



SUSSEX CATTLE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER Autumn 2024 Issue 327



We hope you are all keeping well and managing to cope with the horrendous weather this Autumn. The Society continues to thrive. This summer's shows may have lacked entries and Sussex might not have had as many interbreed successes but the quality and standard was not lacking, well done to all the breeders and stockpersons who put on such a magnificent show of Sussex.

SALE OF SUSSEX BULLS and BREEDING FEMALES

On-Line Sale 12/13th March 2025



Auctioneers



MartEye

Sussex Cattle Society

An honour bestowed by the King

As the number of herds of Sussex cattle continue to grow, The Sussex Cattle Society is honoured to announce that following The King's accession to the throne and a review of all his patronages, His Majesty has agreed to continue his patronage and support for this long-established native breed.

Will Hurley, President of the Society said, "His Majesty's decision to honour us with his Patronage means the world to all Sussex Cattle breeders. For decades he has worked tirelessly to support native breeds and the fact that Windsor has the largest pedigree Sussex herd in the country is a huge source of pride to our Society. His Majesty's patronage is a rare honour in which we take the greatest pride".

Beef farmers are increasingly choosing Sussex cattle for lots of different reasons, reflecting the ability of the breed to deliver a profitable return under very different management systems. In larger commercial enterprises greater attention is now paid to breeding values with decisions being data driven, something The Sussex Cattle Society has encouraged by making Signet recording free to all its members. However, at the other end of the spectrum a lot of the newer herds have been established to capitalise on the breeds suitability for extensive, low grade conservation grazing schemes especially as pedigree Sussex are on the native breed at risk register and so eligible for a supplementary payment.

Sussex cattle deliver a profit under many systems

The Titsey Herd

Strangely enough many of you will have driven through the Titsey Estate near Oxted, Surrey, without realising it. In 1984 a strip of land across the farm was purchased for the new M25 motorway including a sizeable plot to build Clacket Lane Services near Junction 5. Just one of the many events in the long history of an estate first recorded in 1534.

In 1979 Titsey was established as a private charitable trust for the public good and soon after public access was granted. Over the years the acreage has waxed and waned. Pitchfont, the home farm of the estate, comprises 350 acres of permanent grass and a further 300 arable – mainly milling wheat, feed barley and maize.

Bill Peters arrived at Pitchfont as farm manager in 1986 when the principal income came from 130 pedigree Holstein cows, but in 2009 the decision was taken to come out of dairy and establish a suckler herd that would run alongside an increased arable enterprise.

Bill, with the owner Mr David Innes, had then to decide which breed of beef cattle to buy. At the time most large commercial herds were using Continental breeds, with natives seen as a niche market providing tastier beef but economically difficult to justify on any scale.

But with a great deal of low grade grassland

at Titsey, the increasing likelihood of summer droughts in the South East and lots of public access across the land, a thrifty, docile, self-sufficient breed which would finish on far from perfect pasture, seemed a more obvious choice. And being in the South East the decision was made to go with the local Sussex breed.

Despite having spent a lifetime breeding and judging dairy cattle Bill knew exactly what type of suckler cow he was looking for in his foundation stock. "I firmly believe in setting a goal and sticking to it. I knew what I was looking for and one of the main reasons for choosing Sussex was that I knew I would have a good selection of cows, heifers and bulls to choose from.

"Mention Sussex to most farmers who haven't seen them and they think of small dark cattle and fat heifers, but in recent years there has been a great deal of breed development, and today the modern Sussex cow is much longer and leaner – I only need them fat on the day they go to market. I wanted a cow with a good topline, a good carry in the udder and a quiet temperament. And down the line I also wanted longevity as a long breeding life reduces the depreciation on each animal and impacts on the bottom line. Having her first calf at three, I would expect each cow to deliver me 10 calves





Sussex cattle without issue, after that, they only return to the bull if they are still producing and raising good strong calves but there are plenty of cows in the yard right now doing just that.”

Today there are 120 pedigree breeding Sussex cows and four stock bulls at Titsey. Two thirds calve in the spring and the rest in the

autumn, though with a growing customer base requiring year-round beef, this split will likely even out in the future.

One bull goes in with the maiden heifers in May and then other bulls are turned out in groups with the spring-calved cows and their calves in June. They graze extensively and stay outside until the weather turns, usually in November when they all come in and get weaned. At this point most of the bull calves are cut, with about 10 kept entire which are reviewed again in the spring and either kept to sell on as breeding bulls or fattened as bull beef. All the males are fed on ad-lib grass and maize silage with supplementary rolled barley, and stay housed until they are fat and ready to kill. The heifer calves overwinter on good quality forage and are turned out again the following spring.

The two year old spring calving heifers are over wintered on ad-lib hay. They calve in March a month before the cows which ensures they get close attention. “One of the great things about Sussex is that they are easy calvers. Last year we calved 150 head. We had to help maybe half a dozen heifers but the cows will generally just get on with it by themselves. And should we get problems it is usually down to the choice of bull and we will move these on if that proves to be the case”.

The aim is to see 100 animals a year leaving the farm as fat cattle with the rest being kept as replacements or sold as breeding stock. They are finished at between 18 and 24 months aiming for a 320-350kg U4 carcass killing out around 57%. Bill is aware that they will have greater fat covering than that required by the supermarket trade, but he says butchers in this part of the world want it and know how to butcher Sussex.

The Outwood Butchers, a local independent, had not considered selling Sussex beef before Bill knocked at their door: now they take a bullock every fortnight. In addition, Steve Conisbee, of F. Conisbee & Son, believed to be the second oldest butcher in the country, also takes some to supplement his own homebred Sussex. “The Sussex gives depth of flavour, consistently marbling well and a good converter of grass and forage. I find the animals never cut as fat as they look, you have to ignore the fat deposits at the tailhead and brisket. If they were an Angus cross looking that fat, they would be over fat but that’s not

the case for the Sussex.” There is also a popular pub on the Titsey Estate that only sells homegrown beef and any spare go through the fat ring at Hailsham market.

The Goldstone Herd

Roger Dunn is finishing steers at 20 months on an extensive system at his farm on the Kent marshes..

