



Newsletter No. 118

Winter 2020



WOLDSMAN RED POLLS

S.G. PRESCOTT & SONS

WOLD HOUSE LUND DRIFFIELD E YORKS YO25 9TW

Founded 1953

All females are home bred and registered with the Society

Health status: Tuberculosis, Brucellosis tested.

No animal we have bred has ever had BSE.

'Would you like contented animals like these? Contact us!'



Herd size: 100 suckler cows, easy calving, all male calves left entire, sold as beef @ 15-18 months of age @ 550-600kgs or for breeding.

All young bulls weighed regularly & we are achieving gains of 1.7kg per day up to 365 days of age (own records).

Young cows, in calf and maiden heifers usually for sale.

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Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

The Red Poll Cattle Society

Established 1888



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Newsletter No. 118

Winter 2020

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Dual purpose Red Polls

Charity Registration No. 213132
Company Registration No. 27159

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Year Letter

The year letter for 2021 registrations is L

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 2020

Registering: £50

Associate: £25

Overseas Registering: £75 in sterling

Overseas Associate: £30 in sterling

Life Registering Member: £750

Life Associate Member: £300

Life Overseas Member: £500

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

Secretary's Report – Summer 2020

So what did the Secretary do this summer with no events or shows to attend? Well in fact I was very busy. The office was open as usual, in fact I was available more than usual because I was at home a lot more. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic I have been able to visit a number of members up and down the country, adhering to social distancing as required, I haven't stayed away from home as much, certainly early on in the summer as the hotels were closed so I had early starts, late finishes and more driving which unfortunately resulted in me not visiting as many members in an area as I normally would. April and May saw me at home going nowhere, as per government guidelines, but in June I began to go out and about again.

5th June – Verity Stebbing, Twinstead, Essex. To look at cattle for sale. Subsequently sold six steers.

8th June – Oliver Everett, Reydon, Suffolk. To discuss the way forward with the herd with regards to numbers and breeding policy. To look at steers for sale.

Simon Roberts, Walberswick, Suffolk. To look at steers for sale and generally look at the herd. Subsequently sold steers.

Chris Howes, Edfords Care Farm, Mautly, Norfolk. New member who had purchased eight bulling heifers and borrowed Bridgham



Simon Roberts' steers, Walberswick

Lancelot from Denis Jenkins. The farm is set up to provide educational resources and courses for a wide variety of people with learning difficulties. In addition to the cattle there are ponies, sheep, pigs, and poultry, vegetables are grown with everything being sold to the local community.

11th June – Ebony Prior, Worksop. Ebony had a young bull which she has kept which needed inspection and registering. A very nice example of the breed which we put in with her cows after inspection and moved up the lane to new pastures. Ebony's parents used to milk Red Polls on the farm several years ago, when they passed away as few years ago the farm was sold but Ebony has retained a few acres and began keeping Red Polls again.

Paul and Alison Wisden, Brauston in Rutland. A relative new member who purchased some cattle at Melton Mowbray last spring and purchased Capel Manor Horace last summer to run with them. More cattle have been purchased with heifers and following my visit they have purchased eight animals. Paul and Alison have purchased some quality animals, the Furroway Herd will be one to watch in the future.

Alan Hewson, Melton Mowbray. I called in to see Alan and Jane for an update on what they are doing. The Red Polls are still on the farm but numbers have been reduced and the herd is being run as a suckler herd.

17th June – George Watson, Chillisford, Suffolk. George wanted to chat about marketing his cattle. A couple of years ago he decided to use Hereford bulls on his 80 cows to produce crossbred animals which he was told would sell better as store cattle. All the stores have been sold and George is pleased with their return. Discussion took place regarding herd replacements as he wanted to keep the cows pure. It was decided that next year a proportion of the herd would be put to a Red Poll bull to breed replacements, this would probably be the case one in every three years.

Whilst in the area I called in to see **Ed Turner and Sally Grimwood** to talk about the newsletter, website and Society things in general.

On my way home I called in to see **Dick Smith, Pettistree**, for a general catch up. It was a good time sitting in the garden chatting about all and sundry.

24th June – James Forrest, Stonham Aspel, Suffolk. James wanted to discuss his plans for the herd. This currently consists of 30 breeding cows. However James wants to increase this to around 100 animals in the next few years. He is in the process of building a new livestock building which will have the capacity of housing 100 cows plus followers, this will be a really impressive development and good for the breed going forward. I mentioned a member was selling up and had some first class animals for sale. James subsequently purchased 18 in-calf heifers and a bull from another member. I then went to see **Richard Brookes, Hepworth** for a general chat and catch up about the breed, Society and industry in general.

3rd July – A very enjoyable day spent with **Joy Broughton, Brogborough**, judging the Society Photo Competition. Congratulations to Richard Brookes with Hepworth Melica for winning. On my way home I called in to see **Joy's Nobodys Herd at Mepshall, Bedfordshire.**

8th July – Steve Booth, Fenstanton, Cambridgeshire. Steve had asked me to

call in when I was passing to chat about his herds breeding policy. Steve is a relative new member and has five cows which needed a bull to go with them. I arranged with Richard Brookes to hire out one of his bulls.



