information is available on their calving record.

With the introduction of the Beef Classification Scheme more and more beef fattening units will require top quality Charolais cattle. This is one way in which they can expect to get nearer to prevailing continental prices for their beef and of course it will greatly raise the profitability of beef production in this country.

BIRTH DEFECTS IN CATTLE

by Dr. H. J. Greene,
Dept. of Veterinary Pathology and
Microbiology,
U.C.D., Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

Congenital defects or birth defects as they are commonly called are abnormalities of physical structure or physiological function which are present at birth. Some such as arthrogryposis or crooked calf disease well known in Charolais cattle are easily recognised at birth, others such as lipid storage diseases due to malfunction of certain enzymes seen in Friesians and Angus breeds are not clinically recognised until the animal is a few months old. Both of these characteristics are inherited and typical cases of each disease are seen only in the breeds mentioned. Probably the best known congenital defect was dwarfism which was a real problem in several breeds some years ago. There were several types recognised such as short headed, long headed, telemark and dexter. At one time these were considered to be distinct entities mainly due to recessive traits. More recently dwarfism was considered to be a distinct entity with various manifestations of the same recessive genes irrespective of breed involved. In North America the condition was a big problem particularly in Herefords and Angus cattle. Affected cattle were mainly progeny of certain genetic lines consequently it became fashionable to breed to stock known to be free of the defective genes. The problems of this line of action are illustrated by events in Angus cattle in America. Widespread use of a family known to be free of dwarfism was practiced. Several years later it was discovered that this line had another inherited condition called osteopetrosis, it was clinically characterized by stillborn, premature calves with abnormal bone formation. Osteopetrosis never assumed the same importance as dwarfism but caused serious financial loss to several Breeders who were unfortunate enough to have a high percentage of carrier females in the herd. Some such farmers who used previously unrecognised carrier bulls lost up to 20% of their total calf population. Generally speaking congenital defects are rare but as indicated above can be of major significance to individual breeders.

Most defects occur in farms whose records are incomplete, consequently diagnosis of genetic aspects are rendered almost impossible. Critical analysis of the literature reveals some major deficiencies, (1) inadequate information i.e. too few case reports, (2) insufficient detailed pathologic descriptions (3) inadequate genetic analysis (4) tendency of Breeders to hide rather than report abnormalities, this applies particularly to some A.I. Stations, Breed Societies and individual Breeders. In order to help minimise defects and prevent dissemination of defective genes in a population full co-operation of all parties and team work by scientists such as Pathologists, geneticists and biochemists is essential.

CAUSES OF CONGENITAL DEFECTS

The word congenital means present at birth and must be distinguished from

inherited which means genetically induced. Congenital defects may be due to a variety of causes. Inherited defects are mainly recessive traits both parents being clinically normal yet carriers of defective genes, when two such carrier animals are mated there is a 25% chance that their offspring will be affected. Environmental factors may also be involved, these include, toxic materials ingested by the dam, infections of the dam which reach the foetus, nutritional deficiencies and certain drugs for example thalidomide in man. The agent causing the problem must arise at a critical time during pregnancy when the developing tissues are most susceptible to damage. Finally there may be genetic environmental interactions that is some environmental factors produce their effects only on certain gene types causing no adverse reaction in non-susceptible gene types. The sporadic nature of most defects and incomplete information together with a shortage of capable and interested scientists result in our relatively poor understanding of many birth defects. There are however some well studied and documented defects and a summary of the most important of these are presented here.

All tissues of the body are liable to be defective and it has been stated that one in seven individuals are defective in some way. Fortunately many defects are minor and may even be unrecognised since they are compatible with life, others are lethal in which case affected individuals die, while the most severe are incompatible with life and cause early embryonic death. The latter are poorly understood and are usually classified as infertilities. Serious birth defects vary with breed, year and geographic location. In my own work on dairy herds in Ireland the incidence of defects was slightly less than 1% of all calves. Most abnormalities involved bones, muscle or brain, internal organs and skin are rarely affected.

SOME IMPORTANT CONDITIONS

Arthrogryposis

This is probably the most commonly seen defect characterized by permanently bent joints, various twists of the spine in other words crooked calves. The condition occurs in most breeds and may be inherited, due to ingestion of certain lupine plants by the dam from day 40-70 of pregnancy, or as in the majority of cases the cause may be unknown. There is a well known inherited form in Charolais not yet reported in Ireland. Affected individuals have crooked joints mainly in the front legs but all four can be affected. There is a split palate and pale white fatty muscle. The primary lesion appears to be in the spinal cord. The condition was believed to have occurred in France, Canada, the United States and

Australasia due to the world wide use of one carrier bull. The disease due to lupines is very similar in type.

Double Muscling

This condition occurs in all major beef breeds. The most noticeable characteristic is the rounded outline of the hind quarters with marked separation of muscle by creases and short thick necks. It is a recessive trait having many advantages but complicated by several disadvantages. The genital tracts tend to be infantile giving rise to impaired reproduction, slower sexual maturity, prolonged gestation periods, increased birth weight leading to difficult calving and they are particularly susceptible to joint problems.