The 600 hectare farm at Goldstone is flat land, whipped by winds that storm in off the North Sea, not the most hospitable of environments. About 200 hectares is down to fruit, 200 to arable and the poorer pasture that is not suitable for cropping is grazed by a herd of some 160 Sussex cows and followers. These are split into two groups one calving in March/April and the other in September/ October, a system that allows to calve the heifers at two and half years.

“The herd was established by my father with a nucleus of traditional Sussex cattle. Using a Red Angus bull he was very keen to develop polled cattle and so was one of the early pioneers of breed development. While the majority of the Goldstone cattle are now polled, we have continued the development programme using Salers to introduce more scale.

Interestingly however, he is now wary of going too far down this route having found that anything with more than about 1/16th continental blood proves too expensive to finish on the quality of the pasture found at Goldstone.

The spring born calves, heifers and the castrated bulls – are turned out in March/ April until they are weaned in November. The location of the buildings means the cattle are wintered in the centre of the operation, an

“While the majority of the Goldstone cattle are now polled, we have continued the development programme using Salers to introduce more scale.



The Sussex cows are very hardy requiring little input in return for an annual live calf.

ideal situation for maximising the by-products of the other enterprises such as apples, pears and potatoes. Apart from these by-products, the calves are fed on silage analysed and then mixed with a Keenan feeder to give a total mixed ration with a 16% protein level. This is fed ad-lib with each animal consuming about 20kg of silage a day.

These yearlings are then turned back out in the spring and some of the steers will be ready to kill off grass by the autumn. The remainder are overwintered on the same total mixed ration with at least two being drawn off each week to be slaughtered locally and then sold through the on-farm shop. The most recently killed steer was sixteen months old, live weight 478kg, dead weight 260 kg (54%) producing 171kg of sellable meat retailing at over £2000 and representing a significant profit once all costs have been accounted for.

Concludes Roger “This extensive system works well here on the Kent marshes. The Sussex cows are very hardy requiring little input in return for an annual live calf. Last year we put all our cows to Sussex bulls of which 21 were heifers. Of these, two were empty, and from the others we had 100% live calves with just 3 assists, one major and two tugs. With this level of fertility and self sufficiency, our Sussex suckler herd fits very well into this busy farm where all too often there seem to be more pressing things to attend to.”

The Trottenden Herd

Vanessa McNaughton farms at Trottenden in Kent, a 75 Ha farm outside Goudhurst of which 68 Ha is permanent pasture with the remainder in small parcels of woodland. The pedigree Sussex herd was started there in



The Burke Trophy

1972 and now comprises around 30 suckler cows, with the followers sold for breeding or finishing in their own beef box scheme. The cows are kept outside for as long as the ground allows, and then fed on grass silage during housing. As excellent converters of forage, Sussex cattle at the farm are ideally suited to this low input system and appreciated for their easy calving and docile nature.

Grant income has always been important and the farm has been in stewardship schemes since they became available, and from 2024 has been in Higher Level Stewardship. The advantage of running a pedigree Sussex herd in this scheme is that the breed is on the native breed at risk register which pays a supplement on land grazed in GS7 (regeneration towards species rich grassland) and WD6 (creation of wood pasture).



Goldstone Herd

Recent Highlights

In order to encourage more young people to get involved in the breed, last year The Society established a "Next Generation" group. Open to anyone from 16 to 30 (ish!) there is a programme of events throughout the year to generate interest in the breed and pass on best practice. Educational workshops have included "Selecting breeding heifers, including best use of Signet data" and "Show etiquette and choosing a show team".

And on that subject Sussex have had some notable interbreed success on the show circuit in the past couple of years.

In 2022 the team was reserve in the



prestigious Burke Trophy, and Jane Howard's Sussex Bull "Coopers Regent 3rd" was judged supreme male champion at the 2023 South of England show 2024 saw the Society run its first ever on-line pedigree breeding sale. Twenty three bulls were entered, five sold in excess of 5,000 guineas and a top price of 7,200gns for J&S Harmer's two year old bull Offham Poll Crusader 9th set a record for Sussex bulls.

Interest in Sussex as a breed with a useful carcass, an ability to thrive on less than perfect pasture, easy calving, longevity and importantly a very bidable temperament make it well suited to today's market and demand looks set to continue to rise. ■

This year Sussex cattle classes will be held at shows throughout the South East as well as the Suffolk County and Royal Norfolk Show.

For further information contact:

The Sussex Cattle Society

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Bill Peter's Titsey Herd

SUMMER SHOW RESULTS

HEATHFIELD AGRICULTURAL SHOW Judge Mr Peter Masters

COW in milk or in calf born on or before 30/06/21

1st Buchanan Family Black Ven Koskimo 80th

SENIOR HEIFER born on or between 01/07/21 & 30/06/22

1st Montreal Estate Montreal Poll Snowdrop 4th

2nd Buchanan Family Black Ven Koskimo 101st

INTERMEDIATE HEIFER born on or between 01/07/22 & 31/12/23

1st J. Hobden Nunningham Sylph 2nd

2nd J. & S. Harmer Offham Lock Heedless 4th

3rd J. Hobden Nunningham Heedless 1st

JUNIOR HEIFER born on or between 01/01/23 & 30/06/23

1st J. Hobden Nunningham Terpsichore 1st

2nd J. Hobden Nunningham Poll Delia 2nd

3rd J. & S. Harmer Offham Lady 30th

SENIOR BULL born on or before 31/12/21

1st J. & S. Harmer Offham Crusader 4th

JUNIOR BULL born on or after 01/01/23 & 30/06/23

1st J. Howard Coopers Major 5th

2nd D. Spanton & F. Paterson Maygate Poll Duke 4th

3rd J. Howard Coopers Poll Major 2nd

BEST MATCHING GROUP

1st J. Hobden

FEMALE CHAMPION

Nunningham Sylph 2nd

FEMALE RESERVE

Nunningham Terpsichore 1st

MALE CHAMPION

Offham Crusader 4th

MALE RESERVE

Coopers Major 5th

BREED CHAMPION

Nunningham Sylph 2nd

BREED RESERVE

Offham Crusader 4th

INTER-BREED CHAMPIONSHIPS

RESERVE CHAMPION INTER-BREED BEEF GROUPS J. Hobden

RESERVE BEST FEMALE (BEEF BREEDS) Nunningham Sylph 2nd

SUFFOLK SHOW

Judge: Mr. M. Gee. Hickman

COW with calf at foot who has had a full term calf since 01/06/23

1st Buchanan Family Black Ven Koskimo 80th

SENIOR HEIFER in calf, born in 2022

1st Montreal Estate Montreal Poll Snowdrop 4th

2nd Chandler & Dunn Ltd. Goldstone Lofty Lily 62nd

3rd Chandler & Dunn Ltd. Goldstone Poll Esther 91st

4th Montreal Estate Montreal Poll Clementine 7th

JUNIOR MAIDEN HEIFER born in 2023

1st Montreal Estate Montreal Poll Heedless 3rd

2nd J. & S. Harmer Offham Lady 30th

3rd Chandler & Dunn Ltd. Goldstone Gaiety 118th

4th Montreal Estate Montreal Poll Gispy 10th

SENIOR BULL born before 01/01/23

1st J. & S. Harmer Offham Crusader 4th

JUNIOR BULL, born on or after 01/01/23

1st Chandler & Dunn Ltd. Goldstone Captain 5th

SPECIAL - Best Group of Three

1st Chandler & Dunn Ltd.

2nd J. & S. Harmer

FEMALE CHAMPION

Montreal Poll Snowdrop 4th

FEMALE RESERVE

Black Ven Koskimo 80th

MALE CHAMPION

Offham Crusader 4th

MALE RESERVE

Goldstone Captain 5th

BREED CHAMPION

Montreal Poll Snowdrop 4th

BREED RESERVE

Black Ven Koskimo 80th

SOUTH OF ENGLAND SHOW Judge: Mr Alistair Smith – Nottinghamshire

COW in calf or with calf at foot Born on or before 30/06/21

1st Buchanan Family Black Ven Koskimo 80th

SENIOR HEIFER born on or between 01/07/21 & 30/06/2022

1st Chandler & Dunn Ltd. Goldstone Lofty Lily 62nd

2nd D. Spanton & F. Paterson Maygate Poll Shadow 9th

3rd Buchanan Family Black Ven Koskimo 101st

INTERMEDIATE HEIFER, born on or between 01/07/22 & 31/12/22

1st J. Hobden Nunningham Sylph 2nd

2nd J. & S. Harmer Offham Lock Heedless 4th

3rd Chandler & Dunn Ltd. Goldstone Poll Esther 91st

JUNIOR HEIFER born in 2023

1st J. Hobden Nunningham Terpsichore 1st

2nd J. Hobden Nunningham Poll Delia 2nd

3rd J. & S. Harmer Offham Lady 30th

4th D. Spanton & F. Paterson Maygate Poll Esther 1st

Coopers Poll Regent 3rd



SENIOR BULL born before 01/01/23

1st J. Howard Coopers Poll Regent 3rd
 2nd J. & S. Harmer Offham Crusader 4th

JUNIOR BULL born 2023

1st D. Spanton & F. Paterson Maygate Poll Duke 4th
 2nd J. Howard Coopers Major 5th
 3rd J. Howard Coopers Poll Major 2nd
 4th Chandler & Dunn Ltd. Goldstone Captain 5th

Group of Three owned by Exhibitor

1st J. Hobden
 2nd J. & S. Harmer
 3rd J. Howard
 4th Chandler & Dunn Ltd.

Progeny Group of Three

1st J. Howard
 2nd D. Spanton & F. Paterson

JUNIOR CHAMPION Nunningham Terpsichore 1st
FEMALE CHAMPION Black Ven Koskimo 80th
FEMALE RESERVE Nunningham Sylph 2nd
MALE CHAMPION Coopers Poll Regent 3rd
MALE RESERVE Offham Crusader 4th
BREED CHAMPION Black Ven Koskimo 80th
BREED RESERVE Nunningham Sylph 2nd

INTER-BREED CHAMPIONSHIPS

RESERVE Inter-Breed Beef - Champion Male Coopers Poll Regent 3rd
RESERVE Inter-Breed Junior Native Beef Championship Nunningham Terpsichore 1st
BEEF - TEAMS OF FOUR 4th Sussex Team

OTHER INTERBREED CLASSES

Commercial Beef 2nd Nunningham Sylph 2nd

ROYAL NORFOLK SHOW Judge Mr Donald Masters**SENIOR HEIFER born on or between 01/01/22 & 31/12/22**

1st Chandler & Dunn Ltd. Goldstone Lofty Lily 62nd
 2nd Montreal Estate Mayfield Poll Snowdrop 4th
 3rd J. Howard Coopers Heedless 4th
 4th J. & S. Harmer Offham Gaiety 61st

JUNIOR HEIFER born on or after 01/01/23

1st J. & S. Harmer Offham Lady 30th
 2nd Montreal Estate Montreal Clementine 7th
 3rd Montreal Estate Montreal Poll Heedless 3rd

SENIOR BULL born prior to 01/01/23

1st J. Howard Coopers Poll Regent 3rd
 2nd J. & S. Harmer Offham Crusader 4th

JUNIOR BULL born on or after 01/01/23

1st Montreal Estate Montreal Duke 7th
 2nd D. Spanton & F. Paterson Maygate Poll Duke 4th
 3rd J. Howard Coopers Major 5th
 4th Chandler & Dunn Ltd. Goldstone Captain 5th

BEST OF BREED GROUP OF THREE

1st Chandler & Dunn Ltd.
 2nd Montreal Estate

JUNIOR CHAMPION	Offham Lady 30th
JUNIOR RESERVE	Montreal Duke 7th
FEMALE CHAMPION	Goldstone Lofty Lily 62nd
FEMALE RESERVE	Offham Lady 30th
MALE CHAMPION	Coopers Poll Regent 3rd
MALE RESERVE	Offham Crusader 4th
BREED CHAMPION	Coopers Poll Regent 3rd
BREED RESERVE	Goldstone Lofty Lily 62nd

KENT COUNTY SHOW

Judge: Mr Simon Jenner

COW OR HEIFER in milk or in calf born before 01/01/22

1st	C.E. & W.S. Millson	Trottenden Poll Prebble 6th
2nd	Montreal Estate	Montreal Poll Heedless 1st

