

Bulls for Sale

These bulls are advertised on the website and you could advertise there as well. Photos always help and this is a free service. Please contact the Secretary.

Royal Roseman M1

Andrew Kirk,
Pochin Herd Manager

Location:

Leicestershire

Contact details:

07496 573887

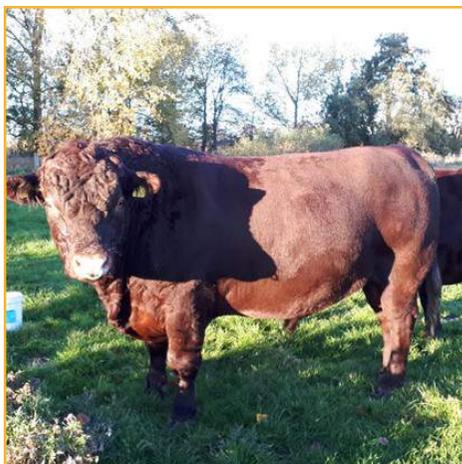
DOB: 04/02/2012

Sire: Appleton Spartacus M1

Dam: Woldsman Viola



Senior Herd Sire for sale due to his many daughters in the renowned Pochin Herd, winner of the National Herd Competition for the past two years. With over 70 daughters registered, many of which can be viewed in the Pochin Herd, it is an excellent opportunity to purchase a first class bull. Viewing is strongly recommended.



Hepworth Tarragon M0

DOB: 27/11/2014

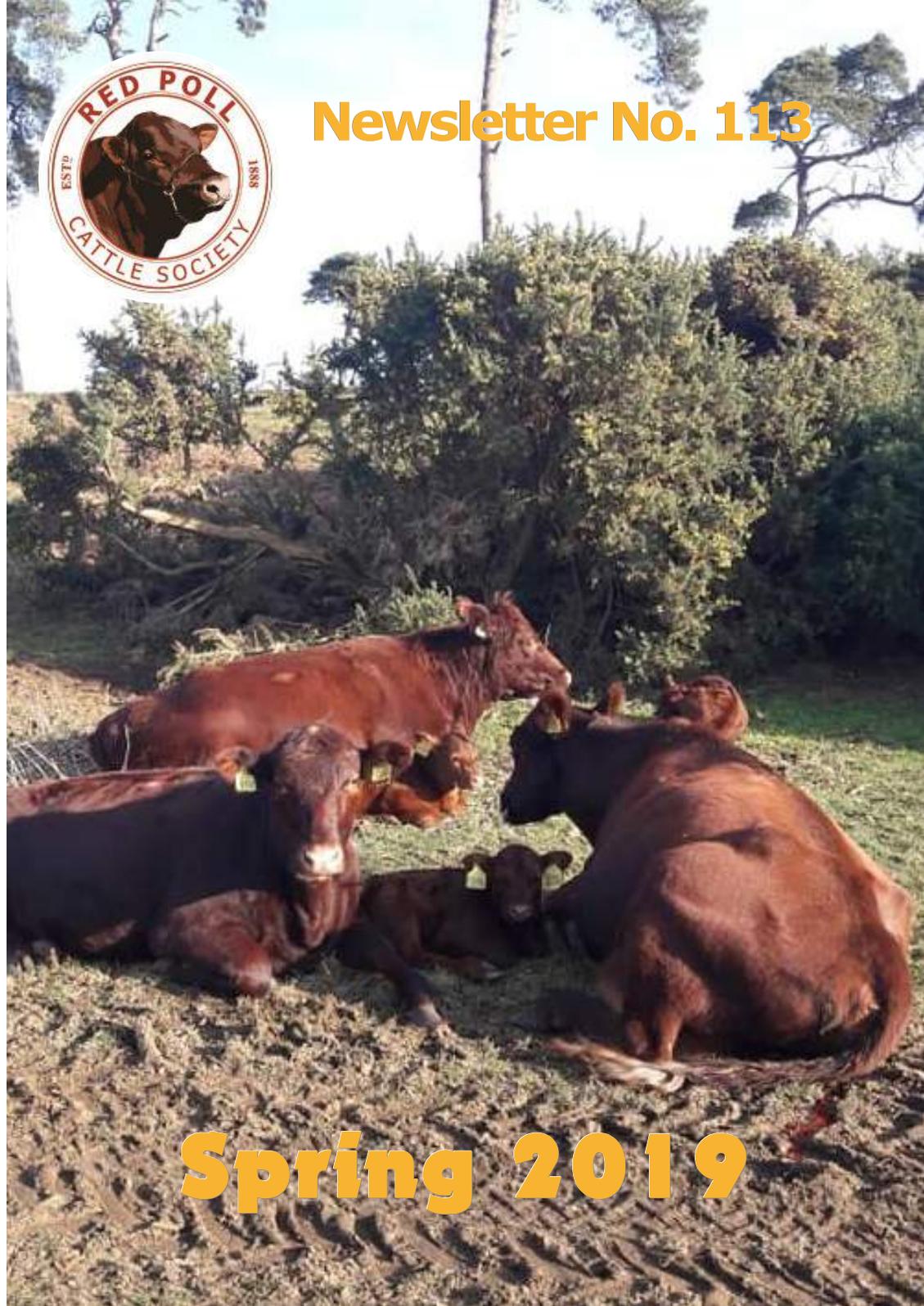
Sire: Pochin Fernie-James M0

Dam: Hepworth Tansy

Five year old proven bull for sale due to his daughters entering the herd. Is very quiet and easy to handle. He was Champion Red Poll at the Winter Livestock Festival, Peterborough in 2015. Will make an ideal addition to any herd.