Spastic Cattle

Two types are recognised, one the spastic paresis which starts at 8-30 weeks gives rise to a straight hock due to muscle pull usually one sided. The toe only may touch the ground or the affected leg may swing in a pendulum fashion, in addition the back may be arched. The cause is basically unknown but a genetic cause has been suggested, abnormal nerve supply to affected muscle most likely causes the clinical problem.

The other disease spastic syndrome is a progressive disease causing episodes of muscular spasm and contractions. An autosomal recessive mode of inheritance has been suggested.

Nervous disorders

Several abnormalities of the central nervous system have been recognised. All are recognised at or soon after birth the calf being weak, unable to rise or balance itself, it may be blind, throw its head back or make unusual sounds. It is virtually impossible to make a definite diagnosis clinically, most affected calves die and are diagnosed on post mortem examination.

Hydrocephalus is the most common, the brain tissue being partially replaced by a sac of fluid. The condition arises due to inadequate drainage of normal brain fluids. The condition has multiple causes including genetic factors and viral infections in the uterus. Cerebellar hypoplasia or a marked reduction in the size of a vital part of the brain is quite common. One known cause is infection with bovine viral diarrhoea virus in the foetus. It is possible that other as yet unrecognised causes also exist.

Familial Ataxia

This condition is characterized by recurrent convulsions in calves, goose stepping walk with fore legs and difficulty in placing hind-quarters. Abnormalities of the central nervous system in affected calves have been recognised. It is considered to be inherited as a dominant trait with incomplete penetrance. The condition is well recognised in Charolais cattle.

Colomboma

This condition of the eye is well known in Charolais cattle and occurs as a result of an excavation of the disc at the back of the eye. The condition has received a lot of publicity in recent years in British veterinary literature. There seems to be general agreement that it is an inherited disease but the exact mode of inheritance is the subject of some debate.

Miscellaneous Conditions

There is a wide variety of defects some of world wide occurrence others peculiar to

certain breeds or countries. It is very important to remember that there may be a close correlation between a defect and some very desirable trait. Syndactyly or mule foot in American and New Zealand Friesians occurs in animals which when carriers of the gene have advantages regarding milk production but the homozygotes (affected progeny) have mule feet and die when subjected to high environmental temperatures. This underlines the importance of carefully investigating possible defective genes in

otherwise top quality breeding stock which we may be importing. One is not likely to detect a problem merely by asking questions, exporters may hide the facts. A whole range of abnormalities of lesser importance are seen from time to time such as, two headed calves, spina bifida, hip dipplasis, taillessness, hairlessness and various monstrosities. When one studies detailed embryology the complicated processes involved in the bodies formation one wonders not why some individuals are deformed but how so many are born normal.



Dr. Frank Austin with his premium Charolais bull 'Drumnagoon Nectar' by Farmleigh Edouard. This bull sold for 1525 gns. to Mr. F. Coleman, Crossedmonstown, Ballaghadreen, Co. Roscommon.

AUSTIN BROTHERS CHAROLAIS

"We make the best better

Enquiries invited

Wm. Austin,
Kilmallock Charolais,
Ballymum,
Enniscorthy,
Co. Wexford.
Tel. (053) 38134

Frank Austin,
Drumnagoon Charolais,
The Ward,
Co. Dublin.

Tel. (01) 378308

FARMLEIGH BRUCELLOSIS CERTIFIED HERD OF CHAROLAIS

Farmleigh, Castleknock, Co. Dublin.

Owner: The Earl of Iveagh

FARMLEIGH offer a large selection of male and female animals at
Autumn sales this year.

Animals bred from fast growing and easy calving sires.

Enquiries to: **Sean Fitzgerald (Manager)**
Tel. (01) 256122

CALVING SURVEY CARRIED OUT BY IRISH A.I. CENTRES

Finally, and with figures to prove it, the stigma that the Charolais has a high dystokia rate, can be disregarded for all time. The recent calving survey carried out by the A.I. Centres and the Dept. of Agriculture reveal that the incidence of calving difficulties with individual bulls was as low as 0.5 per cent.

Several factors are now known to be possible contributors to difficult calvings; these include breed of bull, breed of cow, age of cow, sex of calf, calf birth weight, calf shape and condition of cow at calving. Of course management and nutrition are of the utmost importance.

A higher incidence of calving difficulty was associated with male calves than female calves. No significant difference, in ease of calving and mortality levels was observed, for the different seasons of calving. The lowest

levels were recorded in the early months of the year with the highest levels during the summer and in November and December. The calving survey shows positively that there are Charolais bulls with proven low incidence of calving trouble, available through A.I. to every farmer in the country.

Preliminary results to hand suggest that other bulls of easy calving strain will be added to the above list in 1979.