Fenstanton Herd, Steve Booth

Ted and Sarah Clover, Willingham, Cambridge. Ted had asked me to call in and have a look at their Belsar Herd and in particular a bull calf that they had kept entire. He certainly looked a very nice young man and well worth keeping entire for the time being. I took a tail hair sample to ascertain his Myostatin status and Igenity Beef Profile results.

I also arranged for Ted to take a couple of bulling heifers to James Rea's Ladlers Herd, Little Canfield, Essex, to run with Ladlers Lord Iron Man, as their herd sire Hepworth Red Admiral is their sire.

I then called in to **Sam Taylor's, Little Linton** to have a look around his herd and to look at a couple of potential bull calves which he had kept entire. I left some tail hair sample kits for samples to be taken next time he had the cattle into the handling area. Sam also told me about a trial he was undertaking with regards to out-wintering cattle on forage crops, it will be interesting to see the results of this. Sam said that he will be looking for 40 - 50 stores later in the year for this project.

I told him about a potential new member a few miles away from him in Newmarket. I gave him their contact details. Subsequently, in fact three days later a deal had been completed.



Belsar Joseph



Hopeham Iron Ore

16th July – Sarah and Gerald Barnes, Tasburgh, Norfolk. Inspect two young bulls and look at Hopeham Iron-Ore, a two year old bull they had for sale. Took photographs for advertising him on the website. Had a look around the herd and had general chat about the Society etc.

Ed and Tanya Peate, Newmarket.

On my way home I called in to see them as they had taken delivery of six heifers. I signed them up as members. They run a Race Horse Stud and want some cattle of their own to graze the paddocks. They have been relying on someone else to do this but have decided to do it themselves.

Tim Hazlem, Pleshley, Essex. Called in to see Tim and see what steers he still required and to look at those recently purchased.

25th July – Council meeting and AGM, Stoneleigh. Attended the meeting which was good to see members not seen for a few months.

Before returning home I went to see the **Lawford Herd of Mark and Gill Martin**. I had a very extensive tour around the herd which now consists of nearly 300 suckler cows all being either pedigree or Red Poll cross Blondes.



Lawford incalf heifers

There are some amazing cattle here, with over 30 pedigree in-calf heifers and over 40 bulling heifers, a selection of the bulling heifers are for sale.

28th July – Essex County Council, Hadleigh Country Park. For a variety of reasons the Legacy Herd is up for sale, the Council deciding to run their Grazing Project differently. I met Roger Beecroft there who manages the project for them. In total there are about 300 cattle for sale. I had previously arranged for Nick Padwick, Fen Hill Estates, Norfolk to meet us there. Fen Hill Estates are re-wilding a proportion of their Estate and have decided to use Red Polls as part of their management of this area. As the cattle at ECC are used to this system of management it seemed logical for Nick to have a look at these animals. Subsequently 60 animals have been purchased from ECC to form the basis of their herd. I hope to find out more about the re-wilding project early next year.

31st July – Roger Beecroft, Creting St Mary, Suffolk. Roger had two bulls that needed to be inspected and registered but due to Corvid-19 they had gone over two years of age so needed to be inspected by two inspectors. I met Dick Smith there and we carried out the inspections, we both agreed that the bulls warranted registration.

As I was nearby I called in to see **Roger Carter, Stowupland**, for a general catch up and to view his Stowupland Herd.

7th August – Capel Manor College, Enfield. I spent the day with Paul Grainger, going around the Hertfordshire Wildlife Trust sites that Capel Manor now have for summer grazing. There are six sites of varying size where the cattle are grazing. Paul looks around the cattle once a week, with rangers or volunteers, looking at the cattle the other days. One of the sites is a reserve for wildfowl which consist of old gravel pit workings and islands. The Trust want pigs to forage this site so some of Capel's rearing pigs are carrying out this task, it's amazing to see the pigs in this habitat, they look so natural and even swim to the islands!



Capel Manor cattle Thorley Wash

2nd September – Nick and Sue Holsey, Hepworth, Huddersfield. On my way up the Yorkshire Dales to inspect two bulls at Peter Fowler's farm in Dent, Sedburgh, I called in to see Nick and Sue. Last year they purchased Ladlers Lord Ice Man to run with their cross bred suckler herd and to run with their replacement Ayrshire dairy heifers. As reported previously Nick and Sue milk about 75 Ayrshire cows, which also include a few Red Poll Ayrshire crosses. The suckler herd is a mixture of breed crosses but all have some Red Poll in them. Ice Man's first crop of calves look impressive as do the few Ayrshire cross heifer calves that have just been born. Thank you to Sue for providing an excellent lunch. I then drove to The Moorcock Inn, Sedburgh for a couple of nights. This was the first time I had stayed away from home this year, it was a strange experience but what a great place to see surrounded by the beautiful North York Moors.



