

THE SUSSEX CATTLE SOCIETY



This Season:

HERD SPOTLIGHT
AUCTION OF MEMORABILIA
SHOW RESULTS
SUMMER SNAPSHOTS



The Netherhale Herd

A.J.W. Smith & Son

The herd spotlight is a new feature to the society's newsletters, one member is picked at random and asked to talk a bit about their herd and the farming system.

Want to share your story? We are always looking for news to share throughout the year, please feel free to send in any stories or pictures of your herd as we would love to feature them.

The Herd

How long have you been breeding Sussex cattle?

Not calved any yet, we currently have a bull in with 9 heifers aiming for a late April calving .

How did you first become involved with the Sussex breed?

First got involved in Sussex cattle in late 2024. Purchased my first yearling in April 2025 and have grown from there.

What made you choose Sussex cattle over other breeds?

Sussex were bred for the region and have the ability to grow well on marginal ground and there are a number of renowned herds relatively local. I wanted to choose the right breed from the start and Sussex stood out as the right choice.

How many Sussex cattle do you currently run?

Currently running 17 cows (9 breeding heifers, 3 yearling heifers, 4 steers and a hired in bull).

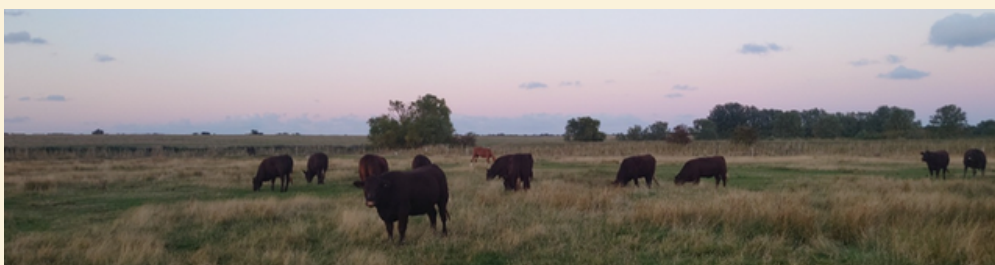
What are your main aims for the herd?

One of the main reasons for buying cattle was as an alternative form of grazing on ground we had been asked to manage for environmental benefit. Aiming to increase numbers to cover the increasing area of grassland that is being managed for stewardship, SFI and private schemes.

The second aim is to get more involved with cattle again as they have historically grazed the farm until my grandfather sold the herd Tom focus on arable and veg production and it is a nice feeling to have them grazing on the farm once more.

What type of farming system do you operate?

We are a mixed farm growing cereals, temporary and permanent grass, run a flock of Romney cross sheep and the new herd of Sussex plus contracting work focussing on environmental management.



Breeding & Selection

What traits are you currently trying to improve within the herd?

Currently trying to get the breeding side going but longer term select for temperament of animals and ease of management. Working with animals that lend themselves to ease of handling makes the job far easier.

Longer term, focusing on keeping heifers that conform to a similar standard to build a more uniform looking herd. So far we have purchased from a couple of sources which has got our herd up and running but there is room to improve over time.

What makes the perfect Sussex cow in your opinion?

As they are still quite new to me, there is a lot I still have to learn. My experiences so far make me enjoy them because they are robust animals with lovely temperament and the ability to grow and make use of ground that other breeds would not fare anywhere near as well. They have a certain character that I feel just fits within the farm, a bit like finding the last piece of a puzzle.

Farming & Performance

If you had to describe the Sussex breed in three words, what would they be?

Resilient, productive and amiable

How do your Sussex cattle fit into your overall farming system?

The cattle currently spend most of their time on marshland that is being managed for breeding waders and grazing a variety of other grassland to create a variety of habitats for wildlife. They fit the area very well and can go on ground that historically have been ungrazed due to challenges of grazing with sheep.

Their main aim is as a management tool with the added benefit of a good-sized animal that can be sold using relatively low inputs. It has also introduced the ability to rotate the sheep and the cattle around certain fields to make best use of the ground.

It is also another form of diversification that can support other aspects of the farm to create a more resilient business. More farms appear to be reintroducing livestock back onto the land as current crop prices alone can present a financial struggle. The mix of animals and cropping used to be more common in the past with many local farms having small dairies and flocks of sheep and currently the combined action of stock and grain is showing its strengths in these volatile times.