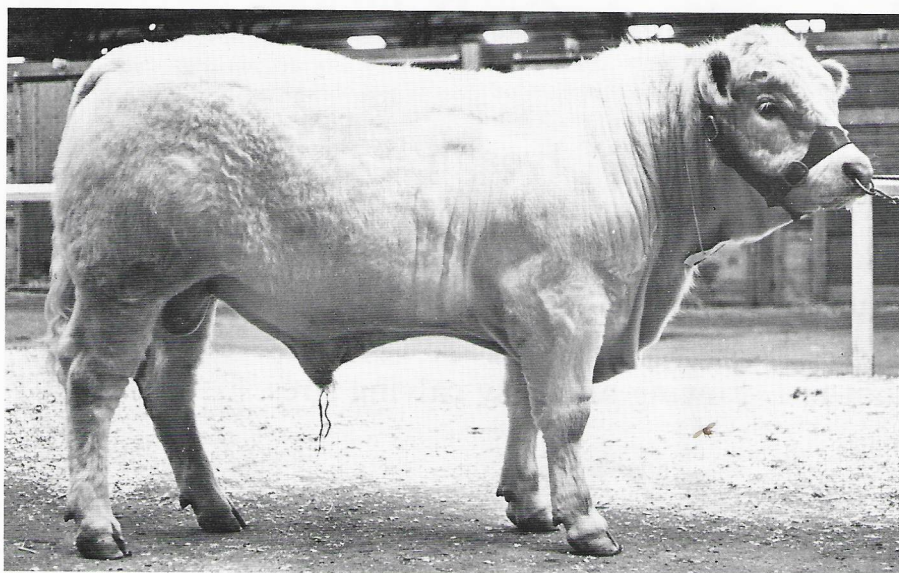
DO choose the bull to suit YOUR cow. The use of continental bulls of any breed is not recommended on young heifers.

Name of Bull	Code	A.I. Station	% Serious Difficulty
Shamrock Deliverer	IC 14	Clarecastle	0.5%
Shamrock Ambassadeur	ACF 12	Sligo	1.0%
Enfield Helas	CF 15	Clondalkin	1.7%
Shamrock As de Carreau	ACF 10	Sligo	1.5%
Shamrock Boxer	IC 3	Sligo	2.2%
Shamrock Hamlet	IC 16	Clondalkin	3.3%
Curragrange Imp	IC 17	Sligo	3.8%
Shamrock Commodore	IC 9	Sligo	5.0%
Doonally Intermede	CF 21	Sligo	6.5%
Shamrock Violon	CF 7	Dovea	6.5%

CHAROLAIS IMPORTATION 1978

Are YOU interested?

Contact the Department of Agriculture,
Section 7, Setanta Centre,
Nassau Street, Dublin 2.
not later than 18th May.



Top price bull at the R.D.S. Bull Sale was 'Farmleigh Nugent' by 'Bent Carabinier'. This bull sold to Mr. D.J. Galvin, Goretti, Moate, Co. Westmeath. He is to be used on a suckling herd of Black-Whitehead cows. This type of herd has been recommended by the Agricultural Institute as the ideal suckling herd and from a financial return per acre compares favourably with cereals and milk.

OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 1978.

President:
Vice-President:
Treasurer:

Mr. Sean Fitzgerald, Farmleigh, Castleknock, Co. Dublin.
Mr. E. McCullough, Elm Grove, Gormanstown, Co. Meath.
Dr. F. Austin, 19 Calderwood Road, Dublin 9.

Mr. P. Doyle, Glencarrig, Oldbawn, Tallaght, Co. Dublin.
Mr. B. Monaghan, Staffordstown House, Navan, Co. Meath.
Mrs. E. Gardner, Ministown, Laytown, Co. Meath.
Mr. F. Harte, Legnakelly, Clones, Co. Monaghan.
Mr. J. J. Kelly, The Twenties, Drogheda, Co. Louth.
Mr. J. Dillon, Killuragh, Pallasgreen, Co. Limerick.
Mr. J. Giffillan, Kilmore House, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Roscommon.
Mr. J. Ryall, Knockane House, Castlemartyr, Co. Cork.
Representative the Department of Agriculture, Mr. D. O'Driscoll.

NEWS ITEMS

THE 1978 VICHY SHOW

13th/16th September 1978.

The 1978 Vichy Show takes place during the days preceding F.I.A.E.R.B.C. World Conference which is to be held in Harrogate, England.

It begins the afternoon of Wednesday 13 September and ends the morning of Saturday 16 September. Occurring during these days will be the judging of adult cattle and of calves, the awarding of other special prizes, and the official parade of the placed animals.

The cost of the stay in VICHY is 700 F and includes accommodation, all meals – as long as they are taken in your hotel, and entry to the Show.



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, also Charolais Tee Shirts.



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.



CHAROLAIS COW SETS 13,000gns BREED RECORD

A record price of 13,000gns. was paid for a Full French cow with bull calf at foot at a dispersal sale in England recently. Eight in-calf cows at this sale averaged £4,941, whilst five cows without calves averaged £2,692. An impressive record!!



SALES' ARRANGEMENTS AUTUMN '78

Two very important sales will be held in the harvest of '78.

On Monday 25th September a fully bruceosis certified Show and Sale of pedigree cattle will be held at Goffs, Kill, Co. Kildare.

In November, at Goffs, a mixed Show + Sale of pedigree and graded Charolais will be held.

SIX NEW CHAROLAIS BULLS AT A.I.

Two performance tested bulls at Tully were purchased for A.I. Farmleigh Norman by Dovea Heritier has gone to Clarecastle A.I. Station and Mellifont Nimbus by Cregg Iberius was purchased by the South Western Cattle Breeding Station at Bandon. Incidentally the sire Cregg Iberius is also a performance tested bull and his sire is the famous bull M.M.B. Apollon.