Newsletter No. 113



Spring 2019



POCHIN HERD OF RED POLL



Founded 2003 and already recognised internationally for the highest quality pedigree stock

National Champion of the Red Poll Herd Competition 2014

Full BVD/LEPTO/Pneumonia vaccination programme

JOHNES disease/TB/BRUCELLOSIS tested

Various breeding stock available for sale; please contact:

Mr Andrew Kirk 0116 269 2694 or

Mr Richard Sanders 01858 410200

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

The Red Poll Cattle Society

Established 1888



1 Nabbott Road
Chelmsford,
Essex CM1 2SW

01245 600032
secretary@redpoll.co.uk
www.redpoll.org

Newsletter No. 113 Spring 2019

President: A. L. Barratt
President Elect: J. Butler
Chairman: J. R. Williams
Secretary: R. J. Bowler
Treasurer: Mrs T. J. Booker



Dual purpose Red Polls

Charity Registration No. 213132
Company Registration No. 27159

IN THIS ISSUE

Secretary's Report	5
Judges for 2019 Shows	7
New Members	7
The Image of British Agriculture	9
Herd Competition 2019	11
David Anderson Cross.....	12
Red Poll Cattle—the perfect suckler cow	14
Slaughter weights and grades from a Suffolk Red Poll herd.....	20
The Red Poll Archive	22
Some interesting statistics from Australia.....	24
Regional Field Officer Arrangements	25

Year Letter

The year letter for 2019 registrations is J

Registration Fees

Heifer in the Herd Book of year of birth £13.50

Heifer outside the Herd Book of year of birth £25

Bull £80 Transfer of ownership £10 Birth Notification £10

Please note that the Herd Book closes at the end of January for entries from the preceding year. When you sell a Red Poll, please return the pedigree certificate to the office. The certificate will be sent to the new owner on payment, by the buyer or seller, of the transfer fee.

Advertising in Red Poll News

As a member, you can take a full page advertisement for £25. The rate for non members is £50. Half pages are priced pro rata.

Copy dates; February 19th, June 19th, October 16th

For livestock sales, please contact the Secretary, Ray Bowler, at the office.

Steers are always wanted.

Membership Subscriptions as from 1st January 2019

Registering:	£50
Associate:	£25
Overseas:	£30 in sterling
Life Registering Member:	£750

Regional Field Officer Arrangements

The Society operates a system of Honorary Regional Field Officers, as it has become clear that it is very difficult for one individual to cover the whole country. The system is co-ordinated by our Secretary, Ray Bowler. A list of Regional Field Officers is given below with contact details:

Ray Bowler – 01245 600032 / 07906 761206 secretary@redpoll.co.uk

Area: South Suffolk, Essex, Greater London, Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire and Berkshire.

Joy Broughton – 07961 428431 zulu623@gmail.com

Area: Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Oxfordshire, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Lincolnshire

Denis Jenkins - 07876 748082 denis.jenkins@tesco.net

Area: Norfolk & North Suffolk.

John Williams - 07860 269044 jrw2@btinternet.com

Area: Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire, Wales and (with the help of Stephen Prescott) the Northern Counties

Simon Phelps – 07855 345329 simon-phelps@hotmail.co.uk

Area: Gloucestershire, Somerset, Dorset, Wiltshire, Devon & Cornwall.

John Anderson - 07833 664121 borenichjohn@gmail.com

Area: Scotland.

If you wish to buy or sell cattle you should contact Ray Bowler on **01245 600032** or **secretary@redpoll.co.uk**. Ray will pass the details to the relevant Regional Field Officer and arrange for inclusion on the website if you so desire.

We hope that you will have the opportunity to meet your Regional Field Officer before too long.



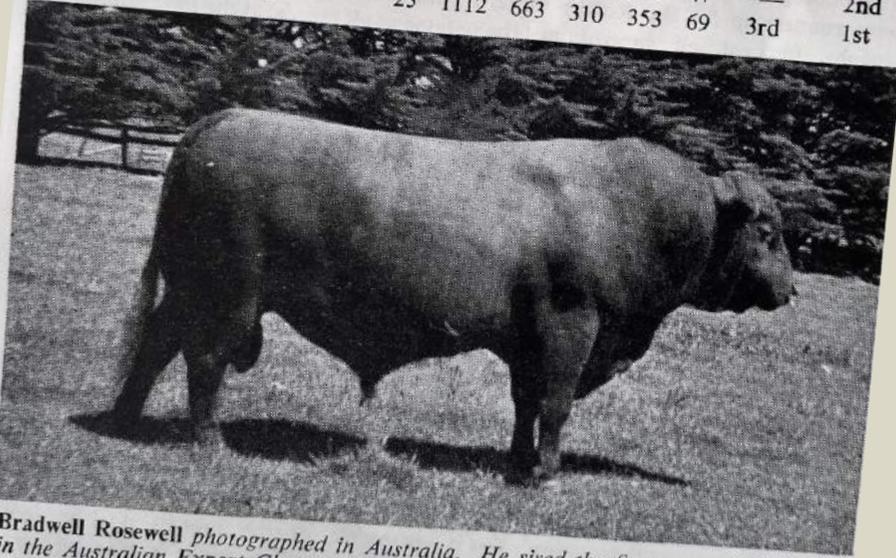
RED POLL

Steers, heifers and young bulls
always wanted

Paul Rackham Ltd
Manor Farm, Bridgham, Norwich NR16 2RX
01953 717176

EXPORT STEER AND CARCASE COMPETITIONS
R.A.S. SHOW, SEPTEMBER 1955
Class 277 Steer for Export over 18 months