SENIOR HEIFER born before 01/01/23

1st	Montreal Estate	Montreal Poll Snowdrop 4th
2nd	Chandler & Dunn Ltd.	Goldstone Lofty Lily 62nd
3rd	Chandler & Dunn Ltd.	Goldstone Poll Esther 91st
4th	Montreal Estate	Montreal Poll Clementine 7th

JUNIOR HEIFER born in 2023

1st	Montreal Estate	Montreal Poll Heedless 3rd
2nd	Chandler & Dunn Ltd.	Goldstone Gaiety 118th
3rd	Montreal Estate	Montreal Clementine 11th
4th	Cobtree YFC [M. Essex]	Flowerfield Mabel 1st

SENIOR BULL born before 01/01/23

1st	C.E. & W.S. Millson	Petworth Regent 11th
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JUNIOR BULL born in 2023

1st	Montreal Estate	Montreal Duke 7th
2nd	Chandler & Dunn Ltd.	Goldstone Captain 5th

GROUP OF THREE ANIMALS

1st	Chandler & Dunn Ltd.
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FEMALE CHAMPION	Montreal Poll Snowdrop 4th
MALE CHAMPION	Petworth Regent 11th
MALE RESERVE	Montreal Duke 7th
BREED CHAMPION	Montreal Poll Snowdrop 4th
BREED RESERVE	Petworth Regent 11th

INTER-BREED CHAMPIONSHIPS

JUNIOR BEEF MALE	4th Montreal Duke 7th
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EDENBRIDGE & OXTED SHOW

Judge: Mr Alan Mummery, Kent

COW OR HEIFER (in milk or in calf). Born before 01/01/22

1st	Buchanan Family	Black Ven Koskimo 80th
2nd	D. Spanton & F. Paterson	Maygate Poll Marianne 1st
3rd	Montreal Estate	Montreal Poll Heedless 1st

SENIOR HEIFER born in 2022

1st	J. Hobden	Nunningham Sylph 2nd
2nd	D. Spanton & F. Paterson	Maygate Poll Shadow 9th
3rd	J. Howard	Coopers Heedless 4th
4th	Montreal Estate	Montreal Poll Snowdrop 4th

JUNIOR HEIFER born in 2023

1st	J. Hobden	Nunningham Poll Delia	2nd
2nd	J. Hobden	Nunningham Terpsichore	1st
3rd	Montreal Estate	Montreal Poll Heedless	3rd
4th	Montreal Estate	Montreal Clementine	11th

SENIOR BULL born before 01/01/23

1st	J. Howard	Coopers Poll Regent	3rd
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JUNIOR BULL born on or after 01/01/23

1st	D. Spanton & F. Paterson	Maygate Poll Duke	4th
2nd	Montreal Estate	Montreal Duke	7th
3rd	J. Howard	Coopers Major	5th
4th	J. Hobden	Nunningham Jack Daniels	5th

BEST PAIR

1st	J. Hobden
2nd	J. Howard
3rd	Montreal
4th	Cobtree YFC [M. Essex]

FEMALE CHAMPION

Black Ven Koskimo 80th

FEMALE RESERVE

Nunningham Poll Delia 2nd

MALE CHAMPION

Coopers Poll Regent 3rd

MALE RESERVE

Maygate Poll Duke 4th

BREED CHAMPION

Black Ven Koskimo 80th

BREED RESERVE

Coopers Poll Regent 3rd

OTHER INTERBREED CLASSES

NATIVE BULL CALF born between 01/09/23 - 31/12/23 2nd Nunningham Jack Daniels 5th

Black Ven Koskimo 80th



HERDS COMPETITION 2024

LARGE HERDS

JUDGES: Mrs. S. Harmer & Mr. W. Hurley

1st	E.H Holdstock & Son	Elbridge Herd
2nd	Chandler & Dunn Ltd.	Goldstone Herd
3rd	S & F Carr & Daughters	Oxendean Herd
4th=	Bowes Lyon Estate	Walden Herd
4th=	Mr. G.A. Innes	Titsey Herd

Best Stock Bull in Class: Goldstone Poll General 2nd at the Goldstone Herd

Best Cow/Heifer and Calf in Class: Elbridge Belle 152nd at the Elbridge Herd

Judges' General Comment

Will and I would like to thank all the exhibitors for taking the time to show us round their cows and their generous hospitality. We enjoyed our judging and saw some very impressive cattle.

All five herds were managed to a very high standard and the cattle reflected that level of care and enthusiasm. The wet year has caused problems delaying turn out for most herds but the extra forage has meant the cattle were generally in much better condition than last year.

The display of breeding bulls, young and old, was an excellent showing of quality and an improvement on last year. The cattle were doing the job that their breeders required, some on poor pasture at which Sussex cattle excel.

Two herds displayed true Sussex character; the other three herds showed strong influences throughout from upgrading with or from other breeds.

INTERMEDIATE HERDS

JUDGES: Mr. M.G. Hickman & Mr. L. Angus

1st	D Spanton & F Paterson	Maygate Herd
2nd	L Stevens and Sons	Boxted Herd
3rd	Hampton Estate Farms	Hampton Herd
4th	Broadlands Estates	Broadlands Herd

Best Stock Bull in Class: Maygate Poll Duke 1st at the Maygate Herd

Best Cow/Heifer and Calf in Class: Wadhurst Park Marsh Orchid 1st at the Wadhurst Park Herd

Judges' General Comment

Thank you everyone who showed me around there herds, twelve in total over five counties.

It was a hard decision to make in the final results. Lot of thinking was done driving on M25. Various management systems were used but the cattle were amazing in whatever system there were used in. Even grazing common land. Have to say the females outshone the males this year.

Very pleased to see some new herds entering competition.

Thanks again for your time and support

SMALL HERDS

JUDGES: Mrs. B. Hide & Mr. L. Snelgrove

1st	Ms. J. Howard	Coopers Herd
2nd	Virginia Deradour	Wren's Herd
3rd	Mrs. S. Watts	Montgomery's Herd
4th	Mr. H. Spence	Cranesden Herd

Best Stock Bull in Class: Coopers Poll Regent 3rd at the Coopers Herd

Best Cow/Heifer and Calf in Class: Wren's Poll Coronet 2nd at the Wren's Herd

Judges' General Comment

Firstly, we would like to thank everybody for their time and hospitality if it was a cuppa, slice of cake, lunch or just a glass of water all very much appreciated.