Ladler's Lord Ice Man

3rd September – Peter Fowler, Dentdale. What a fantastic place this is as I have reported before. Unfortunately this time the weather gods were against me. I know it rains there but this was ridiculous, it never stopped raining heavily the whole time I was there. The main purpose of my visit was to inspect a couple of young bulls that Peter had reared. It was good that they had been brought off the moor a couple of days before and put in a shed. One was very good, not the biggest but very well put together and considering the system they are reared on a good sound example of the breed. The second one I'm afraid didn't match up and I said I couldn't pass him for registration; they agreed and said he would be fattened up for sale as beef through the box scheme they operate. Peter's Farm Manager, Kevin Milburn, joined the Society and his wife, Sue, provided an excellent lunch. The plan had been to go up on top of the moor to look at the rest of the herd but this was impossible due to the low cloud and rain. I therefore did a bit of sightseeing and went to see the famous Dent Station and went into Hawes for a tourist look around, very interesting but by Jove was it wet. On returning to the Moorcock the weather brightened briefly which gave me time to take a walk across the moor to a waterfall which looked impressive in full flow. Grazing the land around the waterfall was a herd of Belted Galloways, made a change from seeing red cattle.

4th September – Chris

Dedman, Darlington. I have been trying to get up north to meet Chris for a couple of years now but haven't been able to, so this was the occasion as I wasn't too far away, about an hour's drive from Sedburgh.



Chris Dedman Leaside Herd

Chris has a small herd of Red Polls, purchasing four in-calf cows at Junction 36 Market three years ago. The cows look impressive, albeit in quality grass that I don't normally see. The herd now consists of six cows with accompanying youngstock. Chris uses AI, the next door dairy herdsman carrying this out, this year he has had tremendous success with all six animals holding to first service, Lavenham Sir Galahad being the bull used. The smallholding has great views over the valley below, a very nice place to live. I then had the pleasure of a six hour drive home, hey-ho there's always a downside to good things isn't there.

7th September – Lambourne End Centre, Lambourne End, Essex.

Dropped in to see Farm Manager Tony Sharps who I haven't seen for a couple of years. He had borrowed Appleton Hercules, with their four cows expecting in the spring. No calves have been born this year as their old bull Beasthorpe Barney finally passed away late last year at the grand old age of eighteen years, I don't know of an older bull but you may know different.

I then went to see **James Stygal, Stapleford, Essex**, and his Stapleford Herd. They were winners of the Small Herds National Herd Competition last year. The current herd consists of 48 females, those who attended the Farm Walk and Presentation last November will remember the cattle graze the water meadows on the side of the M25. They seem completely at ease with the thundering persistent noise, but there you go we have animals in all environments. Whilst there I collected his 2020 heifer registrations.

Finally in the afternoon I called in to see **Les Gunnell, Chigwell, Essex.**

Les has a few cows which graze the meadows in front of his house. He hasn't bred them pure this time, instead the local dairy farmer inseminated the cows with Aberdeen Angus semen. I have to say the calves look very good.



Capel Manor calves sire Hepworth Osier, Thorley Wash

11th September – Today I spent the day with Paul Grainger, Capel Manor College, going around checking the cattle on the Hertfordshire Wildlife Trust Sites. We moved one group to the next section they were to graze. The cattle looked well but the ground

conditions on one of the sites in particular were very wet, the cattle did have a dry area to lay down but needed waders to get to the grass! When back at Capel I collected their 2020 registrations now that all the cows have calved. The young bull Ladlers Lord Jaeger really looks impressive and is hopefully doing a good job. This year's calves also look good, their sire being Hepworth Osier.



Capel Manor Ladler's Lord Jaeger

9th September- Liz and Becca Marchington, Croydon, Cambridgeshire.

They contacted me because they are thinking of setting up a herd of Red Polls on their recently purchased farm. They wanted advice about a whole range of things connected to keeping cattle. They joined as members but have decided to delay having any cattle until the spring when they have sorted out fencing and a handling system. They are proposing to out-winter the cattle which shouldn't be a problem as the farm has some light land which should be suitable.

Whilst in the area I called in to see Guy Kiddy, Gamblingay, who I hadn't seen for a couple of years. It was good to catch up on their pig enterprise and what was happening to their Red Polls.

On my way home I called in to see **James Rea** as due to a change in circumstances he needs to sell a proportion of his Ladlers Herd. The herd grazes Hatfield Forest in the summer and for the past few years have been housed during the winter at Writtle College. The College are having another change in management which means the buildings won't be available. There are some excellent animals for sale, the herd has improved dramatically over the years, let's hope they will find good homes within the breed.

15th September – Tony Barratt, Docking, Norfolk. As you will all be aware Tony and Ann Barratt have re-located to Dorset. This has meant that the Appleton Herd has been dispersed, although Tony has taken six animals with him. 40 of the females have stayed on the farm in Docking owned by John Hare. The others have been sold to a number of breeders, some existing and some new.

I went to help Tony sort the animals out into the various groups ready for collecting either that day or the following few days. Whilst there I took all the details for the 2020 born heifer calves. This is the end of an era for Tony and Ann in Norfolk, I wish them all the best down in Dorset.

20th September – Richard Hale, Dursley, Gloucestershire. Richard is a relatively new member having purchased cattle over the past couple of years. Richard is developing his smallholding using all native breed animals, be it Red Poll cattle, Gloucester Old Spot pigs and Cotswold sheep. Eventually Richard will breed the cattle pure but at present has mated the cattle with a

Limousine bull as he feels the offspring will sell better. He doesn't have the space to keep any more than the 12 cows he has at present.