How do you find the breed performs on grass and forage?

So far, they have grown remarkably well on marshland and land year only spent 6 weeks housed as the weather permitted a long grazing season. They take their time to get going but I have found it interesting looking back at photos and seeing how far they have developed.

We try to use our own forage wherever possible, and they have been only needed the odd bale here and there to extend the grazing period. It's still early stages for fully understanding how to get it the best out of them but they have performed better than we had thought.

“Sussex stood out as the right choice”

What do you think are the Sussex breed's biggest advantages for today's beef farmer?

They have a great ability to thrive on less than perfect grazing and in years like this have been able to make the most of a disappointing growing season. That resilience is worth a lot especially if that means your input costs can remain low without losing productivity. They are a happy medium of size, temperament, workability and productivity. They are not necessarily the best in any one metric but they fit very well into our farming system.

Looking Ahead

Where would you like to see the herd in five or ten years?

I would hope to see the herd grow to around 30 within the next five years. Originally, we planned on a couple of cows to see how things went but that soon turned into buying a few more and now we are at a stage I wouldn't of expected to be in 5 years ago so time will tell what is to come. It will be interesting to see how the herd develops as I learn more about cattle and how they best fit in with the farm.

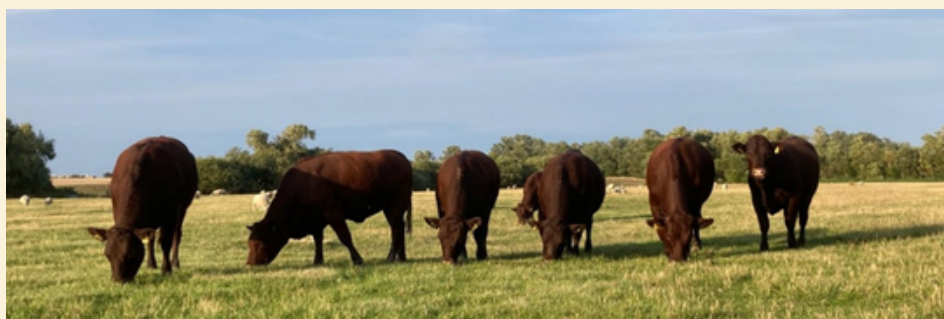
What are your breeding goals for the future?

Hoping to develop a spring calving herd which will grow largely organically over time. We put off breeding last year as we didn't want to rush into a completely new experience. With the extra year of experience I hope next spring will be a positive start to a new chapter for the farm.

What would you say to someone considering starting a Sussex herd?

I would say if you are thinking not it, just do it. I had always wanted to try cattle and so did my dad as the old herd had been sold off over 60 years ago. It took a bit of courage to step up and start something unfamiliar but in hindsight I wish I could of started earlier. We have always had sheep for all the time I have been alive and they have their own positives, but the cows have showed themselves to be my new favourite part of the farm. They are great characters and easy to work with especially compared to sheep. They are a good breed which don't need to be mollicoddled and can make the best out of what you can give them.

“Resilient, productive and amiable”



Sussex Auction of Memorabilia

Auction to take place at Montague Farm Farm Walk and Prize Giving on 6th September 2026.

Please get in touch with the office if you would like more information.



Glass Decanter and 4 glasses, hand-painted



Photograph Frame 40 x 40cm



Photograph in wooden frame 43 x 38cm



Print of the oil on canvas painting signed and dated



English 1 Pint Pewter mug



Photograph in wooden frame 42 x 38cm



Original Print Frame 43 x 36cm



Photograph in wooden frame 50 x 45cm



Glass Decanter and 2 glasses hand-painted



Sussex Bull on dark wood base



Sussex Bull on light wood base



World Congress Engraved Plaque



Silver Plaque Engraved



Silver Plate Salver Engraved



Mounted Horns

BULL REGISTRATION REMINDERS

Registering young bulls:

Registration application form

Bull inspection

DNA sample from bull

DNA Sample from dam and sire if not on file - please check

Contact the office if you have any queries

SHOW SNAPSHOT



SUMMER SHOW RESULTS

Royal Norfolk Show Results

Heifer, born on or after 1st January 2025

- 1st – 314, Montreal Estate, MONTREAL MARIANNE 7TH
- 2nd – 315, Montreal Estate, MONTREAL SNOWDROP 14TH
- 3rd – 317, Nunningham Farm Partnership, NUNNINGHAM POLL SNOWDROP 2ND
- 4th – 313, D Spanton& F Paterson, MAYGATE POLL SHADOW 17TH

Heifer, born on or between 1st January and 31st December 2024

- 1st- 326, Nunningham Farm Partnership, NUNNINGHAM POLL CHARMER 5TH
- 2nd- 322, D Spanton& F Paterson, MAYGATE POLL IRENE8TH
- 3rd- 325, Jane Howard, COOPERS POLL LOFTY LILY 8TH
- 4th – 323, Montreal Estate, MONTREAL SNOWDROP 11TH
- 5th – 327, Nunningham Farm Partnership, NUNNINGHAM POLL TERPSICHORE 3RD
- 6th – 328, Nunningham Farm Partnership, NUNNINGHAM POLL SYLPH 4TH

Cow or Heifer, in milk, in calf or with calf at foot born before 1st January 2024

- 1st- 329, Chandler & Dunn LTD, GOLDSTONE LOFTY LILY 62ND
- 2nd- 330, Montreal Estate, MONTREAL DAFFODIL 3RD

Bull, born on or after 1st January 2025

- 1st- 333, D Spanton& F Paterson, MAYGATE POLL DUKE
- 2nd – 336, Jane Howard, COOPERS POLL REGENT 7TH
- 3rd – 334, Montreal Estate, MONTREAL JACK DANIELS 4TH
- 4th – 335, Jane Howard, COOPERS REGENT 5TH

Bull, born prior to 1st January 2025

- 1st – 337, Wakeham-Dawson & Harmer, OFFHAM POLL DESPOT
- 2nd

Best of Breed Group of Three

- 1st – Nunningham Farm Partnership
- 2nd- D Spanton& F Paterson

Junior Champion

- 1st – 314, Montreal Estate, MONTREAL MARIANNE 7TH
- 2nd – 333, D Spanton& F Paterson, MAYGATE POLL DUKE

Champion Cow or Heifer

- 1st – 326, Nunningham Farm Partnership, NUNNINGHAM POLL CHARMER 5TH
- 2nd – 322, D Spanton& F Paterson, MAYGATE POLL IRENE8TH

Champion Bull

- 1st – 337, Wakeham-Dawson & Harmer, OFFHAM POLL DESPOT 2ND
- 2nd- 333, D Spanton& F Paterson, MAYGATE POLL DUKE

Overall Champion

- 1st – 326, Nunningham Farm Partnership, NUNNINGHAM POLL CHARMER 5TH
- 2nd – 337, Wakeham-Dawson & Harmer, OFFHAM POLL DESPOT 2ND

Kent County Show Results

Cow or Heifer, in milk or in calf born before 1 January 2024

- 1st - 29 - Flowerfiled Gaiety 1st Cobtree YFC Sussex
- 2nd - 28 - Goldstone Lofty Lily 62nd Chandler & Dunn Sussex

Senior Heifer, born before 1 January 2025

- 1st - 67 - Black Ven Katie 8th Buchanan Family Sussex
- 2nd - 56 - Montreal Poll Snowdrop 11th The Montreal estate Sussex

Junior Heifer, born in 2025

- 1st - 54 - Montreal Marianne 7th The Montreal estate Sussex
- 2nd - 55 - Montreal Snowdrop 14th The Montreal Estate Sussex

Junior Bull, born in 2025

- 1st - 69 - Black Ven Poll Captain 2nd Buhcanan Family Sussex
- 2nd - 68 - Black Ven Captain 3rd Buchanan Family Sussex

Family Couple

- 1st - 67 - Black Ven Katie 8th Buhcanan Family Sussex

KCAS The Arthur Marchant Memorial Trophy - 67 - Black Ven Katie 8th Buchanan Family Sussex
Reserve Champion - 54 - Montreal Marianne 7th The Montreal estate Sussex

Champion - 67 - Black Ven Katie 8th Buchanan Family Sussex

Suffolk Show Results

Senior Bull

- 1st - Offham Poll Despot 2nd

Junior Bull

- 1st - Black Ven Captain 3rd
- 2nd - Black Ven Poll Captain 2nd
- 3rd - Montreal Jack Daniel's 5th

HEIFER in calf, born on or between 1 July 2023 and 31 December 2024.