We saw a very varied mix of systems from chalk downland to heavy clay and very thing in between all the cattle looked very well which ever system they were being farmed under.

The enthusiasm for the breed was shown in all herds and for their cattle working for them in very different systems.

HIGHEST PLACE NOVICE ENTRANT : Hampton Herd

CHAMPIONSHIP Judge Rhys Grenham **Results to be announced at the Farm Walk.**

It was a pleasure and a privilege to be asked by the Society to judge this championship. Each herd demonstrated the very best characteristics of the breed within its setting, showing the versatility of the Sussex and what they can offer to farmers in different grazing environments.

On my champion. They have established a strong, balanced, correct and consistent type that should make any Sussex breeder very proud. I also saw outstanding youngstock that inspire confidence in the next generation not only continuing but further improving the herd.

My thanks to the finalists for their warm welcome and time. Each of the finalists showed a true dedication to the breed.



Major update to the Sussex Cattle Evaluation



Another 18,000 Sussex cattle records have been added to Signet's National Sussex Cattle Breeding Evaluation as part of a recent data sharing project between the Sussex Cattle Society and Signet Breeding Services.

The inclusion of this data will strengthen genetic linkage between herds, enhance our assessment of less well recorded animals and give new breeders entering the Society's weight recording scheme a better idea of where the breeding values for their animals are likely to start.

Breed benchmarks will be updated to reflect genetic performance across the breed, not just within active weight recording Sussex herds.

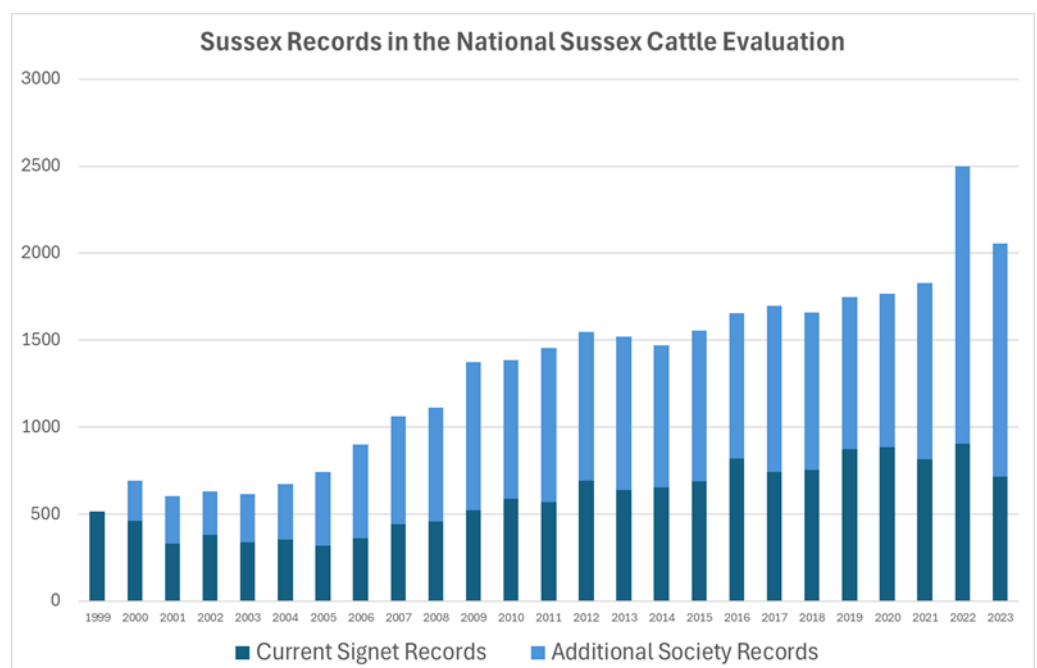
There are likely to be implications for breeders that currently recorded their herd with Signet, with some Signet pedigrees being extended and others corrected to match the Society database. If Signet clients have a query about a specific animal, they should contact Signet (signet@ahdb.org.uk) and we can look into the changes in more detail.

The implications of this work will also benefit the National Beef Evaluation, which is run by AHDB. This evaluation uses a dataset that combines BCMS and Signet records, the provision of extra pedigree data into this analysis via Signet will aid the assessment of Sussex cattle for a range of economically important traits.

Results that include the new data are expected to go live later in the summer, with members being notified once the new EBVs are available. A similar approach to generate a "whole breed" evaluation is already used in both the Lincoln Red and Luining breeds.

Signet wishes to thank Sue Kennedy for her assistance in providing an electronic copy of the Society's pedigree records for inclusion in Signet's evaluation.

If you would like to find out more about the Sussex performance recording initiative or to get involved with recording, please contact Laura Eyles Laura.Eyles@ahdb.org.uk / 07973 701202.



Dear Sussex Breeder,

Cow Mature Weights

At Signet we are looking at collecting cow mature weights alongside weights for youngstock, in order to create an EBV for mature cattle.

Hopefully you can help, I've enclosed a paper copy of a census to record your weights and let us know if the animal is still on the holding with a prepaid envelope.

If you normally input your data through the website or with farm software that is brilliant, please continue to supply data in this manner.

Below is some information that might help with your weighing.

Weighing is not limited to youngstock, weigh all your cattle this autumn.

As we enter the autumn, and the weather is starting to turn and many of you will be thinking about preparing for the winter and getting jobs ticked off. Hopefully one near the top of the list is collecting weights of youngstock and cows. Providing weights for cows at weaning is important data, that will support on-going research and we hope lead to the development of an EBV for this trait.



Recording Cow Weights

Each year breeders can record the mature weight of their cows at weaning time, along with a body condition score (1 to 5) and management code. This trait is of importance in maternal breeds, where it may be desirable to limit increases in cow size, while continuing to enhance calf growth rates.