Exhibitor	Breed	Age in mths	Live wgt	Drsd wgt	Carcase balance		Ttal Pts	Award hooks	Award hoof
					Fore end	Hind end			
Beer & Sons	Red Poll	24	1060	580	276	304	60	—	—
John Bott	A.A.	22	970	569	270	299	76	2nd	—
I.C.I.A.N.Z.	Short	19	972	606	279	327	44	—	—
T.E.N. Payne	Red Poll	24	1088	616	289	327	79	1st	—
Terinallum	A.A.	24	1172	716	343	373	56	—	—
Terinallum	A.A.	22	1116	683	302	381	52	—	3rd
Terinallum	A.A.	24	1188	720	332	388	55	—	—
Wanneranooka	Santa G Sh X	23	1436	862	388	474	55	—	—
Williamson Bros.	Short	18	1028	663	305	358	47	—	2nd
L. T. Wilson	A.A.	23	1112	663	310	353	69	3rd	1st



Bradwell Rosewell photographed in Australia. He sired the first prize-winning steer in the Australian Export Class. Bradwell Rosewell is out of the celebrated Bradwell Rose Marie, R.M., and was imported by Mr. T. E. N. Payne in 1947.

There are 13 new members for election at this meeting, 13 at this time last year, there are 11 registering and two associate. There are 376 members – 385 at this meeting last year. There have been 51 new members, four reinstated with 64 resignations during 2018; however it must be remembered that a large proportion of these are students coming and going.

The makeup of the membership is therefore: 257 Registering/Life Registering, 80 Associate/Life Associate, six Overseas and 33 Student/Junior. Since the last meeting I have sent out ten information packs to persons enquiring about the Society.

48 straws of semen have been sold so far this year, compared to 52 last year. Last year's total was 332 straws.

No bulls have been inspected since the last meeting, therefore 26 were inspected and registered last year.

Registrations were once again a real struggle but by being persistent with emails and phone calls the final figures are 752 Registered Females, 49 Grading Females and 26 Bulls making a total of 827 animals, these are from 117 breeders, a shortfall of 120 animals when compared with registrations for 2017 which were 923 females, 95 of which were Grading animals, and 23 bulls, from 126 breeders. This is a somewhat worry decline however I know of at least well over 100 heifers which weren't registered for various reasons, which would have meant that numbers would be very similar to last year. I also think it is a sign of the times that many more cows are being mated with beef bulls to make crossbred cattle for commercial sale as it is of no doubt that these cattle sell better in the open market,

I have visited 20 members in Essex and South Suffolk together with two days in Norfolk visiting new members, members who have stock for sale and other members who I haven't been to for several years. I visited nine members over the two days, staying overnight with Tony and Ann Barratt. I have attended the Annual Dinner at the Hunters Lodge Hotel, Crewe, followed the next day by the visit to John and Helen Langley's Oakland Herd in Bunbury. Also attended was the Winter Livestock Festival in Peterborough. In addition to the Breeding Committee meeting held at Dick Smith's in Pettistree. I have been to the Show and Sales Committee meeting's at Joy Broughton's, Brogborough, which was combined with a Youth Committee meeting.

I accompanied Paul Grainger, from Capel Manor College, when he collected five steers they have purchased from John Reading, Wiltshire. They needed to be organic reared animals hence the distance travelled to collect them.

Joy Broughton and I attended an AHDB Seminar on Geonomics and EBVs in Chesham, Buckinghamshire.

I have also been to Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Shropshire for three days visiting eight new and existing members. John Williams accompanied me to the majority of these which hopefully has been very productive in the sale of the majority of the Underhills Herd with two new members hopefully taking the cattle.

Joy Broughton organized a mini tour of the Midlands for 10 Norwegian Red Poll breeders. I joined them for one of the three days. This was an excellent tour. Thank you to everyone who hosted and in particular to Joy for organizing. Hopefully some semen sales will come out of it but we'll have to wait and see as disease protocols may prove to be difficult.

I have nothing to report about Probationary Judges.

Cattle sales have been fairly quiet through the winter. However The Dodds Herd has been dispersed and purchased by a new member in Shropshire. The Plemondestowe Herd has been greatly reduced with 60 animals being purchased by another new member in Scotland. Quentin Edwards has sold 20 cows to another new member, Peter Irish, in Somerset. He is looking for another 30-40 cows but they must be organic which is proving difficult to source. Other smaller numbers have been moved with the Worlingworth Herd being dispersed and purchased by a prospective new member in Norfolk. They are resisting joining the Society at present as they say they will only be crossing the cattle but I will keep working on them! Four in-milk cows have been purchased from Alan Hewson by another new member in Buckinghamshire. She is milking the cows and hopes to increase milking numbers in the future. There are a few batches of cattle for sale on the website, be it cows, heifers and bulls.

Sales through Livestock Markets have been disappointing, with Simon Phelp's Boseley Herd being dispersed through Ross-on-Wye market for poor prices. Bindwell Ltd, Norfolk, dispersed the Gumleaf Herd at Newark market. These cows made reasonable money, but they were suckling April/May born Aberdeen Angus cross calves which looked excellent, the problem was though that the cows weren't back in-calf so didn't make as much as they should have. I haven't heard of any more sales but if anyone knows of any please let me know so that I have a good reference point to work from when asked about what prices their animals should be realising.

As I said this time last year if there is anything else that you would like me to report on in future reports then please let me know as I feel this report consists of all the same things, just with different statistics.

Ray Bowler
Secretary – Red Poll Cattle Society
Tel: 01245 600032

competition. The other exported bulls were quite creditable."

Mr. Cobbald then commented on the cows and heifers that came before him and he particularly stressed the need for great care when animals are being selected for export. "Some of the females were not so good and I thought the udders of the home-bred animals were on the whole better than those that had been exported from England. While one or two of the heifers won their classes, and, in my opinion, would make good cows, others were not a credit to our Red Poll breed.