North Western Cattle Breeding Society, Sligo imported four Charolais bulls for A.I. The bulls were purchased in France last Autumn (see article by Mr. J. O'Kane) and have just recently arrived at their new home.



CHAROLAIS CLUBS

In response to our Charolais Club advertisement in the last Newsletter an invitation was extended to the Society by the Charolais Breeders in Roscommon. A meeting held in Strokestown in February drew a very large attendance and resulted in a Club Committee being elected. The Chairman is Mr. J. Gilfillan, Kilmore House, Carrick-on-Shannon; Secretary is Mr. C. Connolly, Strokestown, Treasurer Mr. B. Jones, Tulsk. Members of the Committee: James Downey, Mattie Dockery, M. Cunningham, P. Kennedy, S. Donohoe, John Smyth, Martin Conor and F. Beirne.



DUMFRIESHIRE CHAROLAIS BULL SETS 12,000gns. RECORD

A 13-month-old Dumfrieshire bull which has been putting on 4lb. daily, set a new Charolais male auction record of 12,000gns.

Some 500gns. above the previous best for a bull, Jim Goldie's young Goldie's Notorious from a herd between Annan and Dumfries which helped pioneer the breed in his country went through the Carlisle ring at the new record, three days after a 13,000gns. female had established a new breed auction best down south.

Started with a 5,000 gns. bid which raced to 9,000gns. in four-figure bids then slackened off to 500gns. calls up to 250gns. nods at the 11,000gns. mark. Notorious was the youngest bull in the catalogue for the event and one of the three buyers had judged the bull's dam into a top Royal Show placing during her sweeping career of show successes.

Earlier in the day, Notorious, whose 400-day weight of 673kg. (1478lb.) was 122kg. (269lb.) above the breed average had won the male championship rosette at the Scottish and Northern Charolais Breeders' Association Spring event.

TOP PRICE BULL BRED IN ROSCOMMON

"The most successful Charolais sale held to-date" was how the critics described the recent sale at Goff's.

After careful consideration by the Shows' and Sales' Committee it was decided to hold the Spring Charolais Sale the day following the sale in Tully. This meant that 100 catalogued animals had to find new homes and this they did. With an ever increasing number of buyers coming from the North of Ireland, Scotland and England trade was very brisk. These buyers accounted for almost 20% of the cattle purchased.

The top price bull KILMORE NAVIGATOR by Shamrock Ambassador, exhibited by Mr. J. Gilfillan sold for 2,200 gns. to Mr. W. Shortt of Omagh, Co. Tyrone. This bull, just one year old, had a daily liveweight gain of 3.3 lbs. since birth. This animal, typical of the breed and typical of an 'Ambassador' for Irish Charolais.

The top price female, a yearling heifer, exhibited by Mr. F. McInerney sold readily for 3,000 gns to Dr. F. Austin, Dublin. This heifer by Charogal Chasseur – prize winner at Bingly, should add considerably to the Drumnagoon herd.

Of the 42 bulls on offer, 24 were allotted premiums. Bulls averaged 1111 gns. and females 2018 gns.



BIRTH NOTIFICATION – A.I. DOCKETS

You are all aware that all animals, male and female, pedigree and grading up must be birth notified within 14 days of birth. The birth notification must be accompanied by the appropriate A.I. docket. In future the A.I. dockets will not be accepted 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

NO CALF WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR REGISTRATION UNLESS THE DETAILS OF THE A.I. DOCKET ARE COMPLETED AS STATED ABOVE.

New...Synanthic®

(oxfendazole)

Kills worms your wormer may not kill

You know it's true. The real test of your wormer is not the worms it kills, but the worms it leaves behind. If it doesn't control the tough ones it just isn't good enough.

Synanthic is available from your local veterinary surgeon, chemist and Co-operative Animal Health Ltd.

FORMULA
Oxfendazolium 22.65 mg ·
Polyoxaethen · stearinicum ·
Polyethylene-glycol. 6000 ·
Natrii carboxymethylcellulosum
· Acid. silicic. · Acid. sorbic. ·
Acid. citric. · Natrii citras ·
Aqua purificata q. s. ad 1 ml.

New Synanthic® (oxfendazole) kills more worms.

Synanthic controls the destructive inhibited larval stage of *Ostertagia ostertagi* (Brown Stomach Worm) in cattle and resistant strains of *Haemonchus contortus* (Barberpole Worm) in sheep. Your wormer probably doesn't — so why should you pay for a wormer that isn't controlling the tough worms your livestock may have? New Synanthic controls the same worms your present wormer does, and then it goes on to kill the stubborn ones your wormer may not.

For healthier, more productive animals you need effective

control of the whole range of roundworms, including lungworms, and even tapeworms. New Synanthic does it.

Ask for it by name.

Synanthic...the new generation wormer developed by Syntex Research.



Mycofarm (Ireland) Ltd.