Cattle mature size has become an increasingly important topic of conversation, as the industry strives to increase efficiency and productivity. It is now more important than ever to utilise these tools available to manage your herd and record weight data. Keeping larger mature cows on can be extremely costly with increased maintenance requirement, lowering potential stocking density and increased nutritional requirements.

You cannot manage what you don't measure.

Tips for recording accurate weights.

Try to treat all your cattle the same – where different management groups exist code them clearly.

Check your weigh scales – calibrate first!

Weigh calves as close to the recommended weigh dates as possible, ideally calves should be weighed every 100 days.

Weigh them all, with the odd exception of any calves in very poor health.

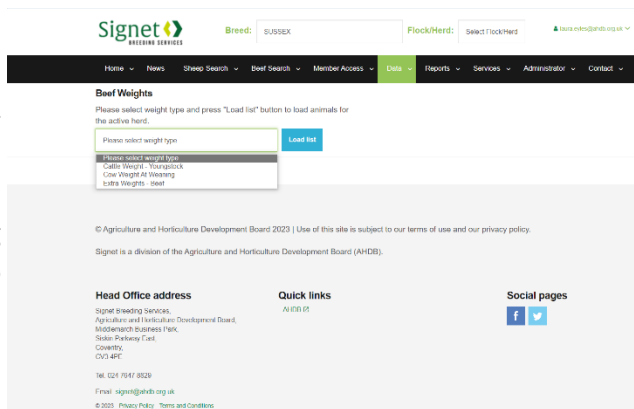
How can I submit data?

Data can be submitted in two ways, the first is online through the signet website, selecting from the drop-down menu the type of weight record you are submitting.

Alternatively, if you are recording cattle weights on your own farm software, you can send in your data electronically to help reduce the workload and minimise the risk of error.

With breed specific BLUP run deadlines looming there is no better time to get your weights added to the database.

If possible, please could the information back for the end of November because the run is 05/12/2024



The screenshot shows the Signet Breeding Services website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Home', 'News', 'Sheep Search', 'Beef Search', 'Member Access', 'Data', 'Reports', 'Services', 'Administrator', and 'Contact'. Below this, the 'Beef Weights' section is active, displaying a form with a dropdown menu for 'Please select weight type'. The dropdown menu is open, showing options: 'Home Select weight type', 'Cattle Weight - Homeblock', 'Cattle Weight At Weaning', and 'Lamb Weights - beef'. A 'Load list' button is positioned to the right of the dropdown. Below the form, there is a footer section with copyright information for the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) and contact details for the Head Office address, Quick links, and Social pages.

Please get in touch with the team if you need any assistance stuart.friswell@ahdb.org.uk

Kind regards and thanks in advance.

Stuart Friswell

Stuart.friswell@ahdb.org.uk

07813369686

SUSSEX CATTLE NEXT GENERATION

Our younger members and stockpersons have formed the "Next Generation" Group. For age group 16 to 30ish!

There will be various events over the winter, if you want to be involved let the office know.

YOUTH MEMBERSHIP

This is for members between the ages of **13 and 25**

YOUTH ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP IS FREE

Please ask the Office for a form to join or use the form on the website.

SIGNET PROVIDES BREEDERS WITH THE TOOLS TO PUSH GENETIC IMPROVEMENT ON FARM



Performance recording is available to all members of the Sussex Cattle society, this initiative provides access to free weight recording for participating herds. Bull breeders must select animals with the right growth and carcass attributes, and this can be aided using Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) to identify genetically superior animals. Signet provides a range of tools and services for breeders to meet the needs of the commercial producer.

WEIGHT RECORDS

Weight records form a vital part of performance recording your herd. Beefbreeder recording requires all heifers, steers, and bulls to be weighed every 100 days from birth. Information is analysed on a “contemporary group basis”, comparing animals reared under the same management to identify differences in genetic potential.

Tips for recording accurate weights.

Try to treat all your cattle the same – where different management groups exist code them clearly.

Check your weigh scales – calibrate first!

Weigh calves as close to the recommended weigh dates as possible, ideally calves should be weighed every 100 days.

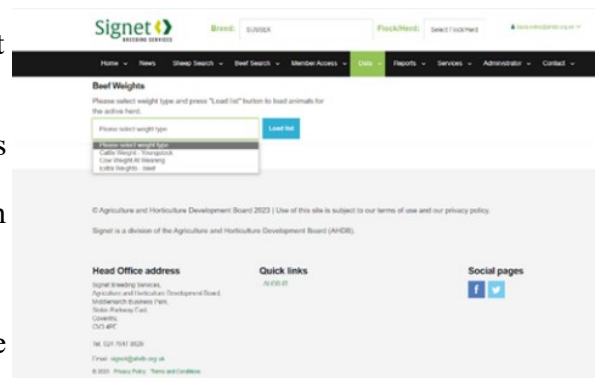
Weigh them all, with the odd exception of any calves in very poor health.

How can I submit data?

Data can be submitted in two ways, the first is online through the Signet website.

Alternatively, if you are recording cattle weights on your own farm software, you can send in your data electronically to help reduce the workload and minimise the risk of error.

Find templates and video guides on how to submit data at www.signtdata.com.



ULTRASOUND SCANNING

In recent years there has been an increasing number of breeders have had their cattle measured using Signet’s ultrasound scanning service as part of their breeding programmes. It is a great tool to identify cattle with superior muscling across the loin, while avoiding those likely to be excessively fat. This is the best way of identifying animals with superior genes for muscling and this data is used to produce Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs). Contact details for technicians can be found on the website.

SIGNET REPORTS/TOOLS

Promising young bulls and Sire summary reports allow breeders to compare bulls across herds and identify high genetic merit animals which may be of interest for future breeding programmes.

Inbreeding calculator – breeders can create mating plans and test homebred bulls within the herd.

Herd finder tool - buyers can locate performance recorded breeders, searches can be undertaken by breed and post code, displaying closest farms first.

Cattle for sale page - breeders can access performance recorded stock for sale, highlighting pedigree information and breeding values.

Figures at sales – When you are looking to take stock to market don’t forget sale cards, these can be easily printed direct from the Signet webpage (If you need assistance, please get in contact with one of the team). These can provide breeders with a competitive advantage and help to inform buyers when making purchasing decisions.