"I think heifers should be selected with more care, particularly as to udder formation. Two or three of the worst I would have sent to the butcher rather than have them in my own herd."

Among those who chatted with Mr. Cobbald as he inspected the animals was the President of Colombia, General Rojas Pinilla.

Another point which Mr. Cobbald stressed about his visit was in relation to the status of any cattle judge who visits South America.

"He is looked upon as an ambassador from Great Britain and his duties are by no means confined to putting the animals in order at the Show. His comments are valued in many ways.

"Even when he is judging he is required to give a commentary to explain to the spectators why he puts animals in a particular order.

"In my case, of course, the comments were translated into Latin-American by a translator who was there for that purpose."

Mr. Cobbald went on to mention that when he previously visited Colombia in 1950 he drew attention to the possibilities of the large-scale production of rice. He now says that the crop is grown so extensively that rice is included among Colombia's exports.

A suggestion which he put forward this time and which aroused a good deal of interest, was that the country's farmers might well take up the cultivation of oil-seed crops such as linseed.

Mr. Cobbald also formed the impression that there are great possibilities for the expansion of Colombia's beef industry. In some parts of the country farming methods are quite intensive, but there are many thousands of acres of prairie land producing good grass of which relatively little use is made.

After his Colombian tour, Mr. Cobbald spent a week in Jamaica, where he visited a number of leading cattle breeders. One feature of livestock farming there, which interested him considerably, is the growing practice of crossing British cattle with Brahmin types in an effort to combine the milk and beef characteristics of the former with the abilities of the Asiatic animals to withstand high temperatures. Very encouraging results, he stated, are being obtained from the Red Poll crosses.

A. I. REGULATIONS

Members who are using artificial insemination are reminded of the Society's rules governing the use of artificial insemination, which are printed in all recent issues of the Red Poll Herd Book.

It is particularly important that when an insemination is carried out the inseminator be asked to check the pedigree

tattoo marks. The symbols which can be read in the cow's ear must be inserted on the certificate of insemination.

In a number of instances recently the Society has had to return certificates and registration cards because the necessary information has not been provided.

Red Polls Make Headway in South America

THE outstanding impression formed by Mr. D. A. Cobbald, when he visited the South American state of Colombia last summer to judge at the National Cattle Show in Bogota, was the noticeable improvement in the Red Poll breed since his previous visit five years earlier.

"I found their Red Polls had improved a great deal," he said. "The young stock were better grown and the udders of most of the older cows were greatly improved."

Mr. Cobbald stated that all the animals in the Show were handled and presented in much the same way as in England. This in itself was a very great advance and breeders as well as their men showed much more interest.

Mr. Cobbald then referred to the bull classes. "Of the bulls sent out from England," he said, "*Hallingbury Aristocrat* was outstanding. In fact, he was acclaimed the best bull of any breed in the Show although, and in my opinion, rightly so, there was no interbreed



Mr. Cobbald wearing the ruana—a type of blanket made from wool—which was presented to him on his earlier visit to South America. Whilst the secretary inspects it, Mr. Angus Reynolds looks on.

Judges for 2019 shows

T. Blunt—12th May South Suffolk/Youngstock Show

Young handlers: T. Blunt

M. Cheetham—25th May Hertfordshire County Show and RP National Show

Young handlers: S. Cook

V. Caust—25th May Shropshire County Show

T. Mancey—29th and 30th May Suffolk Show

Young handlers: A. Hunt

A. Kirk and P. Ryder-Davies—14th – 16th June Royal Three Counties Show

J. Broughton—18th June Royal Cheshire Show

D. Jenkins—26th and 27th June Royal Norfolk Show

Young handlers: R. Wright

D. Blunt—31st July Nantwich Show

D. Hunt—12th September Westmorland Show

Herd Competition

H. Arthan—Midlands

D. Hunt—South

A. Daw—North

J. Butler—East

A. Kirk—National

New Members

Tony Metcalf, Forgewood House, Wray Road, Wennington, Lancaster, LA2 8NN
Wendy Houston, Apple Acre, Berghersh, Drive, Witnesham, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP6 9EZ

Ferry House Farm (Hannah Skepper), Ferry Farm, Sudbourne, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 2HD

Charles Trembath, Sunset Farm, Carnyorth, St. Just, Penzance, Cornwall, TR19 7QB

J. Keeling & Sons, Crays Hall Farm, Church Lane, Crays Hill, Billericay, Essex, CM11 2UN

Elaine Watson, 47 Beechfield Road, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL7 3RG

Matthew Thomson, Pilmuir, Hawick, Roxburghshire, Scotland, TD9 0PD

Daniel Powell, Home Farm, Rowton, Halfway House, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY5 9EN

Jenny Bellamy, 34 Springfield Gardens, Deanshanger, Milton Keynes, MK19 6HY

Christopher Johnson, Thorpe Hall, Church Road, Thorpe-next-Haddiscoe, Norwich, NR14 6PT

Dorothy Mountford, Hollyhurst Villa, Ossmere Lane, Marbury, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY 13 4LZ

Irish Brothers – Peter Irish, Fords Croft Farm, Crewkerne, Somerset, TA18 7TU

Alan Stephens, Brookside Farm, Coal Pit Lane, Brereton, Rugeley, Staffordshire., WS15 1EW

Neville Howe, Lower Oaks Farm, Iken, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 2EP



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 Fax: 01606 595045
 Email: info@tithebarn.co.uk