Rebecca Charley – Ruscombe, Gloucestershire. I have been to Rebecca and Richard's on several occasions and never cease to be impressed by the location and quality of cattle. What a great herd of cattle these are, the present herd

sire, Hepworth Conker, is also developing into a first class animal. One of the reasons for going was to look at a bull calf that they wondered might be worth keeping entire. He certainly was impressive for his age compared to his peers but I'm afraid to say he looks double muscled, something that as a breed we are trying to breed out. Rebecca and Richard agreed that this wasn't the way



Ruscombe Herd

they wanted to go so the decision was to have him castrated along with the rest of this year's bull calves. Whilst there I took the details for their 2020 born heifer calves. I stayed the night, the first time I have stayed with members this year. I was in a separate part of the house so felt completely isolated and ensured all the required precautions were in place. Thank you to them for excellent hospitality.

21st September – Rob Havard and Sarah Dugate, Kemerton. As you will probably be aware Adrian Darby has gone into a contract/share farming agreement with Rob Havard of Phepson Angus with regards to the management of the Kemerton Herd. Sarah is in charge of the day to day running of the herd. I spent a very enjoyable and informative couple of hours discussing the herd's management and looking around the cattle.

Sarah has written an article on the herd's management which is printed elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Simon and Caroline Phelps, Westbury-on-Seven. I called in to see Simon and Caroline to catch up on things in general. They really miss the cattle but are keeping busy with family and Simon's Local Council and Parish Council duties. Thank you to Caroline for providing an excellent lunch, very much appreciated.

Richard Tomkins, Leominster. It is several years since I had been to see the Long Friday Herd. I have to say what an impressive herd this is.

Unfortunately nothing has been registered for several years, although they are all pure bred with pedigree bulls being used. The reason for not registering is that none of the cattle have been retained for replacements, all going as stores to Ludlow market where they find an excellent trade. As the cows have such longevity there hasn't been any reason to keep any heifers. I managed to persuade Richard to re-join the Society and to think about registering heifers

as if they go down with TB it's a good insurance policy as compensation is much better for registered animals. As they are in a TB six month testing area so the risk is very high. He said he will think about it!
I then drove to Kidderminster where Susanne, my wife, had been staying for a few nights with her oldest school friend and I stayed the night before we drove home the next day.

*Ray Bowler
Society Secretary*



ECC Appleton, King Raedwald



Holsey's Crossbreds and Ayrshire Earlings



ECC Legacy Herd, Hadleigh Marsh

At the start of the 2020, Rob Havard took on contract managing the Kemerton Estate Red Poll Herd. Rob is a sixth generation farmer, professional ecologist and works for Natural England as a leading conservation advisor. Sarah Dugate began working for Rob at the time he took on the Red Poll herd.

For a long time, the beef industry has been focussed on increasing individual animal production at the expense of almost all other traits. Increasing growth rates and weaning weights have been the targets, and over the last few decades, the industry has achieved what it set out to do. However, profitability of many beef farms continues to fall. What is going wrong?

This increase in growth rate in cattle comes with an increase in energy requirements and therefore inputs - increasing the cost of production. There is a tipping point when the extra unit of production starts to cost you money - keep production below that point and your business will be more resilient in the long term.

The solution ... switch your focus to optimum production not maximum production. Maximise your profits by minimising your inputs. Focusing on managing cheaper forage more efficiently and breeding cattle that can thrive on this cheaper forage is the key to the future profitability of the UK beef sector. The time is fast approaching when high energy rye-grass leys are going to be an expensive luxury that beef cattle systems can't afford.

We took on contract managing the Kemerton Red Poll Herd owned by the Darby family at the start of 2020 and have begun to implement holistic planned grazing to manage the herd for the benefit of the cattle and the environment.

Temporary electric fencing is used to split fields into smaller paddocks, and we move the cattle at least twice a week. The cattle are brought into the paddocks at taller grass residuals than a conventional rotational grazing system, and our rule of thumb is to 'eat a third, trample a third, leave a third'. We aim to avoid regrazing recovering grass plants and to maximise the rest and recovery of the fields. These techniques mimic natural grazing processes, and overtime will restore native species rich grasslands. The Darby family have been pioneers in conservation work and maintaining wildlife habitats on the farmland, so we look forward to building on this

with the implementation of holistic grazing across the estate.

We are still in the process of setting up the Infrastructure and that has meant that we must make some compromises in our grazing choices, but nevertheless, in a short period of time, we are already seeing an increase in plant diversity in some of the fields.

The herd have grazed old hay meadows on Bredon Hill this summer; electric fences split the hay banks into smaller paddocks, and the cattle grazed for a few days in each section, before moving on to the next. The fields have only been grazed three times this year by the



Kemerton Herd

Dusgate

cattle. The land has responded extremely well to the light grazing, impact of the cattle, and the long rest periods. There is already more diversity appearing - the photos below show vetch and self heal which has been increasing throughout the hay meadows.



Our aim is to outwinter the cattle on stockpiled forage and bale graze when necessary, the cattle won't receive any grain.

Meadows with native grass and flower diversity were specifically selected for hay making with the aim of adding this diversity into the fields through the bale pods. The bales will be laid out in rows, and split daily when the herd enter the bale pod. What could be perceived as 'wastage' hay actually serves a purpose; the cattle have areas to lie and hay is trampled into the ground adding organic matter and seed in to the soil.