**1, Ballyboggin Industrial Estate
Ballyboggin Rd., Finglas
Dublin 11**



CENTRAL PERFORMANCE TESTING AT TULLY

Underneath are the performance test results & prices paid for Charolais bulls which were tested at Tully during 1977-78. There were two separate intakes of bulls, the first in early summer and the second in September. Bulls of the Blonde d'Aquitaine, Limousin, Simmental and Hereford breeds were represented in the first intake, and Simmental, Hereford and Charolais breed bulls were in the second intake. Bulls for performance test at Tully were selected for entry on the basis of weight for age, conformation and pedigree from herds participating in the Department's On-Farm Weight Recording Scheme. Bulls chosen for entry to Tully were six per cent superior to their contemporaries in the herds from which they were selected for pretest growth. Bulls were approximately 200 days of age when they entered the test station. Bulls were evaluated under uniform conditions of feeding and management. Each bull was penned individually and fed to appetite three times a day.

The diet consisted of equal parts of rolled barley and unmilled grass, combined together in a single cube with the required minerals and vitamins. A limited quantity of hay (approximately 4 pounds per day) was fed to each bull to help rumination.

The following test results are provided for each bull:

1. Average daily gain from birth to start of test and the average daily gain during test (Kg). In the calculation of the daily gain during test the first 28 day period on test is excluded.
2. Relative adjusted final weight, food conversion and height at the withers. These are estimated as follows: The superiority or inferiority of a bull for each trait is expressed as a per cent of the breed average and is added to or subtracted from a 100, whichever is appropriate. Above 100 indicates bull is so many percentage points better than the average and below 100 indicates the reverse.

- (a) Adjusted final weight: All bulls were adjusted to a constant age. This age varied for the different breed-intakes and it was approximately the average age at which bulls of the different breeds completed test.
- (b) Adjusted food conversion: Gross food conversion is estimated from the weight at the start of test.
- (c) Withers height: It is based on height at 400 days of age for 1st intake, and height at 300 days for 2nd intake.

Footnote: Three Bulls, Farmleigh Nugent, Farmleigh Norman, Mellifont Nimbus, were deemed to be suitable for A.I.

Our appreciation to the A.A.C. for their sponsorship of the top performance bulls in Tully.

No. of Days on Test: 182

Name of Breeder	Name of Bull	Price Paid	Age at start (days)	Avg. Daily Gain (Kg/day)		Traits expressed relative to the Breed Av. (100)		
				Pre-Test	Test	Adjusted 380 Day Weight	Adjusted Food Conversion	Withers Height (300 day)
Dr. F. Austin, Dublin	Drumnagoon Narrator	1150 gns	242	1.26	1.27	96	102	102
Mr. P. Pentony, Dublin	Murragh Nicky	850 gns.	237	1.19	1.36	91	101	97
Mr. J. Monaghan, Navan	Oudry Nathaniel	1275 gns.	236	1.27	1.42	97	104	102
Mr. J.J. McGrath, Kildare	Curragrange Nelson	2100 gns	228	1.21	1.47	95	107	100
Mr. J.J. McGrath, Kildare	Curragrange Nero	750 gns	223	1.16	1.21	94	80	98
Mr. P. Clancy, Tipperary	Cregg Neal	1250 gns	223	1.29	1.62	102	110	101
Mr. A.J.F. O'Reilly, Kildare	Castlemartin Nicholas	1150 gns	223	1.40	1.34	98	98	97
Mr. H.G. Thompson, Laois	Beckfield Napier	1400 gns	210	1.44	1.43	107	111	103
Earl of Iveagh, Dublin	Farmleigh Nugent	1350 gns	208	1.45	1.42	103	106	99
Earl of Iveagh, Dublin	Farmleigh Norman	1450 gns	202	1.45	1.38	102	104	103
Mr. P. Kearns, Meath	Bluegrass Neptune	950 gns	190	1.38	0.96	90	88	97
Lismore Estates, Waterford	Lismore Nicholas	1400 gns	184	1.35	1.46	103	97	101
Earl of Iveagh, Dublin	Farmleigh Nicholas	1150 gns.	172	1.42	1.30	99	94	101
Mrs. E. Gardner, Meath.	Ministown Nero	850 gns.	165	1.42	1.21	101	92	97
Mellifont Abbey, Louth	Mellifont Nimrod	1300 gns.	164	1.43	1.37	105	99	100
Mellifont Abbey, Louth	Mellifont Nimbus	1700 gns.	163	1.44	1.47	111	108	100
Mr. J.J. Kelly, Louth.	Moneymore Nomadic	1000 gns	161	1.40	1.44	105	99	103
	Average	1240 gns	202	1.35	1.36	543 kg	5.23	116 cms

FIRST EVER

FULLY ATTESTED PEDIGREE SHOW AND
SALE OF CHAROLAIS

GOFFS, KILL, CO. KILDARE.

MONDAY, 25th SEPTEMBER

INTO THE RING

This article is reproduced from 'Into the Ring' by Ted Pritchett and Ken Cox of the Canadian Charolais Association. Two aspects in the preparation of animals for the show ring are covered—Clipping and Showing. In future issues of the Newsletter we hope to cover other aspects of the showing of cattle. The booklet does contain diagrams but unfortunately it is not possible to reproduce them here, but copies of the diagrams can be had by contacting the office.

SHOWING

Show day and the 20 minutes you're in the showing is the end result of weeks and months of preparation at home.