Eartag number	Age (Months)	Carcase weight	Grade
400281	23mths	268Kg	O+4H
400288	22mths	263Kg	O+3
400295	25mths	284Kg	O+3
600297	25mths	236Kg	-O3
700298	26mths	307Kg	R4L
100299	26mths	290Kg	R4L
200300	26mths	256Kg	O+4L
300301	25mths	312Kg	R4L
400302	22mths	325Kg	R4L
600304	21mths	233Kg	-O3
700305	24mths	262Kg	-O4L
200307	22mths	278Kg	-O4L
500310	23mths	266Kg	O+4H
700312	25mths	275Kg	O+4H
200314	22mths	242Kg	O+4H
400316	23mths	262Kg	O+4L
300315	23mths	245Kg	-O3
500317	25mths	274Kg	O+4L
600318	25mths	298Kg	O+4L
200321	21mths	302Kg	R3
300322	21mths	264Kg	O+3
400323	20mths	258Kg	R4L
500324	21mths	290Kg	R4L
700326	21mths	362Kg	-O3
100327	20mths	284Kg	-O4L
400330	24mths	243Kg	O+4L
600332	19mths	275Kg	R4L
700333	19mths	267Kg	O+4H
200335	19mths	258Kg	-O4L
700340	20mths	258Kg	O+4L
300343	19mths	275Kg	O+4L
400344	18mths	244Kg	O+4L
500345	22mths	224Kg	-O4H
600346	18mths	220Kg	O+3
100348	18mths	270Kg	R3
300350	19mths	222Kg	O+3
600353	18mths	212Kg	O+3
100355	18mths	221Kg	O+3
600367	17mths	226Kg	O+3
700368	17mths	225Kg	O+3

Slaughter weights and grades from a Suffolk Red Poll Herd

Roger Carter farms at Stowupland, Suffolk in partnership with his wife and two sons. The farm is mainly arable but they have some conservation water meadows which they graze. They also have some meadows which they cut for hay for the horse trade or make haylage for the cattle. They grow a reasonable amount of sugar beet and they also grow about six acres of fodder beet for the cattle. They have about 25 cows plus youngstock and sell the steers to a local butcher in the village. He has been a member since 2003. He has been buying bulls from Tony Barratt; he has one older one and then buys a young one every three years so has two around at any one time then he either moves the older one on after six years or he culls it for another one. The cattle are housed in the winter, calve mainly in the spring but have recently spread out the calving a bit so they have a more even spread of cattle for sale. For the last couple of years they have been killing heifers as well as they have got up to breeding cow numbers and they have had a disproportionate number of heifer calves born. They would be prepared to sell some for breeding but get more for them as beef, plus Roger says if they aren't good enough for him to keep he doesn't want them going to anyone else!



There is data from 40 animals covering a three year period. The average age at slaughter is 22 months. Unfortunately we don't have any liveweights at slaughter. As can be seen the cattle have generally been slaughtered earlier of late as the butcher who they supply wanted a smaller carcase. Average carcase weights over the three year period were 272Kg.

Grading is: R3 = 3, R4L = 7, O+3 = 9, O+4L = 9, O+4H = 4, -O3 = 5, -O4L = 4. This equates to 68% of the carcases in the grades aimed for. However these are very much in line with grades achieved by other breeders.

The cattle are basically forage reared on summer grazing and winter haylage and some fodder beet is fed in the winter. Cattle being finished in the winter receive a small quantity of a barley/bean mix but only to a maximum of 2Kg/day.

Ray Bowler

The image of British Agriculture – by Anna Hunt

I was one of seven young farmers who were lucky enough to be nominated to represent British farming in partnership with the National Farmers' Union, The Worshipful Company of Farmers, Massey Fergusson and Red Tractor in the Lord Mayor's Show.

The parade took place on Saturday 10th November in the heart of the City of London and is one of the longest-running annual events in London's history, as well as being the longest-running broadcasted event in television history.

A new Lord Mayor of the City is appointed each year and the parade takes place after his/her inauguration ceremony, on a 3.2 mile route which passes the Mayor at Mansion House. There were 110 'floats', named so as they were formerly barges that went down the River Thames, including livery companies, bands of the armed forces, charities, and other groups that the Lord Mayor supports.

As part of our float, we had one of the only two Massey Fergusson 9T combines in the country, in addition to a loader tractor filled with a display of straw and hampers of British produce, one of which was to be presented to the Lord Mayor as we passed him on our route. The message that we wanted to take to the British public was 'British farmers are proud to produce your food', a message which we all feel passionately about. I am very grateful for the opportunity to represent the NFU members of East Anglia during the parade.

At a time of relative political

instability in Europe, and at a time where the urban-residing population is almost 85%, and on the rise, we felt it was especially important to advocate the importance of the countryside and break down barriers in knowledge regarding agriculture and food production. The parade and publicity surrounding it, including an interview live on BBC1, was also the perfect opportunity to do this.

I believe there is a lack of public understanding, especially in the younger generations, about where their food comes from, and this is likely to affect young people, like myself, entering the agricultural industry. It is therefore important to show the public the advantages of buying British, namely the quality, high welfare, traceability and locality.

This is a message that is at the forefront of our family farm in Bedfordshire, and is especially important to us at Christmas time, when we market our Christmas turkeys solely to local butchers and private customers through farm gate sales. Having a good relationship with the consumer is key to them understanding our love and passion for farming, showing them that we really care about the welfare and standard of the product we produce, contrary to what we sometimes see on social media, especially with regards to criticism aimed at the dairy industry. Hopefully, they see our commitment and want to buy more British produce, contributing to the maintenance of the rich fabric of the countryside we love.

I wanted to challenge public perception of farming when I decided to drive one of our tractors into my school in Bedford in March 2017 (with permission!). By parking it just inside of the school gates, I answered many questions about my motive and also about agriculture in general. I wanted to raise the profile of young people, especially women, getting into the industry and also to market British agriculture and food in a way which rocked the boat slightly. Previously, I have been faced with raised eyebrows with regard to being a young woman interested in the industry and also on social media with regards to my views surrounding topics such as veganism, however I am proud to be confident enough to educate people on and defend the industry that I feel so passionately about.



