

A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

More and more people in the South East are choosing pedigree Sussex Cattle, the breed that is native to the South East, and for a number of different reasons.

WHY CHOOSE PEDIGREE SUSSEX CATTLE?

- Great converters of forage that will thrive on poorer quality pasture, making them ideal for conservation, organic and extensive grazing
- Eligible for the DEFRA breeds at risk grazing supplement
- Pedigree stock get a higher payment if they are taken out of the herd as TB reactors, making them a good insurance policy for those in high-risk areas
- Easy calving, fertile, long-lived and docile means reduced handling costs, especially relevant to large, mixed farms or small-scale, part-time farmers
- Youngstock finish at weights of 600kg to 630kg on silage and can finish well at 24months on an extensive system. Saleable meat 60% to 65% of carcass.
- Demand from butchers and consumers for local "Sussex" beef in the South East, especially important for anyone selling through box schemes
- With 90% of breeders based in the South East, there is always a good supply of breeding stock for sale

ANNUAL SALE OF BREEDING BULLS AND FEMALES

As more and more herds register for high health status, buyers are less keen to purchase breeding stock from the live auction ring, so earlier this year the society ran its first on-line pedigree breeding sale in conjunction with South East Marts and MartEye.

In March, 23 bulls were entered; five sold for in excess of 5,000 guineas and a top price of 7,200gns was achieved for J & S Harmer's two year-old bull Offham Poll Crusader 9th, setting a breed record.

NEXT YEAR'S SALE WILL BE HELD ON 12-13 MARCH 2025

Catalogues will be available from South East Marts in February. This will give potential buyers plenty of time to visit farms and inspect stock prior to the sale, and following the success of last year we expect a good entry of bulls and significantly more females.



Offham Poll Crusader 9th

HERD COMPETITION HONOURS

Every year we run a herd competition with classes for small, (under 20 cows), medium (20 to 50) and large (over 50) herds. This year's winners were:

- **Small herd:**
Jane Howard's Coopers Herd from Stonegate, East Sussex
- **Medium herd:**
David Spanton's Maygate herd from Mayfield, East Sussex
- **Large herd:**
E H Holdstock's Elbridge herd from Canterbury, Kent.

Rhys Grenham, from East Sussex, visited all three farms to find his overall winner and commented: "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. "David Spanton's Maygate Herd is my champion. He and his team 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 Jane Howard at Coopers Herd and to James Holdstock at Elbridge Herd for their warm welcome and time. Each of the finalists showed a true dedication to the breed."



Black Ven Koskimo



Coopers Regent 3rd

SUCCESS IN THE SHOW RING

Sussex cattle classes were again held at Heathfield, Suffolk County, South of England, Kent, Royal Norfolk and Edenbridge & Oxted shows, and we encourage any breeders interested in showing to get in touch as experienced show people are available to help newcomers to showing get started.

Points are awarded at all the shows to find the champion male and female of the year. This year's winners were Jane Howard's six year-old bull Coopers Regent 3rd and The Buchanan Family's seven year-old cow Black Ven Koskimo 80th.

THE NEXT GENERATION OF SUSSEX BREEDERS

The Sussex Cattle Society runs a NextGen group that meets throughout the year for training workshops and social get togethers.

It now includes over 20 members, and workshops were held on members' farms throughout the South East to cover topics such as the selection of replacement heifers, show ring etiquette, choosing a

bull and, with Chris Burns from Cliffe Veterinary Group, a session on calving skills.

The group was also pleased to visit Tim Piper's farm in Kent, where he runs a large Lim/Sussex suckler herd to find out what a commercial farmer is looking for when using Sussex in a cross-bred commercial system.

HONOURED BY THE KING

Earlier in the year, The Sussex Cattle Society was honoured to announce that following The King's accession to the throne and a review of his patronages, His Majesty had agreed to continue his patronage and support for our 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 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".



SUSSEX CATTLE SOCIETY

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