The aim of stockpiling is to reduce wintering costs, which is the main cost to a beef business. This will make us much more resilient to price instability. In extreme years it might not be as effective, but if we can save costs three years out of four, then we are moving forwards.

Focusing on managing cheaper forage more efficiently and breeding cattle that can thrive on this cheaper forage is the key to the future profitability of the UK beef sector.

There is a real opportunity for native cattle breeds here if they are managed to their strengths. Too often you see breeders of native cattle taking the breed away from the natural advantages they have to chase a game they will never win.

Fertility, longevity and excellent forage conversion will be our key drivers in selection within the Kemerton Red Poll Herd.

Breeding bulls and females may become available throughout the year.

Updates about the grazing techniques and the cattle are posted on the Kemerton Herd Facebook page, as well as on Twitter.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/kemertonredpoll

Twitter: @RobHavard1@SD_Brightstock

The Story of Royal Mavis 26/1/1921

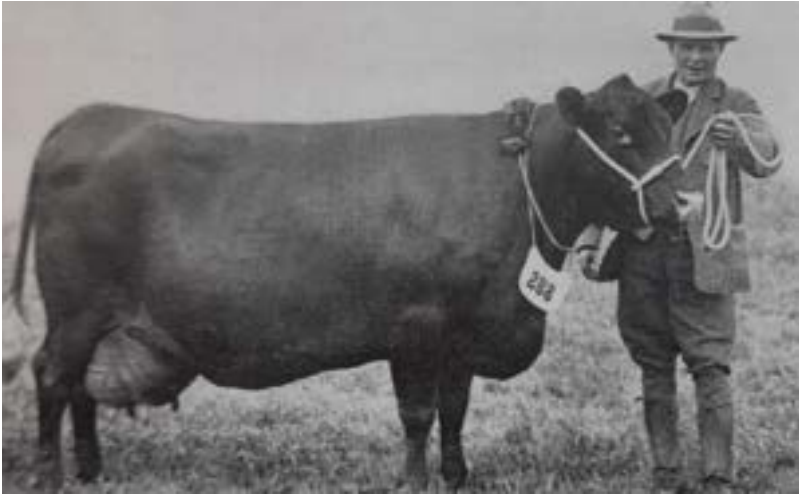
Royal Mavis was bred by King George V in 1921 and purchased as a two year old heifer by Sir Herbert Hambling of Yoxford, Suffolk, for 460 guineas.



This cow has the unique distinction of having been first at The Royal Show on three occasions. Once as a two year old in 1923, again in 1924, and again in 1929.



She was one of the twenty foundation cows for the Yoxford Herd which were purchased “regardless of expense” from the leading Red Poll Breeders in the country. Sir Herbert had after careful enquiry and consideration decided the Red Poll was “by far” the best breed.



Royal Mavis at ten years old



Royal Mavis in a painting owned by The Society

LIVESTOCK INFORMATION

Livestock Information Programme Update

16 September 2020

The Livestock Information Programme (LIP) objective remains to deliver a single, multispecies livestock movement service that meets the needs of both industry and government by replacing outdated existing services. The service will have as much commonality between the processes, user interfaces and data to be captured across species as is sensible, but will accommodate differences where they are legitimate. A key design principle is for the new service to be as simple to use as possible, recognising that the people making notifications are busy moving animals and not necessarily sitting in offices.

While initially, the data collected is likely to be the same as now, the Livestock Information Service (LIS) will drive improvements including paperless processes and more timely reporting, and will put data sharing at the heart in order to enable improvements in animal health and welfare, productivity and competitiveness.

The LIS will completely replace the three legacy services that trace cattle, pigs, and sheep, goats and deer and will aim to do so by the end of 2022.

The Livestock Information Programme is working closely with Defra and counterparts in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, who are driving parallel projects to build their own multi-species livestock traceability services. Our joint objective is to build services that work as seamlessly as possible across borders and come together to create a view of UK data that can be used for animal health, food safety and trade purposes.

The programme's original business plan outlined two major milestones in the creation of the LIS: first, build a multispecies service; second, implement it. **We remain on target to have our production-ready service by autumn 2020 and to have all English livestock in the service during 2022.** Our ambition and overall priorities are unchanged.

The Livestock Information Programme is nearing the end of the initial multispecies phase of the programme. The Shearwell IT platform that we have bought will be fully configured with sheep and cattle functionality in the first instance by the end of September.

Our first priority to transition to the LIS is sheep. This is because the existing sheep service (ARAMS) is an England-only service and our replacement will also be an England-only service. Therefore, it is within our

control, with nothing preventing a full transition to the LIS. We also think that there are opportunities to improve in due course the quality of traceability, and potentially help to provide the industry with data that could help with international trade post EU transition.

In terms of **switching users from ARAMS to the Livestock Information Service, our objective is to transition as many users as possible by the end of March 2021**, but a complete transition by then is not critical. We are not aiming for a formal launch but instead are taking an iterative delivery approach. This will start small, enabling us to learn and improve as we go, looking at how different users engage with the service, including those who use post and fax and email, and those who engage online including through third-party software providers. We don't expect much, or even any, change in the first instance. For example, people currently reporting movements by paper could continue to do so. Those who use the new digital user interface will have a better experience, but that will simply hint at better things to come. To start with, our aim is to make sure that the transition is as easy as possible for people who need to use the service, without compromising the quality of livestock information.

