



BELTED GALLOWAY CATTLE SOCIETY

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WINTER
2014



Season's greetings to all our members and friends

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GOODBYE TO SKETCHING!

From 1st January 2015 a long-established practice in the registration of Belted Galloway calves will come to an end when **it will no longer be necessary to provide a sketch of the animal's markings on the registration form.** Many members will welcome this decision, which was taken at the Council meeting in July. Similarly it will no longer be necessary to submit a likeness of the animal when performing online registrations, thus bringing to two processes into line. The rules governing breed standards and registrations are published every year in the Annual Yearbook and breeders should note that this new development in no way diminishes the importance of markings as laid down in the rules. Instead of a sketch a breeder's declaration appears on the new registration form and by signing the form the breeder declares that the animal conforms to the breed standards as laid down in the Yearbook. Any animals found not to conform to the breed standards may be re-classified or even de-registered and this would obviously have a knock-on effect on any offspring the animal may have produced, so it is just as important to be sure that your calves comply with the standards. Copies of the new forms are included with this mailing and members may make copies of them or request more from the Secretary.

N.B. Another change to procedure which was agreed at the July Council meeting, also comes into force on 1st January 2015. From that day on **all birth notifications for which a certificate is not required will be free of charge**, whether notified on paper or online. Remember that a birth certificate will now not be issued unless asked for. Where a certificate is requested the fee will still be £6.00.

BREEDERS GROUPS

At a well-attended meeting held on November 16th the Southern Breeders Group was inaugurated. There was great enthusiasm for the new body which aims to promote the interests of the breed all over the south of England by holding events, attending shows, organising social functions and competitions. The group will operate under the umbrella of the Society and will complement rather than replace the work of the Society at large. Office holders include Jeremy Loxton (Chair 07775 943732); Alison Bunning (Secretary 01398 351165); Judith Galloway (Treasurer 01769 580868) and Deborah Powell (Publicity Officer 01886 812377).

The new group follows on from the establishment of the highly successful Irish Breeders Club which is already doing great work for the interests of the breed all over Ireland. Council hopes that before long the rest of the British Isles will be covered by regional groups and members are invited to contact their regional Council members who will organise regional meetings if there is sufficient interest. If regional groups can be established covering all of the Society's area then these could also act as preliminary area competitions feeding into a national herd competition, which many breeders have been asking for. Contacts for the other regions are as follows:-

Scotland Jennifer Taylor 07720 509223; Ian Marshall 07791 837949;
Jane Landers 01671 402179. **North of England** Max Welters 07780 610157;
Liz Wilkinson 07734 237456; Carolyn Fletcher 07711 415694.
Midlands Robert Adams 01335 330203.

If you are interested in helping out and attending an inaugural meeting please contact your nearest Council member and let them know.

SALES NEWS

There is much to report on the sales front following a meeting of Council's sales sub-committee earlier this month. Firstly, after a vote was taken at the recent meeting of the Southern Breeders Group, **it has been decided to hold the Society's official sale at Worcester market** next spring. The date will be in late May or early June and the deadline for entries will be the last week in April. The Carlisle spring sale is set for 16th May and Castle Douglas the 23rd October. The committee discussed complaints about lack of publicity for the sale deadlines and also expressed concern about the tendency for some breeders to submit registration forms for animals destined for the sales at a very late stage. This means they have to jump the queue for registrations and causes a large burden of work in the run up to the sales. Accordingly a schedule is printed below which vendors are asked to adhere to. For the avoidance of doubt it is the market's responsibility to send out schedules, entry forms and catalogues and in most cases these will only be posted to previous year's vendors and buyers. **DO NOT ASSUME YOU WILL BE GETTING ONE – CONTACT THE MARKET OR THE SOCIETY SECRETARY IN PLENTY OF TIME IF YOU INTEND TO CONSIGN ANIMALS TO ONE OF THE SALES. Late entries will not be accepted for any of the sales** and if late registration forms are submitted you run the risk of them not being processed in time for the entry deadline, which means the animals will not be eligible for the sale.

VENUE	SALE DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	ENTRY DEADLINE
Carlisle	16 th May 2015	6 th February 2015	10 th April 2015
Worcester	23 rd May 2015	21st February 2015	18 th April 2015
Castle Douglas	23 rd October 2015	13 th July 2015	7 th September 2015

In line with Council's policy of encouraging high animal health standards there will be new standards relating to BVD which all 2015 entries will have to comply with as follows:- **Carlisle and Worcester** – no restrictions on females but bulls must have completed a full BVD vaccination course and if they are not from an accredited herd they must have blood tested antigen negative. **Castle Douglas** – females must have completed a full course of BVD vaccination prior to being served and if not from an accredited herd they must have blood tested antigen negative. Bulls must have completed a full course of BVD vaccination and if not from an accredited herd they must have tested antigen negative. From 2016 onwards females at Carlisle and Worcester will be subject to the same rules as Castle Douglas. Persistently Infected animals ("P.I.s") are not eligible for our sales and should be slaughtered.

A health declaration form will cover these points and must be submitted with the sale entry form. Other enclosures with the entry form include pedigree certificates, payment for entry fees, and, if appropriate, health certificates, A.I. certificates and P.D. certificates (if these are not available at the entry stage P.D. certificates must accompany the animal to the sale). As with the 2014 sales the vendor transfer fee of £12.00 per head (inc. V.A.T.) will be deducted from the vendor's cheque from the market.

WEBSITE

We are making good progress with improvements to the Society's website, and the new interactive member map is now up and running. This will be a very useful tool for locating members and, by clicking on the marker a page comes up with the member's contact details and a link to their own website. If you are not on it yet don't worry – it is still work in progress and there will be many more to add as the census forms are returned. In this way members will be able to have a permanent presence on the Society's site and potential buyers will be able to find them much more easily.

CENSUS FORM

Enclosed with this mailing you will find a census form which is designed to keep the information we have about members up to date. It will allow us to upload accurate details about members onto our website and to publish them in our Annual Yearbook. However, data protection laws mean we cannot publish your details without your express permission, so there is also a section for you to sign if you would like your contact details to be published. We are also asking for information about beef production as we are often asked whether it would be possible to co-ordinate beef marketing in order to improve the returns to members for their beef animals. After all, if the Society registers about 1,000 females per year there must also be 1,000 bulls and steers being produced as well. Finally, to make it as easy as possible for you we have included a stamped addressed envelope and everyone who returns their census form will receive a free gift from the Society as a token of our appreciation.

SPECIAL OFFER

The Society regularly advertises with the Farmers Guardian and the paper has offered a special deal to Society members in recognition of this. If you subscribe to the weekly publication you would receive it for £95.38 per year instead of the standard price of £153.40, and you will receive a free pair of overalls. In addition, if you take an advert in one of the Society's sale promotions you can add a free photo, reducing the cost of your advert by more than half. For more information phone 0800 2799928 quoting CLBGA15.