AHDB National Beef Evaluations - alongside your performance recorded traits, you will have up to five new traits listed. These include four carcass traits which are evaluated using data from a national database of abattoir records.

It’s not too late to start performance recording your herd through the society’s initiative. If you would like to find out more, please email laura.eyes@ahdb.org.uk or phone 07902493551.

REGISTRATIONS

In January you were sent Herd Registration Capitation Forms. Please complete them and return to the Office by 31st March. We will then issue an invoice which will cover all female calf registration fees for the year and enter male calves on the database. This is important if you plan to register a young bull.

Birth Returns should be sent in at the end of each month through the online database accessed through our website. (Easiest to do it as you do your BCMS.) All calves male and female should be entered.

REGISTERING BULLS

Updated Rules and Regulations apply from 1st October so please use the correct forms from the website of apply to the Office to have them sent by email or post. We will not be accepting incorrect out of date forms.

DNA PARENTAGE TESTING

From 1st January 2021 all young bulls will be required to have DNA sampling taken, we advise that this be done by the vet when the veterinary inspection is being undertaken, if not samples will be taken by the Bull Inspectors, a DNA sample will also be taken from the Sire and Dam. The purpose of this is to establish the parentage of all bulls. This is a progressive plan and will eventually result in all bulls having their parentage proven. The Society will be paying for the Sire and Dam DNA sampling but it will be the breeder/owner of the young bull who will pay for that DNA sample and sire verification.

Note: It is requirement for all bulls that are selected for semen collection to have their parentage proven through DNA testing.

CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP

Offspring are not eligible for registration if the sire and/or dam have not been transferred to your herd.

2023 BIRTH RETURNS

These are now late, please send in through the online system.
(We do still accept paper birth returns at present but if you can do it online please do.)

REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES

In 2024 will be sent by email unless a request for posted paper copies is marked on Capitation Forms

REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES

PLEASE NOTE CERTIFICATES WILL NOT BE SENT OUT

UNTIL EITHER

CAPITATION FEES OR REGISTRATION FEES HAVE BEEN PAID

SUSSEX FOR SALE

**DETAILED PEDIGREE INFORMATION ON ANIMALS FOR SALE
IS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE**

PLEASE KEEP THE OFFICE UPDATED

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU WANT & WHEN ANIMALS ARE SOLD

SOUTHVIEW POLL SULTAN 4TH 22-1444-P-B Born 18/02/2022

Sire: Southview Poll Sultan 1st 18-1321-P-A

Dam: Southview Poll Feroder 4th 14-0877-P

Heterozygous Polled and very quiet.

BVD free herd. Will be blood tested for Lepto, IBR and Johnnes and fertility tested prior to leaving the farm. One year TB Parish.

Contact: Philip Ashby 01225864102 / 07971241082 [Wiltshire]

BROADLANDS POLL CAPTAIN 1ST 20-1838-P Born 14/04/2020

Sire Elbridge Captain 2nd 14-1568

Dam Windsor Shandy 2nd 14-0113

High heard health—Great temperament—TB 1—Organic—Easy Calving—Ready to work

Contact: Lisa Buchanan 01825 712493 [East Sussex]

GOLDSTONE POLL CAPTAIN 3RD 20-0981-PP Born 14/03/2020

DNA Tested Homozygous Polled

Sire Elbridge Poll Captain 4th 16-1087-P

Dam Lofty Lily 32nd of Goldstone 10-0282-PP

Contact: Edward Appleby 01948840387 / 08967970111 [Shropshire]

WINDSOR GLOW-WORM 1ST 19-0994 Born 07/10/2019

Sire Petworth Glow-worm 224th 10-1209

Dam Windsor Caroline 22nd 16-0976

After 3 years will be coming back on his daughters.

Contact: John Young 07831529680 cmaldonado@live.co.uk [Surrey]

SOUTHVIEW POLL REGENT 1ST 18-1324-P Born 05/09/2018

Sire: Poll Regent 7th of Goldstone 11-1054-P

Dam: Southview Poll Feroder 1st 13-0567-PP

Heterozygous Polled Proven sire and very quiet. Calves and down calved heifers can be seen. Selling as I have one of his offspring to replace him. BVD free herd. Will be blood tested for Lepto, IBR and Johnnes and fertility tested prior to leaving the farm. One year TB Parish.

Contact: Philip Ashby 01225864102 / 07971241082 [Wiltshire]

ELBRIDGE ENDEAVOUR 4th 17-1274 DoB: 07/09/2017

Sire: Boxted Endeavour 3rd 11-1112

Dam: Elbridge Careless 186th 14-0977

Contact: Tristan Pengilly 01323 844582 / 07736320069 [East Sussex]

BLACK VEN POLL STARGAZER 3rd 16-1233-P DoB: 24/02/2016

Sire: Petworth Poll Stargazer 2nd 08-0816-P

Dam: Black Ven Shawandaisee 31st 09-0024

Contact: David Spanton 07980881924 [East Sussex]

WOODLANDS HERD : COWS

WOODLANDS POLL HONEYSUCKLE 1st 17-0600-P UK293036/300006 DoB 07/08/2017

WOODLANDS POLL PRINCESS 2nd 20-0475-P UK293036/500015 DoB 28/02/2020

HEIFERS

WOODLANDS PRINCESS 9th 22-1492 UK293036/100004 DoB 07/02/2022

WOODLANDS PRINCESS 5th 22-1486 UK293036/200026 DoB 18/04/2022

WOODLANDS PRINCESS 6th 23-1229 UK293036/700031 DoB 28/01/2023

WOODLANDS PRINCESS 7th 24-0508 UK293036/400035 DoB 07/03/2024

WOODLANDS HONEYSUCKLE 4th 24-0509 UK293036/600037 DoB 16/04/2024

WOODLANDS ANNIS 4th 24-0510 UK293036/700038 DoB 19/04/2024

WOODLANDS PRINCESS 8th 24-0511 UK293036/100039 DoB 19/04/2024

Contact: Tom 07516 190235 [Hampshire]

SAXONHURST HERD : COWS WITH 2024 CALVES AT FOOT

A rare opportunity to buy some traditional type cattle from the Saxonhurst Herd.