First on the list (next to fitting and feeding of course) is halter breaking. Put the animal in a small pen first and begin with combing and brushing to gain the confidence of the animal. In a few days you can sneak a halter on them and tie them up for 10 minutes then let go.

Repeat this several times a day for several days. If you get a real fighty one let him go—don't let them pull and strain against the halter for a long time. It can pull the muscles behind the ears and the ears droop like a Brahma. Put a couple of quiet ones in with him and then tie him between the two. Never give them a reason to be scared.

Begin training to lead once the animal is thoroughly halter broken and NO TRACTOR! If you need a pull, use a horse because it has some "give". Use one rope on the calf to the horse and a lead between the calf and the rider, this gives the calf the idea the halter is pulling.

A week from show day, tie them to a fence with their heads up high for ½-1 hour per day. This will keep their feet well under them and they'll get used to the idea of keeping their head up at the show. Brush down their legs to make them familiar with you touching their feet and legs. The animal must be at ease and alert and moving freely but don't spend a lot of time setting-up and training at home before the show.

The actual washing and grooming procedures were covered in the July, 1972 issue of the Banner but they should be washed once per month during halter breaking until 6 weeks prior to the show, then every 2 weeks to show day. Too much washing will take the natural oils out of the hair and make it hard to handle. On the circuit, if the show is in the afternoon, wash them the night before with just a little soap and rinse well. The next day, dry brush and brush to bring out the oil on the hair. If the animal gets dirty overnight, just wash that area.

In preparation for transporting, cut the grain ratio to half 6 feedings before moving, increasing the hay and rationing the water. As soon as they're to the show give them some water (one pail to a large cow) and fill them up with hay and a little grain.

After animals are accustomed to it, you can feed up to 2 hours before moving.

A good feeder will feed by the texture of the manure and not what the animal will eat. Watch it's consistency— if too loose cut back on the grain and increase the hay.

Two people can handle a string of six animals but you've got to be organized and know what each is to do. Promptness to the ring when classes are ready is essential and exhibitors should see well in advance that they've got enough help to do it. Exchange help with other breeds who aren't showing that day. You learn a lot from helping these other showstrings too!

Develop a schedule for work prior to the show and designate one person to a job if you have a large string or double up on some if there's just two working.

1. Comb out the switch. Do this only on the morning of the show. If you continually comb the switch you lose a lot of the hair and as well it's hard to get straw out of it when it's combed out.

2. Put halters on. One man should put the halters on all the time so he knows when and how to adjust them for each animal. The nose band should be well up on the nose. If it's too low, it gives the appearance of a long face but if it's too high, it will be squeezing the eyelids. For short headed animals select a halter with a narrow noseband and a wide band to shorten the appearance of long-faced animal.

3. After the halters are on and about 1 hour before the show, wipe out the eyes with a cool wet cloth. This not only refreshes the animal but cleans out any dirt left over from washing. Often when you're washing they will close their eyes and therefore the eyelids get missed. Most important though it refreshes the animal—it's like splashing cool water on yourself.

4. About 20 minutes before the 1st class remove the animals from the straw bed and tie with their heads up in a clean area to begin dressing.

Don't dress a long time before the show because if the hair stands a long time especially if you're using coat dressing, it will start to fall. Once its dressed you must continually keep combing until it's time to show. Time yourself so that you're finished dressing and ready to go when they need you. Most shows catalogue entries according to age, 1-2-3-4 down to the youngest and each exhibitor receives this same number. Line up in order of number before entering the ring and if you're late and arrive after the others have entered, go in and take your proper place in an orderly fashion.

Showmen should watch the ringmaster for instructions where to start lining up. It's the responsibility of the ringmaster to assess the class as to its size and where to begin the line up but he should discuss the showing procedures before the show with the judge as to how he wants the animals lined up. Normally, they will be placed with the hind quarters facing the crowd.

Once in the ring and lined up initially, it's then a matter of showing your animal to its best advantage and follow instructions

from the ringmaster and judge. From here on, are the few moments you've spent months in preparing for so take advantage of them.

Always make sure your animal is between you and the judge. He's not judging your backside so don't be caught with your back to him. You should always know the whereabouts of the judge.

Place the back feet first with the showstick because they are the hardest to place. They should be placed so a line from the pin bones dropped vertically passes through the hock. If the animal is stretched too much or coupled up you can move the front feet up or back using your feet, or by applying slight pressure on the halter shank. It's better to use your feet than the stick because you can do it by feel more readily than trying to dig around with the stick so that you need never take your eyes off the judge while you're doing it. Once you've got them placed about right step back a bit and catch a quick glance. The animals should be standing with their feet placed well under them in a natural stance. If they're stretched the back will appear swayed and the tailhead too high. If they're coupled up, they will appear too short. Always, always if you're showing on grass, position the animal so it's facing uphill. If your animal is standing in a hole with its front legs, it gives them a sway back and high tailhead.

Check to see the width of feet placing. Both front and back legs placed too close together gives a narrow appearing animal while front legs spread too wide gives a heifer a bullish appearing front end.

If an animal tends to have a big gut or sway back, vigorously work the underside of the belly so they tuck-up or straighten their back. This makes them look trimmer with a straight back and well-placed tailhead. Keep working their belly; this both keeps them contented and keeps their minds on what they're doing.