- 1st - Nunnigham Poll Charmer 5th
- 2nd - Montreal Poll Snowdrop 11th
- 3rd - Black Ven Katie 8th
- 4th - Nunnigham Poll Sylph
- 5th - Offham Gaiety 74th

Yearling Heifer

- 1st - Montreal Mariann 7th
- 2nd - Nunnigham Poll Snowdrop 3rd
- 3rd - Montreal Snowdrop 14th

Cow in calf or milk

- 1st - Goldstone Lofty Lilly 62nd
- 2nd - Montreal daffodil 3rd

Group of 3

- 1st Nunnigham herd
- 2nd Offham herd

Champion Male - Offham Despot 2nd

Reserve Male - Black Ven Captain 3rd

Champion Female - Nunnigham Poll Charmer 5th

Reserve Female - Montreal Mariann 7th

Reserve Champion - Nunnigham Poll Charmer 5th

Champion - Offham Poll Despot 2nd

The South of England Show Results

Sussex cow in calf or with calf at foot

- 1st - Montreal Daffodil 3rd, The Montreal Estate, Susan Green
2nd - Flowerfield Gaiety 1st, YFC Mr Cobtree
3rd -Goldstone Lofty Lily 62nd

Sussex senior heifer

- 1st - Nunningham Poll Charmer 5th, Hobden Jm & Ej Hobden
2nd - Coopers Poll Lofty Lily 8th, Ms Jane Howard
3rd - Montreal Poll Snowdrop 11th, The Montreal Estate, Susan Green
4th - Augustinian Princess 20th, Miss Louise Lincoln

Sussex intermediate heifer

- 1st - Nunningham Poll Sylph 4th, Jm Hobden & Ej Hobden
2nd - Nunningham Poll Terpsichore 3rd, Jm Hobden & Ej Hobden
3rd - Offham Poll Terpsichore 49th, Messrs Harmer & Sargent Wakeham-Dawson
4th - Goldstone Poll Dawn 27th, Messer Chandler & Dunn

Sussex Junior Heifer

- 1st - Montreal Marianne 7th, The Montreal Estate, Susan Green
2nd - Nunningham Poll Snowdrop 2nd, Jm Hobden & Ej Hobden
3rd - Montreal Snowdrop 14th, The Montreal Estate, Susan Green
4th - Augustinian Princess 26th, Miss Louise Lincoln

Sussex Senior Bull

- 1st - Maygate Poll Duke 1st, Mr David Spanton
2nd - Offham Poll Despot 2nd, Messrs Harmer & Sargent Wakeham-Dawson

Sussex Junior Bull

- 1st - Coopers Poll Regent 7th, Ms Jane Howard
2nd - Black Ven Captain 3rd, The Buchanan Family
3rd - Maygate Duke, Mr David Spanton
4th - Black Ven Poll Captain 2nd

Sussex Group of 3

- 1st - Jm Hobden & Ej Hobden
2nd - Ms Jane Howard
3rd - Messrs Harmer & Sargent Wakeham-Dawson
4th - Mr David Spanton

Progeny Group

- 1st - Jm Hobden & Ej Hobden
2nd - Ms Jane Howard
3rd - Messrs Harmer & Sargent Wakeham-Dawson

Best pair of Yearlings

- 1st - The Montreal Estate, Susan Green
2nd - Mr David Spanton
3rd - Ms Jane Howard

Junior Champion

- Montreal Marianne 7th, The Montreal Estate, Susan Green
Reserve Junior Champion
Coopers Poll Regent 7th, Ms Jane Howard

Female Champion

- Nunningham Poll Charmer 5th, Hobden Jm & Ej Hobden
Reserve Female Champion
Montreal Marianne 7th, The Montreal Estate, Susan Green