We have **Six In Calf Cows with Calves at foot** available, based in East Sussex, registered with Soil Association and Pasture for Life. Yearly TB.

Contact Nicky Bish 07941855377 [East Sussex]

GROVE HILL HERD : COWS WITH 2024 CALVES AT FOOT

All recently scanned in calf to Elbridge Endeavour 4th 17-1274

GOLDSTONE POLL SNOWDROP 201st 17-0446-P-B UK261013/301508 DoB: 13/04/2017

HARDRES SNOWDROP 8th 18-0499 UK266571/100120 DoB: 01/02/2018

GOLDSTONE POLL LOFTY LILY 49th 18-0635-P UK261013/101632 DoB: 10/03/2018

HARDRES POLL CORONET 1st 18-0510-P UK266571/100141 DoB: 02/04/2018

GOLDSTONE POLL MARIANNE 8th 19-0612-P UK261013/501790 DoB: 13/03/2019

HARDRES IRENE 1st 19-1344 UK266571/600181 DoB: 03/05/2019

HARDRES PRINCESS 1st 19-1345 UK266571/200163 DoB: 03/05/2019

HARDRES KOSKIMO 1st 20-2006 UK266571/100211 DoB: 17/03/2020

COWS : All recently scanned in calf to Elbridge Endeavour 4th 17-1274

HARDRES CARELESS 11th 20-2005 UK266571/300199 DoB: 23/02/2020

ELBRIDGE COMMOTION 154th 20-1090 UK261028/403219 DoB: 11/09/2020

HEIFERS 2 YEAR OLD : All recently scanned in calf to Elbridge Endeavour 4th 17-1274

HARDRES CORONET 5th 22-1104 UK266571/400270 DoB: 14/01/2022

HARDRES ANDREA 6th 22-1103 UK266571/500271 DoB: 23/01/2022

Contact: Tristan Pengilly 01323 844582 / 07736320069 [East Sussex]

SPROUTES HERD - MAJOR REDUCTION SALE : BREEDING COWS AND HEIFERS

SPROUTES GENTIAN 1st 12-0089 UK263213/600290 Dob 12/03/2012

SPROUTES SUSIE 2nd 13-0308 UK263213/300315 Dob 08/04/2013

SPROUTES NOOTKA 6th 15-0010 UK263213/300343 Dob 08/02/2015

SPROUTES HONEY 5th 15-0013 UK263213/600346 Dob 23/02/2015

SPROUTES SUSIE 4th 15-0016 UK263213/200349 Dob 26/02/2015

SPROUTES GENTIAN 3rd 16-0214 UK263213/200391 Dob 19/03/2016

SPROUTES DARKEY 10th 17-0010 UK263213/600402 Dob 12/02/2017

SPROUTES NOOTKA 9th 17-0012 UK263213/300406 Dob 16/02/2017

SPROUTES TERPSICHORE 3rd 17-0107 UK263213/100418 Dob 02/03/2017

SPROUTES IRIS 25th 18-0030 UK263213/500436 Dob 06/02/2018

SPROUTES IRIS 26th 18-0031 UK263213/700438 Dob 11/02/2018

SPROUTES GENTIAN 5th 18-0032 UK263213/100439 Dob 13/02/2018

SPROUTES NOOTKA 11th 18-0036 UK263213/400449 Dob 24/02/2018

SPROUTES DARKEY 13th 18-0039 UK263213/400456 Dob 01/03/2018

SPROUTES GAIETY 8th 18-0043 UK263213/700459 Dob 06/03/2018

SPROUTES GENTIAN 6th 19-0029 UK263213/100474 Dob 24/02/2019

SPROUTES GAIETY 9th 19-0030 UK263213/200475 Dob 24/02/2019

SPROUTES GAIETY 10th 19-0031 UK263213/500478 Dob 26/02/2019
SPROUTES NOOTKA 14th 19-0032 UK263213/100481 Dob 28/02/2019
SPROUTES GENTIAN 7th 19-0160 UK263213/300483 Dob 02/03/2019
SPROUTES DARKEY 15th 19-0161 UK263213/400484 Dob 03/03/2019
SPROUTES DARKEY 16th 19-0163 UK263213/600486 Dob 05/03/2019
SPROUTES IRIS 29th 19-0167 UK263213/400498 Dob 16/03/2019
SPROUTES SUSIE 8th 19-0168 UK263213/700501 Dob 28/03/2019
SPROUTES SUSIE 11th 20-0122 UK263213/100523 Dob 03/03/2020
SPROUTES NOOTKA 15th 20-0124 UK263213/100530 Dob 17/03/2020
SPROUTES GENTIAN 8th 20-0127 UK263213/200538 Dob 28/03/2020
SPROUTES GAIETY 13th 20-0132 UK263213/500548 Dob 07/05/2020
SPROUTES IRIS 35th 21-0041 UK263213/700550 Dob 16/02/2021
SPROUTES SUSIE 12th 21-0042 UK263213/100551 Dob 17/02/2021
SPROUTES NOOTKA 17th 21-0044 UK263213/600556 Dob 19/02/2021
SPROUTES SNOWDROP 6th 21-0109 UK263213/400568 Dob 05/03/2021
SPROUTES SUSIE 13th 21-0110 UK263213/500569 Dob 07/03/2021
SPROUTES SUSIE 14th 21-0112 UK263213/100572 Dob 09/03/2021
SPROUTES GAIETY 14th 21-0113 UK263213/100579 Dob 14/03/2021
SPROUTES DARKEY 20th 21-0114 UK263213/200580 Dob 15/03/2021
SPROUTES IRIS 39th 21-0115 UK263213/500583 Dob 15/03/2021
SPROUTES CARELESS 7th 21-0116 UK263213/600584 Dob 20/03/2021
SPROUTES GAIETY 15th 21-0117 UK263213/700585 Dob 20/03/2021
SPROUTES TERPSICHORE 7th 21-0120 UK263213/500590 Dob 26/03/2021
SPROUTES SNOWDROP 7th 21-0121 UK263213/400589 Dob 06/04/2021
SPROUTES GAIETY 16th 21-0122 UK263213/600591 Dob 10/04/2021

Also Youngstock.

Contact: 01403 741048 / 07714002898 [West Sussex]