Back on the farm, my brother and I are expanding our herd of Red Poll cattle, which started with one in-calf cow with calf at foot 10 years ago. We enjoy showing them at several different summer agricultural shows, and although very time consuming, it is especially rewarding to see the public interest in the animals we exhibit, and more generally, their engagement in agriculture which the shows display so well.

It is our duty, as farmers, to engage with the public and expand their knowledge of agriculture as we move into the uncertain future.



Park Gate Herd

We started our Park Gate Herd of Red Polls in 2003 in Pleshey, rural Essex. We wanted to choose a Native breed that was easy to handle and would do well on clay soil. With excellent advice and support from the Red Poll Cattle Society we made our choice.

The Red Poll cow is an excellent mother, easy calving and is milky enough to give her offspring a very good start in life.

We chose to adopt a 100% Grass Fed status and the progeny go on to finish readily at 24 to 30 months, producing a carcass over 300 kg and typically grading out at O+3.

Based on the herd's success and increased demand we now have a small butchery and farm shop on site and our customers love the delicious taste and health benefits that Red Poll Grass Fed Beef offers.

*Nicci and Tim Hazlem.
Park Gate Herd, Pleshey, Essex
www.parkgatepleshey.co.uk*



Pinguis Herd

This dual purpose herd of 12 cows, bull plus young stock are kept on the small holding of 15 acres in North Shropshire. The ground is light and I find the cattle thrive well in both wet and dry seasons. All cattle are housed for February and March to rest the ground. During the winter the cattle are fed on silage or hay and a small amount of corn for those in-milk feeding calves. I find them a placid breed and very economical to keep.

John Williams, Shropshire

The herd was started about twenty five years ago as a hobby but grew to over two hundred head as more conservation land became available, this is now being reduced as we get older! Red Poll are a placid and an easy breed to keep and ours are outside all year round. Calving is usually in February and March so the calves are ready for the spring grass. We rarely intervene in any calving and expect to get over 90% success in live births to weaning. They are kept on light land during the winter and moved to summer grazing on the Suffolk marshes. Winter feed is hay, straw and fodder beet or other roots.



Ed Turner/Sally Grimwood - Suffolk



We started our small herd of Red Polls with a cow and a calf and two in calf heifers. We wanted a local traditional breed of cattle that was not too large, easy to handle and gentle in temperament. The breed society was a great help to us in knowing where to start and continue to offer any advice and support when needed. We now have seven cows, four heifers and a very handsome bull. We graze our cattle alongside our Norfolk Horn sheep on the edge

of the Cambridgeshire fens. We keep them outside for a long as possible and only house them inside in wet winter periods mainly to prevent poaching of the ground. They thrive on grass and are fed hay and/or haylage in the winter although seem just as content to munch on barley straw. We fatten any steers and sell the meat to market or butchered and boxed. People say it is the best beef they have ever tasted!

Ted and Sarah Clover, Cambridgeshire

The versatile and adaptable nature of the Red Poll makes it a perfect choice for grazing the poor quality grasses here in the heart of the East Anglian Brecklands. My herd is outside all year, calving through January and February in a 15 acre field with plenty of natural shelter and its easy calving nature together with good mothering qualities allow it to cope with the worst of the weather. About a third of my herd go to a Limousin bull to produce a fast growing commercial calf with no additional feeding while the rest of cows are bred pure to give me replacements and a few breeding animals to sell. Only barley straw is fed during the winter months which I find more than adequate plus a few fodder beet after calving to get the milk flowing while awaiting the spring grass. The very placid nature of the Red Poll also allows me to graze them with sheep and even at lambing time there are no issues with tiny new-born lambs receiving no more than the occasional lick from inquisitive calves. This breed thrives on contact with people and can become extremely quiet when they get used to you making them an ideal breed for a small herd as well as being a commercial proposition in a larger herd.



Denis Jenkins Norfolk

The Herd Competition 2019

Plans for the Herd Competition are afoot! I know it seems early but as it takes place in the summer our judges have many other commitments with their own stock and farms, as usual they are giving their time to this worthwhile event. The forms go out in an email at the beginning of May, but if you can't find them when you come to enter you can download one from the website, www.redpoll.org. There will be a date on the form giving you the three weeks in which judging will take place.

If you have not entered before it is an opportunity to show off your stock without leaving your holding. Our judges are knowledgeable and helpful and always interested in how other members farm and their successes. It doesn't matter if you have only a few or lots of Red Polls or some other breeds as well it is great for the society to hear a bit about you and why you feel Red Polls fit your system and life. The competition is divided into large herd – 20 or more calved breeding females and small herd - less than that.

There are always people on hand to help with the form but basically the herd competition itself is just that – looking at the whole herd. The other classes are extras that you can enter if you feel that you have something to fit the category. There is a small fee to cover some of the judges' expenses.

When the judging has finished, a presentation day will be arranged and this is great time to meet up with others in your area for a bit of socialising, as well as the presentation

of the cups and salvers. We have some lovely silver and glassware that you keep for a year and have engraved with your herd name for posterity! The winner of the large herd and the small herd of each area will go forward to the national competition and the winners will be announced at the annual dinner and the presentations made. This is always a very good evening and well worth trying to attend, especially if it is in your area.

I urge you all to try and enter if you can – you don't have to be a winner to enjoy it! It is part of keeping in touch with our many and varied members which is an ethos the Red Poll Cattle Society tries to promote.

For help with anything please contact your regional field officer – numbers on page 25 or the secretary Ray Bowler.

Sally Grimwood.