That does not mean that we are losing our ambition to make a step change in the quality of traceability and how users can record and report moves in the future. In parallel to transitioning from ARAMS to the Livestock Information Service, we are working with policy colleagues in Defra to explore whether we can run a pilot for end-to-end digital reporting, removing paper that is currently required for sheep in transit. We will of course carry out pilot activity in close engagement with the Traceability Design User Group (TDUG), livestock keepers and other service users. While this is a simple change in concept, the devil will be in the detail and it is important to us that we do not accidentally make processes harder for any users involved in the end to end movement process.

Meanwhile, the Livestock Information Programme is still working hard on its ear tag number allocation service (commonly called LUIS) and we also continue to invest in new data systems and people who can run them, to gather insight from the Livestock Information Service and make it more available to a range of users. This is central to our overall mission to underpin industry wide improvements, but we need to tread carefully and respectfully to make sure that we do not inappropriately share data that is personally or commercially sensitive. We will need to feel our way into this new journey, and are committed to working with Defra, AHDB and TDUG to feel our way and to make sure that we get this right.





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

Following the success of the photographic herd competition, earlier this year, we thought you might like to have another go with your cameras for...

A PHOTOGRAPHIC CALF SHOW

Open to animals born in 2020.

Photos front, rear and one side on.

No "show" photos please, just as they present themselves.

Please include date of birth, a name, and/or ear tag number.

Please email to the secretary@redpoll.co.uk in as simple a manner as possible (not from the cloud or any other such obscure hiding place)!

CLASSES

Animals born between 01/01/2020 & 31/03/2020

Bull calf

Heifer calf

Purebred steer calf

Crossbred heifer calf

Crossbred steer calf

Animals born between 01/04/2020 & 30/06/2020

Bull calf

Heifer calf

Purebred steer calf

Crossbred heifer calf

Crossbred steer calf

The competition ends 13th December 2020 so please get your entries in by then or they will not be judged.

Prizes will be awarded!

New Semen Available for 2021

Growth rates

Pinguis Jacob M0 – HBN: 27407

Eartag no: UK305506 700135

Born: 25th March 2019

Date	Weight Kg	Age Days	Growth rate kg/day
25.03.19	36		
08.09.19	225	167	1.13
01.12.12 (Weaning)	318	250	1.12
01.02.20	344	306	0.86
12.04.20	419	383	0.98
23.05.20	471	424	0.80
18.07.20	525	480	1.00
06.09.20	590	530	1.30
Average			1.04

Igenity Beef Profile:

Maternal Index: 5.55

Production Index: 4.80

Milk Yield of Boseley Poppy 44th

1st lactation

4576litres @ 3.83%BF & 3.79%P

2nd lactation

6267litres @ 4.04%BF & 3.82%P

Milk Yield of her dam Boseley Poppy 34th

1st lactation

4424litres @ 3.92%BF & 3.64%P

2nd lactation

5678litres @ 3.96%BF & 3.76%P

3rd lactation

5525litres @ 3.98%BF & 3.70%P

4th lactation

6014litres @ 4.02%BF & 3.66%P

5th lactation

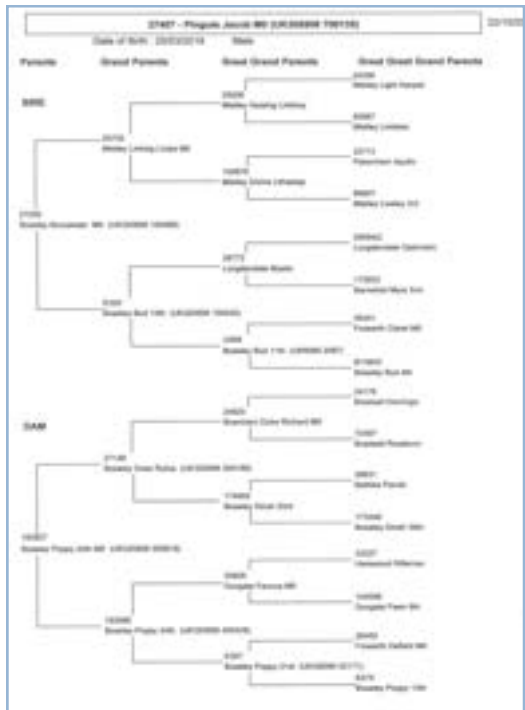
5620litres @ 3.94%BF & 3.63%P



Pinguis Jacob



Boseley and Pinguis Poppy



Red Polls in the Pennines

by P. E. H. Fowler

Those of you who were farming in 1944 will, no doubt, remember a Home Service programme on the radio called “Cattle at the Crossroads”. This was a series of six broadcasts discussing the future of cattle in the United Kingdom after the war. The younger mortals who were still a twinkle in their parents’ or indeed grandparents’ eyes who never heard the series can still take advantage of the book which was produced at the time which was a summarised transcript of what was discussed. In each programme academics and farmers gave their views on the future of the cattle industry and its development.