When the judge is not looking at you—stand in close and keep the lead shank taut at all times so you can feel the movement of the animal. Keeping the head high straightens the topline and if the animal wants to run it takes the weight off their front feet so they can't dig in.

If they can get their head down and dig in they can really go. This is especially important when walking the animals. When parading, circle in a clockwise direction so that your animal is always between you and the judge who will be in the center of the ring. Keep the animal alert and beef animals should be walked at a brisk pace. Dairymen walk their animals very slowly and therefore many dairy showmen prefer to walk backwards themselves. Beef showman should always walk forwards with the shank in their right hand and the left hand grasping the loose end.

Most halter shanks are far too long and should be cut off to approximately 3½ feet. Grasp the shank 12 to 18 inches from the animal's head with your left hand when your showing and in the right hand when you're

leading them. When you're walking forward always take up the loose end with your left hand so you've got a second chance of hanging on should the animal bolt. Never, never lead with the strap coiled around just your right hand. If the animal should spook the strap could get entangled on your hand and you'd be dragged because you couldn't let go. This is especially important for 4-H kids. All bulls shown should be ringed as an added safeguard. Bull-dogs are no good because they could pull out in an emergency.

Always keep your eye on the judge and be ready to present your animal at its best at any moment. Remember its your responsibility as a showman to have your animal looking at its best.

Be careful not to get boxed in by other animals. You must make your entry obvious in a polite manner, and never quit showing your animal. It's up to you to place your animal in the most favorable position so the judge can see it. A good example of this is in the championship classes. The first place winners from each class are placed in the first line with the 2nd place winners behind them in a second line. When the champion animal is chosen he will naturally come from the first place winners. When he has been chosen and moved out of the line, the 2nd place animal from that class can and should immediately move up to take his place.

CLIPPING

1. Clip the long guard hairs on the belly to give the animal a trimmer appearance.
2. Trim the long hairs off the back of the hocks to emphasize a sound correct leg.
3. Brisket—clip with the hair growth, so you dont leave ragged edges. Don't clip to the skin.
4. Clip the tail where the break of the twist starts and where the muscle of the quarter starts falling away from the tail.
5. Trim the back of the tail from the bottom upwards.
6. And the underside of the tail, next to the body, but leaving the hair on both sides.
7. Leave all the hair on the tailhead except the long guard hairs. The extra few hairs on the top of the tail gives the appearance of extra length.
8. Trim the long guard hairs on the backline to emphasize straight lines and a level back.
9. Clip deep enough to straighten the topline and add length to the back, but leave enough hair to still look natural. Feel for th base of the crest as your forward limit.

WORLD CHAROLAIS CONVENTION

The 15th World Charolais Convention will take place at Harrogate, Yorkshire in England from the 16th to 20th September '78.

We include hereunder the programme arranged by the British Charolais Society who are organising the Convention. The latest date for reservations is 31st May. If you wish to attend please contact the office and we will arrange all the details for you.

PROGRAMME

Saturday, 16th September 1978

- On Arrival** Reception & Registration of Guests in the Majestic Hotel.
- 7.30 pm** International President's Cocktail Party.
- 8.15 pm** Dinner Dance.

SUNDAY, 17th September 1978

- 9.30 am** Optional (by coach)
A two-hour tour of the Yorkshire Dales (typical cattle breeding country).
- 10.30 am** **Official**
International Technical Meeting, (Appointed Delegates only), in the Majestic Hotel.
- 1.00 pm** Luncheon in hotels.
- 2.30 pm** Optional (by coach).
Visit to Harewood House, Considered to be one of the finest exhibits of an English Stately Home — complete with priceless paintings, tapestries and antique furniture.
- 3.00 pm** **Official**
International General Meeting, (Open), Majestic Hotel. Papers will be published in French, Spanish and English, with translation services throughout.
- Evening** Dinner in hotels.
Choral Evening — presenting the voices of the "Rhos Male Voice Choir" from Wales, in the Royal Hall.

Monday, 18th September 1978

- 9.00 am** Optional (by coach).
A visit to the County Town of York (16 miles/30 kilometres). This very old and beautiful English town includes the majestic York Minster Cathedral and the City Walls among many magnificent features. Guides and interpreters will be in attendance. Luncheon in hotels.
- 9.00 am** Optional (by coach).
For cattlemen — a visit to the Central Performance Testing Station for Pedigree Beef Bulls, run by the independent Meat & Livestock Commission outside the town of York. 70/80 bulls from 200/400 days of age will be demonstrated, with testing procedures. Luncheon in hotels.

2.30 pm **Official**
International Annual General Meeting. (Appointed National Delegates only will be recognised in the formal meeting). Translation services provided throughout (with seating for interested International members).

2.30 pm Optional (by coach).
Visit to a local operational farm cattle unit, with both Pedigree and Commercial Charolais Cattle. (Part of this visit has been specially arranged for the ladies!)

Evening Dinner hotels.
An Evening of Entertainment, including Cabaret and Dancing, in the Royal Hall as guests of the Harrogate Civic Authorities and His Worship the Mayor.