If you have anything published in a newspaper or magazine about you, your herd or what you do PLEASE let me know—as well as continuing to send me:

- ◆ articles
- ◆ points of interest
- ◆ news items
- ◆ amusing/interesting pictures
- ◆ regional tales
- ◆ handy tips or advice

My email address for your contributions for The Red Poll Newsletter is sally.g53@live.com or you can phone 07780964978

Many thanks,
Sally

Terina Booker attended the memorial service for David Cross who with his brother had the Pakenham Dairy Herd. She felt this family tribute was of interest to Red Poll members.

David Anderson Cross 1926-2019

Thank you all for coming to this celebration of David's life.

Over the last three years, David has battled ill health with fortitude and resilience. During that time there are a number of people, who made a difference and whom I would like to thank:

David, who lived to be 92, had a long and interesting life, living and working here in the village of Ixworth and it is about this that I would like to talk. My talk is based on a piece of writing entitled "A Long Life" that David, himself, wrote a couple of years ago.

He was born in 1926 at Dairy Farm, Ixworth to Stanley and Doris Cross, the second of four children. The eldest son, John, also farmed in Ixworth and they had two sisters, Bridget and Josie, who is here today. They were educated at home by a "marvellous" governess, Ruth Carley. David then went away to a boarding school called Eversley in Southwold, where he shared a room with Ben Robins - little did he know that he would later marry Ben's cousin, Sally.

Eversley School in Southwold was followed by some five years at Uppingham School, to where he won a scholarship. He worked hard at school particularly enjoying English literature (especially poetry), history and the classics (Greek and Latin). Farming times were hard in those days and he had been encouraged to follow a life in academia. However, at 17, he decided to follow the family tradition

into farming. Consequently, he went up to Cambridge University to study agriculture and spent three very happy years at St John's College. He went back to Cambridge regularly to reunions and he loved to reminisce about his time there. Conditions there might sound a bit Spartan to us nowadays as, in the early mornings, he had to run over the Bridge of Sighs, wearing just his dressing gown, to get to the undoubtedly cold showers, situated on the other side of the river. Indeed, the only heating in his room was from a small coal fire, the coal for which, had to be lugged up two flights of stairs. Still, he revelled in his time there, much enjoying and participating in the academic debates with his peers.

On to his years in farming. His chief farming interest was his beloved Red Poll cattle to which he often applied a scholarly approach: my aunt, Janet, tells us that he would recite whole tracts of poetry to his cows to ensure that they were calm and ready for milking. He also applied an academic approach with regard to their breeding. He introduced Devons to improve the beef side and Danish Reds to improve the milk output of the dairy herd. We remember family holidays spent in Denmark when, rather than go to the beach, we would chase around various dairy farms and in between these, screech to a halt on the side of a busy road to view yet another field of cows, all accompanied by him taking endless photos of cows'

We started our Red Poll herd in 2000 having double suckled three

Simmental cows for two lactations. We realised that we could do the same job with a smaller cow which was cheaper to feed and more suited to our old buildings. We chose Red Polls as our local rare breed which would be easy to manage and have plenty of milk. This proved to be a good choice and

we continued double suckling for several years until calves became too difficult to find with the disappearance of dairy herds, and I had sciatica for several months! Our herd peaked at 18 cows a couple of years ago but is now being reduced to facilitate "retirement". The breed are easy calving and wonderful mothers, and do very well on rented river meadows in the summer which are all in environmental schemes and receive no inputs. The cattle come in for the winter as the grazing floods, and they live on haylage and very little cake. Red Poll breeders and the Society are a very friendly and helpful bunch, and we have also enjoyed the camaraderie of showing our cattle.

Richard and Mary Brookes - Norfolk



Richard and I chose Red Polls for several reasons. Our criteria were: a rare breed; produces good beef; does well on good traditional mixed grasslands and preferably had no horns. The last point is obviously quite a limiting factor, although more breeds are moving that way now. So back in the days of the Royal Show we took ourselves off on the rare breed showing day and spent quite a few hours watching the

different breeds being paraded around the ring. We kept coming back to the Red Poll because they clearly had a quiet temperament and were reasonably easy to handle. They obviously produced a good amount of meat on their frame and they were lovely to look at. Our decision was made and we have built up our herd from home bred animals, just changing the bull every few years. Our cattle are friendly, quiet and very easy to handle, ignoring the local dog walkers going through their fields. They graze some fantastic species rich calcareous grassland around the Stroud Valleys; our own and some for the National Trust and the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. They are excellent conservation grazers and we are able to leave them out all year round. They finish well reaching 650kg with delicious tasting meat at the end. The locals love them and always know whose cattle they are because we are the only people with "red" animals, and many volunteer to help check them. A bonus for us.

Rebecca Charley - Gloucestershire

We chose dual purpose Native Red Poll cattle because of the excellent temperament and being a medium sized animal are easy to handle. They are an excellent breed to use for a suckler herd.

The cows/heifers are easy calving and due to their milkiness produce a calf that grows away quickly. We house the cattle in sheds over winter to save the grassland from poaching as we are on heavy ground and they are fed silage and minerals, no concentrates.

Steers finish between 24-28 months at approximately 600 kg live weight. Red Poll meat is of excellent quality with the marbling giving it fabulous flavour and we have repeat customers for our boxed beef. There is nothing better on a summer's day than seeing a herd of Red Polls grazing in the sunshine.

David and Lis Blunt – Smallholders in North Buckinghamshire



The Red Poll is the ideal breed for me. They're medium sized, have excellent temperaments and fit into my system perfectly. They calve unassisted and are first class mums. Their calves grow quickly on the abundance of milk mum produces. Most of my animals are sold for breeding, but when I have finished a steer the meat is excellent and very much in demand.