Interestingly what nobody forecast was the introduction of foreign breeds of cattle, the Fresian but not the Holstein being the only imported breed worth mentioning at the time.

The first chapter largely concentrated on the future of breeds. It gave two noticeable pieces of advice. Firstly, do not expect cattle native to a particular area of Britain to thrive out of that area; and secondly as the “well understood maxim among sheep men that every move a sheep makes must be for the better” as is “to buy sheep off better land than your own, the same is for cattle”, were two good pieces of advice to well heed, according to these sages of agriculture.

This was not a good omen for me because the very next day after I read this I was expecting the first two cattle of my starter herd arriving from Cheshire, the destination being not so much the Yorkshire dales as the Yorkshire Dales National Park hills miles away from their homeland in East Anglia.

To add insult to injury the example the late Professor Mansfield gave of taking their cattle away from their native area was actually Red Poll cattle indigenous to the light, dry, low arable land of the Eastern Counties to wet, cold high altitude land. It does not get much higher or wetter than what up to 1974 was the West Riding of Yorkshire and is now the Cumbrian fells to which my starter herd of seven were heading. You could almost hear those experts laugh at the thought.

Admittedly I did not have the advantage of this advice when I purchased nor the 1944 Red Poll herd book which a detailed perusal would have told me that in that year there was only one Red Poll herd in the Pennines. It belonged to Mr Roy Oldham in Lancashire who farmed 660 feet up at Royton. He farmed registered Red Polls from 1943 to 1946 with his Mahdlor Herd. This short period would appear to bear out the experts’ opinion. He remained a member of the Society until 1948 when his membership ceased.

So what possessed me to choose red polls? Thinking back it was an article in the Farmers Guardian extolling the virtues of the Red Poll and in particular its ability to turn scrub land into milk. A discussion with our then Field Officer the late Diana Flack who could sell ice cream at the North Pole persuaded me that Red Polls was the breed for me.

The milkiness of the Red Polls attracted me. Then a distant dream of mine was to turn milk into niche products such as butter. Nine years on a distant dream it remains.

It is logical to assume that animals in general will fare better moving to better ground than a worse terrain with its rougher pastures and meadows. A case can be

Fedw Stig 26877



Sire: Fedw Thomos

Dam: Fedw Crag

Born: 26:2:2002

Weight: June 2003 606kg January 2009 1150kg

Semen Available for UK & Export

Bulls for Hire

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Pinguisherd of Red Poll Cattle

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Email: jrw2@btinternet.com

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made that animals kept on the same farmstead that they were born on will do best because their genes have adapted to the soil and weather conditions of their particular home patch.

Experiments in moving a British breed from its home area to another part of the country will not always work and Cattle at the Crossroads quoted moving west country South Devon to Sussex failing, as an example of this.

However, the work carried out by the late Simon Temple with his prize winning cattle from his Bowland Herd and Richard Clowes with his bull Admergill Duke would have been a pleasant surprise to those giving their broadcast opinion in 1944.

I too have been luckier and those of my founding herd who came from the plains of Leicestershire and Cheshire (Pochin and Tatton) have fared better than the experts view of 1944 predicted. Perhaps this was due in part to being a small herd which obviously has more attention per beast than a large herd where more attention is given to the herd as a whole but I believe the most important reason is if they are to move farm do this while they are young so they have a lifetime to adapt and their progeny will know no other territory.

Indeed the Pochin Herd produced and registered 18 heifer calves in 2008. Of these only four are still alive and three of these are roaming the hills of Cumbria.

It was noticeable that when Nobody's Eclipse my second bull came on site, the first year he held back staying on the lower reaches of Rise Hill. However, on the second summer he could be found at the very top and when it was time for him to move on to fresh pastures (and greener and lusher ones at that) it was with great difficulty that we could entice him off those fells and even more difficult to load Eclipse into the waiting lorry.

Our third bull Appleton Hugabull from Tony Barrett's North West Norfolk herd, despite a 12 hour reluctance to leave his travelling van, has made himself very much at home and is happy as Larry on the heights of the Cumbrian fells.

One reason why the cows are happy up top is that they escape the summer flies and I put that down to only one case of mastitis being recorded in the herd in nine years. That was when I kept the original three Pochin cows on the fields below the farmhouse in a vain attempt to turn a bull calf into a bull. Nevertheless although in excellent health, to grow calves on roughage and haylage alone will not make big cattle in my experience.

So contrary to the doom mongers of 1944, Red Poll cattle can thrive in the hill country although moving those more delicate breeds such as Jerseys and Gloucesters would form a far greater challenge because the prime grass they need to flourish is just not available on England's top.

Note from the Secretary:

Peter Fowler established the Dentdale Herd in 2011 which comprises of 15 cows with 2020 born calves at foot (five of which entered the herd this year)

4 in-calf heifers

4 bulling heifers

4 yearling heifers

1 mature bull

1 young bull

18 steers of varying ages.