Male Champion

- Maygate Poll Duke 1st, Mr David Spanton
Reserve Male Champion
Coopers Poll Regent 7th, Ms Jane Howard

Overall Champion

- Nunningham Poll Charmer 5th, Hobden Jm & Ej Hobden
Reserve Overall Champion
Maygate Poll Duke 1st, Mr David Spanton

Heathfield Show Results

Class: 36

- 1st - 184 - Montreal Daffodil 3rd Exhibited By The Montreal Estate Susan Green

Class: 37

- 1st - 187 - Nunningham Poll Charmer 5th Exhibited By JM & EJ Hobden
2nd - 186 - Coopers Poll Lofty Lily 8th Exhibited By Ms Jane Howard
3rd - 192 - Coopers Poll Carnation 3rd Exhibited By Ms Jane Howard
4th - 189 - Augustinian Princess 20th Exhibited By St Georges park farm
THE DUCHESS OF SUSSEX PERPETUAL TROPHY - 187 - Nunningham Poll Charmer 5th Exhibited By JM & EJ Hobden

Class: 38

- 1st - 195 - Nunningham Poll Terpsichore 3rd Exhibited By JM & EJ Hobden
2nd - 194 - Nunningham Poll Sylph 4th Exhibited By JM & EJ Hobden

Class: 39

- 1st - 197 - Montreal Marianne 7th Exhibited By The Montreal Estate Susan Green
2nd - 200 - Nunningham Poll Snowdrop 2 Exhibited By JM & EJ Hobden
3rd - 199 - Maygate Poll Shadow 17th Exhibited By Mr David Spanton
4th - 202 - Coopers Poll Cara 3rd Exhibited By Ms Jane Howard

Class: 40

- 1st - 203 - Maygate Pollduke 1st Exhibited By Mr David Spanton

Class: 42

- 1st - 211 - Coopers Poll Regent 7th Exhibited By Ms Jane Howard
2nd - 209 - Coopers Regent 5th Exhibited By Ms Jane Howard
3rd - 208 - Black Ven Captain 3rd Exhibited By The Buchanan Family
4th - 206 - Black Ven Poll Captain 2nd Exhibited By The Buchanan Family

Class: 43 Group of three Sussex

- 1st - 215 - Nunningham Poll Charmer 5th Exhibited By JM & EJ Hobden
2nd - 216 - Coopers Poll Regent 7th Exhibited By Ms Jane Howard
3rd - 213 - Montreal Daffodil 3rd Exhibited By The Montreal Estate Susan Green
4th - 212 - Maygate Pollduke 1st Exhibited By Mr David Spanton

Class: Breed Champion Male

- Champion - 211 - Coopers Poll Regent 7th Exhibited By Ms Jane Howard
Reserve Champion - 209 - Coopers Regent 5th Exhibited By Ms Jane Howard

Class: Breed Champion Female

- Champion - 187 - Nunningham Poll Charmer 5th Exhibited By JM & EJ Hobden
Reserve Champion - 197 - Montreal Marianne 7th Exhibited By The Montreal Estate Susan Green
THE MAPLEDEN CLEMENTINE PERPETUAL PLATE - 187 - Nunningham Poll Charmer 5th Exhibited By JM & EJ Hobden

Class: Champion Sussex

- Champion - 187 - Nunningham Poll Charmer 5th Exhibited By JM & EJ Hobden
Reserve Champion - 197 - Montreal Marianne 7th Exhibited By The Montreal Estate Susan Green
THE B. GODMAN-IRVINE PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUP - 187 - Nunningham Poll Charmer 5th Exhibited By JM & EJ Hobden



EDENBRIDGE SHOW RESULTS TO FOLLOW...

Online Database

Using the online database:

Web search - “Sussex Cattle Society”

Go to “Member Resources”

Go to “Online Database”

Your online database will then load as normal

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SUSSEX CATTLE SOCIETY

HomeAnimal SearchMembers Area

Welcome to the Sussex Cattle Society Online Database

All visitors can search for animals registered with the society.
Society members can access the members only area too, which includes functionality such as electronically registering animals directly to the society.



Cattle Search



Members Area

Designed By



Farm Software Specialists

THE SUSSEX CATTLE SOCIETY



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