

SUSSEX CATTLE SOCIETY HERD COMPETITION 2020

CHAMPION SUSSEX HERD

Judge: Mr. Angus Stovold

Judge's Comment

I would like to thank the Sussex Cattle Society for asking me to judge the Champion Herd 2020 and to Bill Peters, your Chairman for taking me around and making it such an enjoyable day.

Three very different herds made it an interesting competition, each had very good attributes.

Small Herd: High Weald Herd, 14 cows (Organic)

The High Weald Herd were a superb example of cows that have come from a long established unit, they were all very similar with very good feet, udders and structure. It is an organic farm with only grass available, the stock is easily finished on this system, pasture fed and finished on an extensive organic system is in many ways the future.

Intermediate Herd: Maygate Herd, 20 cows

The Maygate Herd, had excellent cows although different types, they have some superb calves and some great combinations of cow/calf. They also had some wonderful yearling heifers and three cracking yearling bulls. They had a superb stock bull that had really stamped himself on the herd.

Large Herd: Titsey Herd, 120 cows

The Titsey herd, were running two Spring herds and an Autumn herd, all cows were a type with good structure feet and udders, it is run commercially but the calves were all similar and growing well. They had a very good crop of heifers that were with the bull. The system works, finished stock and bulls are sold locally. It is very well run, and the Sussex is the ideal animal for this farm.

I have deliberated for days as to the right winner, and all three have been my winner during this time however as a professional farmer I am going to put the **Titsey Herd as Champion** because they demonstrate that the Sussex breed can be successfully farmed commercially and the herd although not a show herd were very even throughout.

SMALL HERDS Judge: Ms. J. Howard

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| 1st | S.E. Hodson | High Weald Herd |
| 2nd | Mrs. S. Watts | Montgomery's Herd |
| 3rd | Mrs V Deradour | Wren's Herd |
| 4th | Mrs. C. Maldonado & Mr. J. Young | Tandridge Herd |

Best Cow/Heifer and Calf In Class: Mrs. S. Watts' Montgomery's Crocus 18th

Judges' General Comment:

It was not easy judging this year's Small Herd Competition as there was not a great deal to choose between all five herds seen.

After a long dry summer all the cattle looked well and were obviously milking well as they had good strong calves. Not all the herds had their own bulls but of the five entries two had very impressive young stock bulls that were very good examples of the breed.

In terms of management there was lots of variation, but in all cases there seems to be a ready market for Sussex grass fed native beef. Some calving patterns were tighter than others and it makes the management of the herd so much easier if this can be achieved so it is certainly something to work towards.

I was especially impressed by all the in-calf heifers seen and looking to the future these will drive the herds forward to be better still in the years ahead.

Thank you to everyone for entering the competition in this difficult year and for your enthusiasm for Sussex cattle. It was a joy to see.

INTERMEDIATE HERDS Judge: Mr. J. Thompson

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| 1st | D. Spanton & F. Paterson | Maygate Herd |
| 2nd | A.J. Robinson & Partners | Sproutes Herd |
| 3rd | L. Stevens & Sons | Boxted Herd |
| 4th | Augustinian Care | Augustinian Herd |

Best Cow/Heifer and Calf In Class: L. Stevens & Sons' Boxted Prebble 21st

Judges' General Comment:

I would like to thank all the herds for entering this year, I had a very enjoyable two days judging.

This was made difficult as some farms looking like they had the best grass around, others could have been in the middle of South Africa! With that in mind the condition of the cattle were very different and some tough management decisions to be made. Even though like last year young bulls is a big concern of the Society, there seemed to be very good breeding heifers around by all farms.

The Cow & Calf competition was highly contested and could have gone one of four ways.

I would like to thank again all entrants for the time and effort everyone has put in this year.

LARGE HERDS Judge: Mrs. B. Hide

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| 1st | Mr. D. Innes | Titsey Herd |
| 2nd | Chandler & Dunn Ltd | Goldstone Herd |
| 3rd | The Earl De La Warr | Buckhurst Herd |

Best Cow/Heifer and Calf In Class: Chandler & Dunn Ltd.'s Lofty Lily 35th of Goldstone

Judges' General Comment:

Firstly, thank you for the three herds making it easy for me and the young lady I brought round to look at the herds in what is very different times.

All three herds are involved in Environmental Schemes which makes some management decisions difficult at times.

I saw some very good cows all looking very well in a year where most herds have had a lack of grass due to the very difficult weather we have seen this year.

All herds had some very good in-calf heifers in ideal condition for calving. Some of the younger cattle did look to have suffered due to the shortness in grass of late.

Stock bulls, on the whole, were of a good standard, bull said they are always looking to improve and source different bloodlines.

Will conclude in thanking the hosts for lunch on both days.