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

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—01245600032/07906761206 secretary@redpoll.co.uk
Area: South Suffolk, Essex, Greater London, Kent, Berkshire, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire, Somerset, Dorset, Wiltshire, Devon & Cornwall

Richard Brookes—07940547180 richardsjbrookes@gmail.com
Area: Norfolk, North Suffolk

Joy Broughton—07961428431 zulu623@gmail.com
Area: Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Oxfordshire, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire

John Williams—07860269044 jrw2@btinternet.com
Area: Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Yorkshire, Cheshire, Lancashire, Northumberland, Westmorland and Cumberland, North Wales

Anthea Daw—07508136409 antheadaw@live.com
Area: Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire, South Wales

John Anderson—07833664121 borenichjohn@gmail.com
Area: Scotland

If you wish to buy or sell cattle you should contact Ray Bowler on 01245600032 or 07906761206 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.

Your Council Needs You!

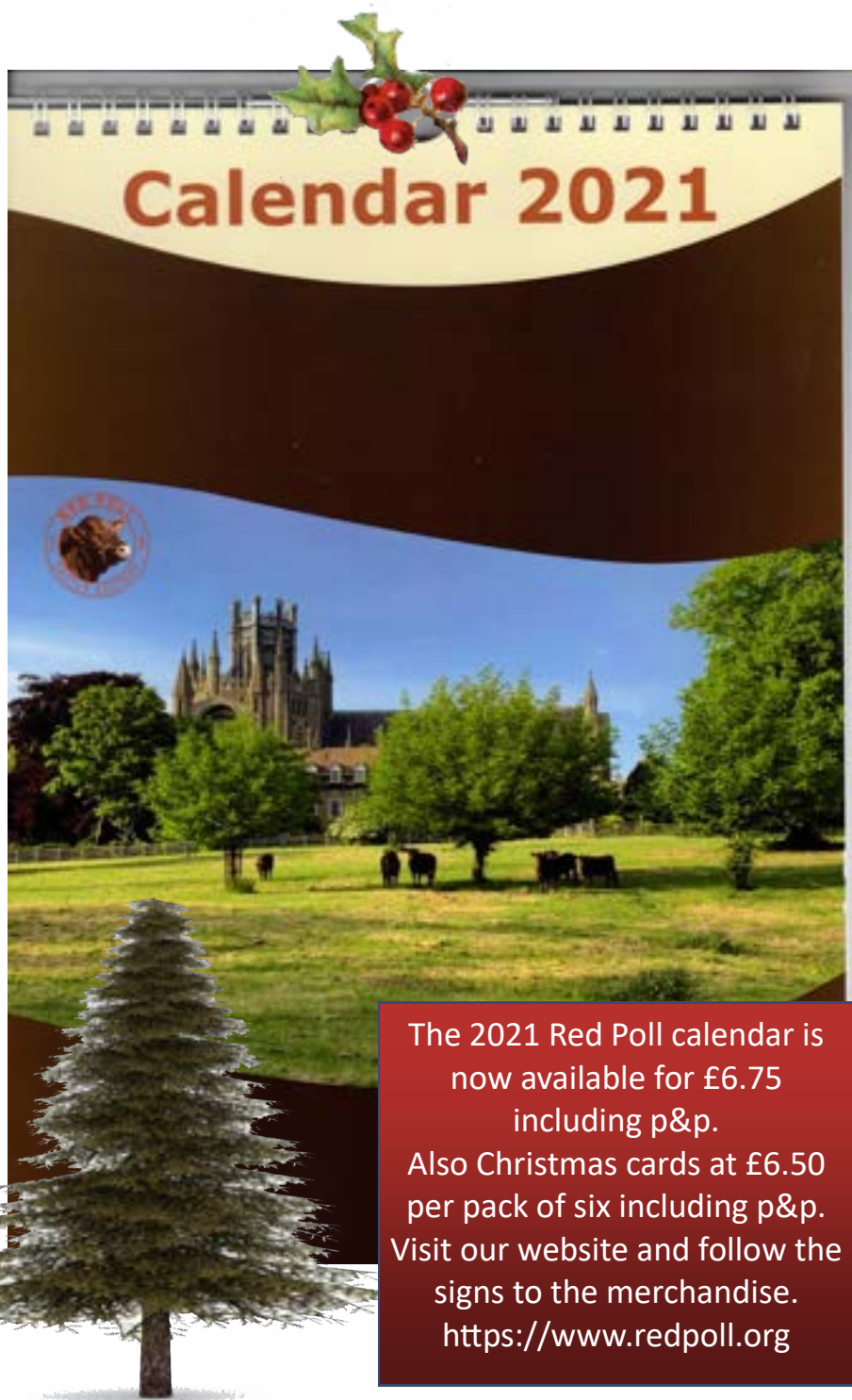
We have several places available to join the
Red Poll Cattle Society Council.

If you feel you could contribute to the running of our Society and help develop the breed for the future please consider putting your name forward for nomination. The Council meets four times a year with the committees meeting more often to work out the various briefs given to them, these committees then report to the Council.

If you have a particular skill with finance, breeding, social media, advertising or anything else that would enhance our promotion of the breed please consider putting yourself forward.

For any further information please get in touch with your area Field Officer or the Secretary.

Nomination papers are included in this newsletter or available to download from the website www.redpoll.org.



The 2021 Red Poll calendar is
now available for £6.75
including p&p.

Also Christmas cards at £6.50
per pack of six including p&p.
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signs to the merchandise.
<https://www.redpoll.org>