The cattle graze conservation ground in the summer, then housed in winter and fed haylage but if the ground permitted they would be out-wintered. I have not milked any of mine but I know they would make an ideal house cow capable of suckling a calf and supplying a family with all the milk cheese and butter it could eat!

Joy Broughton – Smallholder in Bedfordshire

I chose Red Poll cattle for my pedigree suckler herd in order to support a rare or minority British breed and to provide a niche product. Red Polls are dual purpose: the dairy element produces tender meat while the beef side gives good muscling. The result is top quality beef with lots of marbling, not too much fat and a fabulous flavour (like beef used to taste as some of my customers say).

The milkiness of the cattle means the calves do very well. The cows calve easily and are good mothers, easy to get back in calf, long-lived. The herd thrives on old permanent pasture, extensively grazed with very low inputs, managed under an environmental stewardship scheme. The bullocks finish at anything from 24 months off grass.

I farm on my own so the gentle temperament of the Red Polls is important to me. And they look gorgeous!



Helen Arthan, Cheshire

backsides to study upon his return home.

The herd won many prizes and championships, including five times at the Royal Show. He was elected to the Red Poll Council and later became President for a year. He judged all over England and Scotland and even travelled as far as the USA and Colombia to fulfil judging duties.

In 1986 he broke away from the family company and from then onwards farmed with his son, Richard, from Abbey Farm, which had been our family home. Then two years later he converted Mill Barn and lived there for nearly 30 years, transforming the concrete pad outside into a beautiful garden, which was his pride and joy.

David enjoyed many different sporting activities: he rowed while at university - here he also liked to punt up the Cam, which was a skill which he passed on to me and I, in turn, to my children. He also played hockey, tennis (he had a demon/erratic serve, which was either miles out, or, occasionally, an ace!), he played

badminton across the road in the village hall and golf at Flempton Golf Club. Here he was proud to be club captain 1993-4 and here he also achieved four holes-in-one. We are grateful and honoured that the flag at Flempton clubhouse has been flying at half-mast to mark his passing. Later in life, he played indoor bowls and lawn bowls here in Ixworth, where he passed many happy afternoons.

For David, having lived in Ixworth all his life, village life was very important. He was the secretary and treasurer of Ixworth and District Agricultural club, a member of the Parochial Church Council for this church, which was always an important part of his life. He was also chairman of the Village Hall committee, chairman of the Parish Council and served on the St Edmundsbury District council for 13 years, including being on the Housing Committee. It was indeed rare that he was in on a weekday evening, as there were so many meetings to attend.

The Red Poll Calendar 2020

It's time to get the cameras snapping and find some quirky, pretty, interesting or just superb photos of your stunning Red Polls for our annual calendar.

If you have something you think could be included please email them to sally.g53@live.com. We would like to get the calendar ready for August so the latest date for entry will be July 20th 2019. They will then be selected by the Promotions and Publicity Committee.

S Grimwood

Red Poll Cattle—the perfect suckler cow

We started keeping Red Polls six years ago on our farm in Essex to manage the grassland in conjunction with our equine enterprise. We wanted a breed that was easy to manage, did well on forage and produced excellent tasty beef. We have to say we haven't been disappointed. We moved to Devon a couple of years ago taking the cattle with us. They fit the marginal land we have here very well and are thriving in the environment.

Liz Burbridge – Chulmleigh



Troupeau de Deux Manor Fillys Herd



Mendip Herd

We just love our Red Polls! We chose them as we wanted a rare breed that was traditional and could thrive outside all year round if necessary. They are easy calving with excellent mothering skills and the bulls that we have had are also very placid. We keep some outside all year round and some come inside over the wettest part of the winter. They are easy to handle and easy to halter train – well most of them! They are gentle towards other livestock, we have had ewes and lambs in with them with no issues. The meat is fabulous, tender and with excellent taste, we have many repeat customers.

Susan Tanner - Somerset

We started our herd in 2010 following discussions with the Secretary of the Society. We wanted a breed that was native, quiet, easy to handle, easy calving and delicious to eat. The herd currently stands at 8 cows plus associated youngstock. Cows are yarded in winter and fed hay and minerals. All the youngstock are out-wintered and fed the same, a small quantity of concentrates are also fed to the youngstock. We hire a bull for the summer, however this year we have kept the male calves entire in the hope of selling breeding bulls to Society members. Steers are slaughtered and butchered locally with the meat being sold in the Farm Shop and at Farm Open days / Events which bring in an excellent income. Situated in North London, we are an educational farm giving urban students an insight into where their food comes from, they get immense benefit from handling and looking after the cattle. Showing is also carried out which gives the students another excellent experience. I would thoroughly recommend the breed to anyone starting out with cattle or to those with limited land availability. They are truly dual-purpose, we don't milk them but they could easily be milked if required.

*Paul Grainger –
Livestock
Manager, Capel
Manor College,
Enfield*



Capel Manor Herd

Our herd was formed by Helen's father when he retired from being a stockman on a dairy farm. Being connected with the Rare Breeds Survival Trust and remembering his early years milking Red Polls and learning that they were listed as vulnerable he started the herd. He had never forgotten the wonderful attributes of this dual purpose breed. The herd now numbers 30 in all, some of which spend the summer grazing rough pastures for Stafford Borough Council. They do well on this type of forage. The cows stay at home along with the show stock, but, if you were to ask us what has been the best thing about breeding Red Poll cattle we would have to say fellowship, being involved with the Society has given us connections not only throughout the UK but the rest of the world. We have been fortunate to meet some fantastic people who will be lifelong friends. Apart from the fact the cattle are easy to keep, easy on the eye and on the pocket what more would you want. Without doubt the most beautiful sight in the world is red cattle grazing green grass.

*Helen and Terry Mancey,
Caverswall, Stoke on Trent*



Moreton Herd