Tuesday, 19th September 1978

- The British Charolais Cattle Society's International Show of Pedigree and Commercial Charolais Cattle on the Great Yorkshire Showground.
To be judged by appointed International Judges.
Luncheon on the Showground. (Coaches will travel between the Majestic Hotel and the Great Yorkshire Showground throughout the day).
- 7.15 pm** International Cocktail Party.
- 8.30 pm** International Charolais Banquet 1978. Including the presentation of Awards, in the Majestic Hotel.

Wednesday, 20th September 1978

Breakfast in hotels.

WHY DON'T
YOU ADVERTISE
IN YOUR NEWSLETTER

RATES: £50 — 1 Page
£25 — ½ Page



**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 offices 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 —

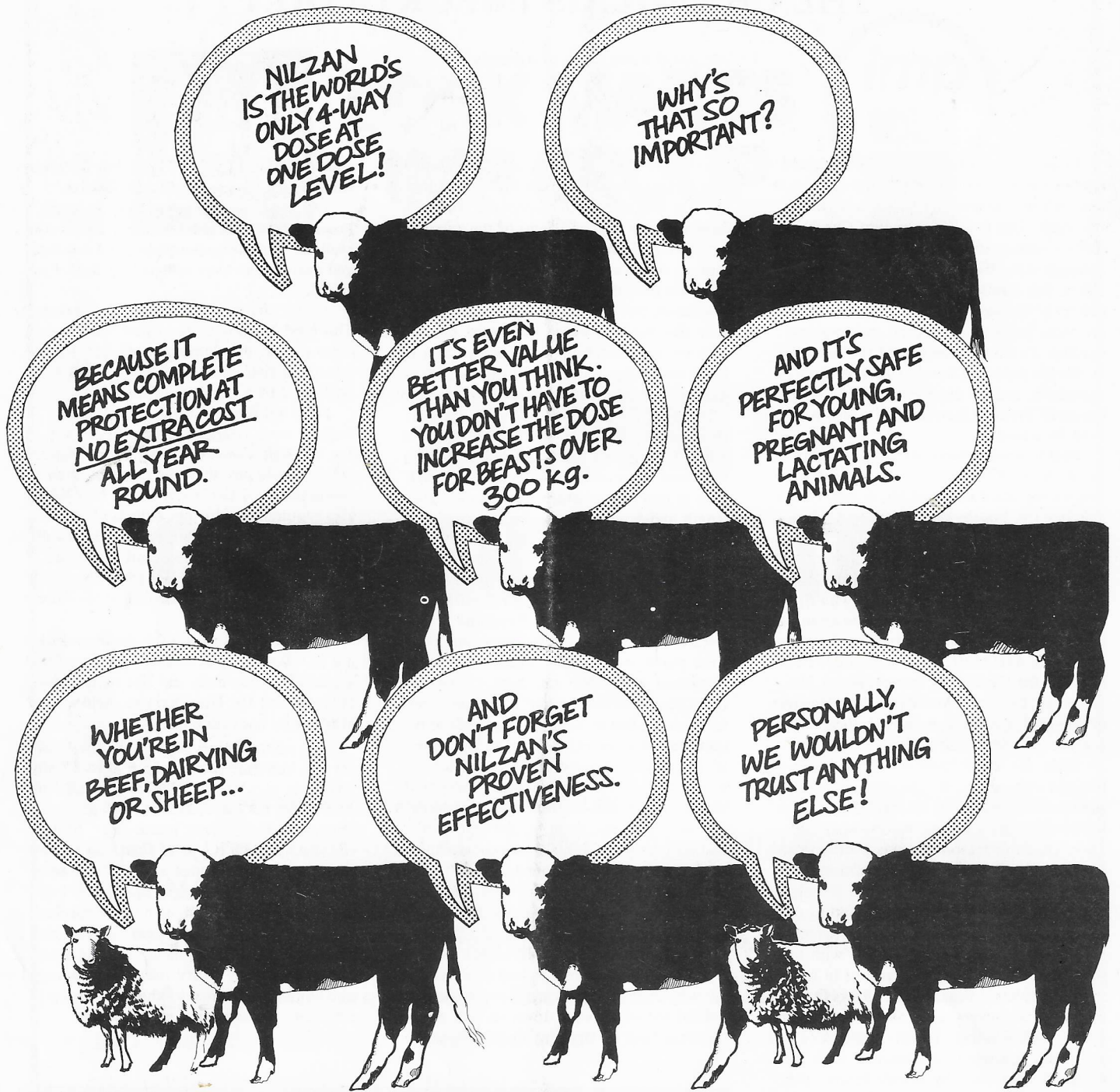
Tel: 683521

Leixlip — Tel: 280771

Midleton — Tel: (021) 28521

Athleague —

Tel: (0903) 7353'7363



Nilzan is not related to any Benzimidazole 'white' drench

Nilzan

Trade Mark

THE WORLD'S ONLY 4-WAY DOSE AT ONE DOSE LEVEL FOR CATTLE AND SHEEP

Available as a drench or as in-feed granules.



does it better

ICI Ireland Limited,
5/9 South Frederick Street, Dublin 2.
Tel. 765801.

Formula: Oxytocanide B Vet
c 3.0% w/v. Levamisole
Hydrochloride 1.5% w/v.
Expipients 9.12% w/v. Water to
100%.

Editor: W. J. Feely